

(December 2018)

## The Joy of Love

### **Chapter Three – Looking to Jesus: The Vocation of the Family (part I)**

“Our teaching on marriage and the family cannot fail to be inspired and transformed by this message of love and tenderness; otherwise, it becomes nothing more than the defence of a dry and lifeless doctrine.” 59

“The mystery of the Christian family can be fully understood only in the light of the Father’s infinite love revealed in Christ, who gave himself up for our sake and who continues to dwell in our midst.” 59

“The indissolubility of marriage – ‘what God has joined together, let no man put asunder’ (Mt 19:6) – should not be viewed as a ‘yoke’ imposed on humanity, but as a ‘gift’ granted to those who are joined in marriage... God’s indulgent love always accompanies our human journey; through grace, it heals and transforms hardened hearts.” 62

“Every family, despite its weaknesses, can become a light in the darkness of the world.” 66

#### *Prayer to the Holy Family*

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate  
the splendour of true love;  
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
grant that our families too  
may be places of communion and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel  
and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may families never again experience  
violence, rejection and division;  
may all who have been hurt or scandalized  
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
make us once more mindful  
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,  
and its beauty in God’s plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
Graciously hear our prayer.  
Amen.