

# GRIST

Diocese of New Ulm      Social Concerns Office      February, 2011

## Prayers for Marriage & Family

O God, who in the Holy Family  
left us a perfect model of family life  
lived in faith and obedience to your will,  
help us to be examples of faith  
and love for your commandments.  
Help us in our mission of transmitting  
the faith that we received from our parents.  
Open the hearts of our children  
so that the seed of faith,  
which they received in Baptism,  
will grow in them.  
Strengthen the faith of our young people,  
that they may grow in knowledge of Jesus.  
Increase love and faithfulness in all marriages,  
especially those going through  
times of suffering or difficulty.  
United to Joseph and Mary,  
we ask this through Jesus Christ your Son,  
our Lord. Amen.      *Benedict XVI*

God bless the master of this house,  
and the mistress also,  
and all the little children,  
who 'round the table go.  
*from an English folk song*

God bless our house this holy night,  
and all within it.  
God bless the candle that we light  
to midnight's minute,  
the board at which we break our bread,  
the cup we drink of – and as we raise it,  
the unsaid name that we think of –  
the warming fire, the bed of rest,  
the ringing laughter: these things,  
and all things else be blest  
from floor to rafter.      *Eleanor Farjeon*

O God, make the door of this house  
wide enough to receive all  
who need human love and fellowship,  
and a heavenly Father's care;  
and narrow enough  
to shut out all envy, pride and hate.  
Make its threshold smooth enough  
to be no stumbling-block to children,  
nor to straying feet, but rugged enough  
to turn back the tempter's power.  
Make it a gateway to your eternal kingdom.  
*Thomas Ken*

May God be the roof of our house  
for all within, and all without.  
*St. Patrick*

Jesus, we acknowledge your greatness and our  
need for your grace in our marriage. We thank  
you for the gift you have given us in each other,  
and ask you to bless us. May your love  
encourage us to grow in holiness, bringing out  
the best in each other. Following your example,  
may we be quick to forgive, ready with a healing  
word or touch. Teach us to speak to each other  
with charity and honesty. Help us avoid the  
temptation to take each other for granted.  
Instead, remind us, day by day, to see each other  
as you see us. May we be as patient with each  
other as you are with us. May our love be  
generous, reaching out beyond ourselves to all  
we meet. We pray that they may meet you in us.  
Let our life together be a light of hope to those  
who fear that a total commitment is not possible  
today. Faith gives us courage, for we believe  
that the love that comes from you is freeing and  
life-giving. Lord, be a partner with us in our  
marriage; with your help it will be strong and  
enduring. We rejoice that you have brought us  
together. May we always be one in you. Amen.  
*Lauri Przybysz*

O God, creator of the universe,  
 maker of man and woman  
 in your own image,  
 source of blessing for married life,  
 help us to live out  
 the sacrament of marriage.  
 Help us to rejoice, daily,  
 in your gift of married love.  
 Help us to communicate your life and love  
 to our children.  
 Lord, may we praise you when we are happy  
 and turn to you in our sorrows.  
 May we be thankful for your help,  
 and for your presence in our daily life.  
 May we praise you, thank you,  
 and seek your mercy  
 in the community of the church.  
 May we be your witnesses in the world.  
 Bless us with your Word of blessing.  
 Unite our hearts  
 in the never-ending bond of your love.  
 May our children bring us happiness,  
 and may your generous love for them  
 be returned to you, many times over.  
 May the peace of Christ live always  
 in our hearts and in our home.  
 May we have true friends to stand by us,  
 both in joy and in sorrow.  
 May we be ready and willing  
 to comfort all who come to us in need,  
 that we might receive the blessings  
 promised to the compassionate.  
 May we find happiness  
 and satisfaction in our work.  
 May daily problems  
 never cause us undue anxiety,  
 nor the desire for earthly possessions  
 dominate our lives.  
 But may our hearts' first desire  
 be our communion with you.  
 We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Unknown*

Almighty and eternal God, You blessed the union of married couples so that they might reflect the union of Christ with his Church: look with kindness on them. Renew their marriage covenant, increase your love in them, and strengthen their bond of peace so that, with their children, they may always rejoice in the gift of your blessing. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We bless your name, O Lord, for sending your own incarnate Son, to become part of a family, so that, as he lived his life, he would experience its worries and its joys. We ask you, Lord, to protect and watch over this family, so that in the strength of your grace its members may enjoy prosperity, possess the priceless gift of your peace, and, as the Church alive in the home, bear witness in this world to your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless our mother. Let the example of her faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, her family, may honor her always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God, you are the giver of all life, human and divine. Bless our father. May he be the best of teachers for his children, bearing witness to the faith by what he says and does, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*Book of Blessings (USCCB)*

Peace be to this house  
 and to all who dwell in it.  
 Peace be to them that enter  
 and to them that depart.

*York Psalter*

SONG

We are going  
 Heaven knows where  
 we are going  
 We'll know we're there

We will get there  
 Heaven knows how  
 we will get there  
 We know we will

It will be hard we know  
 And the road will  
 be muddy and rough

But we'll get there  
 Heaven knows how  
 we will get there  
 We know we will