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## **We Are Family**

“We Are Family.” This statement is one of the most important things in life. I’m glad that this is OLA’s theme for the year. Being family does not mean we have to be related. Other than my family of four at home, my family consists of my neighbors, friends, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, classmates, teachers, and my parish. All family is treasure.

Family is what keeps us together. Families love, care, and adore everyone. My family makes me laugh and smile. If I’m having a bad day, my family always turns it around. Family helps us through life’s many problems. My friends at school are part of my family. If I have trouble with my homework or even if I’m having a tough time at home, they help me a lot. My parish community is also my family. If I do something wrong or if I’m worried about my sick dad, I can always go to our Pastor and he never turns me away. The people at 8:00 Mass make me smile. I consider them as my family too. Over the summer I altar-served during weekday Masses when there were no other altar servers, and at the end of summer one of the sweet women gave me nail polish. They care about me so much and I love that. Most importantly, God is my family. I can talk to him whenever I want. He gives me strength and courage.

My school and parish community noticed how important family is when we lost a precious member of our school family during July. We stuck together as we mourned the sad loss.

Families make memories that will stay with you forever. Even though both of my grandparents have joined God in heaven, I will never forget their beaming smiles and the jokes they told that weren’t funny; but when they laughed so hard at them, I couldn’t resist laughing with them. I will also never forget the many adventurous times I’ve had with my sister and parents. From the 14 hour drive to Disneyland because of a power outage to when my dad had a major kidney-pancreas transplant in April. They were true adventures and my family made them unforgettable.

Family is one of the most awesome things ever! After reading this essay, go home and hug your family tight. They won’t be on Earth forever, but they’ll be forever in your heart.