



PRAYER BEFORE A CRECHE

HEAVENLY FATHER, AS WE GAZE UPON THIS NATIVITY SCENE, WHICH COMMEMORATES THE ADVENT OF YOUR SON AMONGST US, WE ASK THAT YOU MAY FILL OUR HEARTS WITH THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS.

HELP US TO BE WATCHFUL AND FAITHFUL IN PRAYER AS ST. JOSEPH WAS; HELP US TO BE DEVOUT AND INTIMATELY UNITED TO YOU, AS OUR LADY WAS; HELP US TO BOW DOWN IN WORSHIP AS THE MAGI DID; HELP US TO TREMBLE IN WONDER AND AWE AT THE MYSTERIES OF YOUR POWER AND LOVE AS THE SHEPHERDS DID; HELP US TO SING YOUR PRAISES AS THE ANGELS DID AND HELP US, ABOVE ALL, TO IMITATE YOUR SON, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND TO STRIVE TO LOVE HIM AND SERVE HIM IN THIS LIFE, SO AS TO BE HAPPY WITH HIM FOREVER IN THE NEXT.

IN YOUR MERCY AND KINDNESS, HELP OUR OWN FAMILY TO IMITATE THE HOLY FAMILY AND TO MAKE CHRIST THE CENTER OF OUR FAMILY LIFE, MOST ESPECIALLY CHRIST PRESENT TO US IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR. STRENGTHEN US WITH YOUR GRACE TO

BE FAITHFUL, SO THAT ONE DAY WE MAY ENJOY THE GIFTS OF HEAVEN WHICH ARE PREFIGURED IN THE NATIVITY OF YOUR SON, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.