



Parent Pages

Preparing the environment of the Domestic Church*

* The term "Domestic Church" refers to the family, the smallest body of gathered believers in Christ. Though recovered only recently, the term dates back to the first century AD. The Greek word *ecclesiola* referred to "little church." The early Church understood that the home was fertile ground for discipleship, sanctification, and holiness.

Words of Thanksgiving from the Holy Bible

This month we hear and give voice to the following words "thanksgiving", "blessing", and "gratitude". We pause within our day, and in our prayer, to reflect upon how God has blessed us, and the lives of our children.

We find words of thanksgiving woven throughout the Holy Bible. It is good to remind our children as we gather at the family prayer table or when we pray before or after a meal, that we hear beautiful words in the Bible about our relationship with God.

This month we invite you to simply choose one of the scripture passages below and share it as a family. Perhaps this will become part of your prayer ritual for the month of November.

- Light a candle.
- Slowly and solemnly read the words from the Bible.
- Allow for a moment of silence.
- Ask the children, 'What did you hear?'

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

- Psalm 100:4

*Do not worry about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.*

- Philippians 4:6

I thank my God every time I remember you,

- Philippians 1:3

*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.*

- Psalm 9:1

Sofia Cavalletti writes in The Religious Potential of the Child: Experiencing Scripture and Liturgy with Young Children (p. 152) For the most part, children's prayer is expressed with few words, in short and essential phrases. The following are examples of the children's prayer from the Atrium.

Thank you for the light (Stefania).

Thank you, Jesus, for giving us our hearts.

Thank you, Jesus, for giving us our joy.

Thank you for giving us our life.

Thank you for creating the whole world.

Thank you, Jesus, for giving life to me and everyone else.

Thank you, Jesus, for creating everyone and for giving us life.

Thank you, Jesus, for making our houses too, and when it rains, we take cover in our houses.

Thank you, Jesus, for baptizing us.

Thank you for giving us all our life.

Thank you, Jesus, for making us be born in the sheepfold.

Thank you for giving us that beautiful gift. Thank you for giving us the gift.

Thank you for creating everyone.

Thank you, Jesus, for creating us in the sheepfold.

Thank you, Jesus, for when we die we go to paradise.

Thank you, Jesus, for always giving us light.

Thank you, Jesus, for sending us this light from heaven right into our hearts.

Thank you for giving us bread.

Thank you for giving us everything.

Thank you for giving us wine and holy water.

Thank you, Jesus, for giving us food to eat.

Thank you for making plants and wheat.

Thank you for making soup too.

Thank you for creating us all.

Thank you, Jesus, for making us strong and good.

Thank you for making us work.

Thank you for leading us into our beautiful sheepfold.

Thank you because we are your sheep.

Thank you for coming into our hearts.

My body is happy (Stefania).