Thanksgiving for the year 2013

To prepare:
Songs of thanksgiving
Symbols: Globe, Candle, Fruits, Pictures of significant events during the year 2013 in the world and Congregation for which we give thanks/offer our petitions.

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns denial into acceptance, Chaos into order, Confusion into clarity. Gratitude makes sense of your past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.
MJ Ryan

My heart is ready, my God…. To praise you! To bless your name! To thank you!

We come before God with grateful hearts to express our gratitude for all the blessings and gifts we have been given this year.

Entrance: One participant lights the candle followed by a song of thanksgiving.

Psalm 67 (In two Choirs)
May God be gracious to us and bless us; may God’s face shine upon us.
So shall your rule be known upon the earth, your saving power among all the nations.

May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you!
May the nations be glad and shout for joy; for you govern the peoples justly, you guide the nations upon the earth.

May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you!
The earth has yielded its harvest; God, our God, blesses us.
May God bless us still; may the ends of the earth revere our God.

Reflection in pairs
How has God shared the gift of abundance with you, in the Congregation, your family and your community?

What particularly are you thankful for at this time of celebrating and giving thanks?
The Globe, the fruits and the pictures are then placed on the table near the candle.

Litany of Thanks (In two Choirs)

For the blessing of life, for the gift of each new day,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.
For the food we eat each day,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the home we share with family,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.
For the faith that renews us,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the hope that we have for the human family,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.
For the charity that we are privileged to offer,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the work for justice that we are called to do,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.
For all the graces we have received,
For all the good we have enjoyed,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the gift of Blessed Maria Droste
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For the enriching experience of the Journey of Enrichment,
Lord of Abundance, we thank you.

For what else shall we be thankful for?

Intercession

The leader distributes the pictures of the significant events in the world and the Congregation.

Those who wish are invited to say a prayer according to the picture e.g. Solidarity with victims of wars or natural disasters, women/children in distress, the poor, the migrants, those who are trafficked etc.

Each community can find pictures according to its reality.

Suggestion: Song of Peace

Final Prayer:

God, Creator, we celebrate your overflowing love, and we give thanks to you for all that we have, all that we are. We know abundance because of you.

May we offer thanks to you by sharing what you have blessed us with, our talents, our graces, our spiritual as well as material goods. May we live in your light and in your love during this season, and during all the seasons of life. Amen.

Song of Thanksgiving

Prayer submitted by Francoise Mestry, Communications Rome