

God, give us the grace to welcome one another into the life of our family.

## **Your Child's Spiritual Development: INCLUDING OTHERS**

You play a major role in preparing your child to value the Eucharist throughout his or her life. Ordinary opportunities of daily life can provide ways you can weave spiritual lessons so your child will better appreciate the meaning of the Eucharist.

Jesus had an overriding desire "That all may be one." Accounts of his public life are filled with instances in which he overcame barriers that kept certain people—the sick, the unclean, the different, the stranger—on the outskirts of society. His greatest gift to us, the gift of himself in the Eucharist, is an outward expression of his inner desire for our union with God and with one another. One way to prepare our children to celebrate the Eucharist is to help them overcome the temptation to separate people into "us" and "them" and instead cultivate a willingness to recognize our common humanity. You can help.

- Encourage your child to treat all children with compassion, particularly those who are "on the outs" with the accepted crowd.
- When encountering people outside your normal circle of friends and family, make a habit of focusing on the similarities you share even as you appreciate the differences.
- Don't allow derogatory language when talking about others in your home. Speak of others with the respect due to them as beloved children of God.

**"I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts;  
I will be their God, and they shall be my people."**

Jeremiah 31:33

### **Catholic Fact**

Baptism is the priceless gift of God's saving grace. Born with original sin, even infants have need of this new birth as a child of God. Church Tradition has included infant Baptism since the second century. Baptism celebrates that we belong to God's family. The Eucharist is the meal we share that reminds us of who we are and where we belong. God invites us all to the table of the Lord.