**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board Meeting**

**Date**

**Leader:** From the earliest days of the congregation, Sisters of St. Joseph have sought out others who shared their hopes and concerns for the people of God, who worked together with them to alleviate the needs and hungers of the world and bring about an ever greater unity.

The need for collaboration in this mission is even greater today as the needs are both profound and urgent. Let us rejoice that there are so many, like you members of this board, who are willing to partner with ABLE Families to “confront the systemic causes of poverty by supporting low-income families as they make positive changes in their lives.”

**Reader 1: A reading From Jeremiah 29, verse 11**

For I know well the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

**Reader 2: A reading from the Gospel of Luke (10:25-37)**

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” And Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.” But the lawyer, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

**Leader:** Jesus tells us that *everyone* is our neighbor…the one closest to us and those who are continents away. Which of our neighbors do we want to remember in prayer today?

**Closing Prayer:** (together)

God of Compassion, lead us to make choices that those in need may find a place of welcome in our midst, and those who suffer injustice of any kind may be acknowledged with dignity and respect as members of our one human family. We pray for strength and commitment, for creativity and vision in our efforts to bring about change. Open our hearts and our eyes to see the gifts of those around us and within ourselves. Lead us to offer with generosity and confidence the best we have: our time, our skills, our insight, our prayer. Whether we are encouraging, forgiving, supporting or challenging, may we do all things with a love that seeks unity. Amen.