Celebrating Life

Celebrating Birthdays

*In the week of a person’s birthday, set up a small display of photographs of their life, for example, the first day of school, a wedding photo. Before their birthday, place small strips of paper in a bowl and encourage everyone to write something that they admire about or are thankful for relating to the person.*

*On the day of the birthday, incorporate these pieces of paper in a birthday card. Some of these affirmations could be said or read during the blessing.*

*Say the following at a meal or a suitable time:*

**Leader:** (...Name...),  
We honor and celebrate your life today  
We want to thank God for the gift you are to us  
And for all the special things you bring to our family.

Some of these could be shared.

God of all life  
you gave life to each one of us  
and you hold our life gently in your hands.  
You know each of us by name.  
We ask your blessing on (...Name...) whose birthday we celebrate today.  
Give him/her happiness and health, contentment and peace.  
May his/her friends be many, and his/her enemies few.  
Grant him/her many successes in life and few disappointments  
May he/she know the love, acceptance, forgiveness and challenge  
of parents and family who love him/her, and care for him/her  
today and every day. Amen