

Pastoral Prayer  
May 11, 2025

O God of peace,

Our first prayer today is for our mothers. We pray with gratitude for those who have brought their best to parenthood, who have bandaged the boo-boos and dried the tears, who have set the standards and kept them with loving firmness, who have rejoiced at their children's successes and celebrated their adulthood. We pray for those whose motherhood has been full of struggle. Some mothers cope with family illnesses, others with poverty and need. Some mothers cope with special needs children, and some of them do so without the supports those children really require. Some mothers try to hide their children from war, or from domestic violence, or from the ravages of disasters. Grant these mothers strength, courage, and skill so that they and their children may thrive.

We pray for the children for whom Mother's Day is hard. Some grieve for a mother taken too soon; others love a mother who is ill. Some have been separated from their mothers, and whether that was for good reasons or bad, they love them and miss them. Bless the mothers and the children, O God, with your special grace.

We echo Pope Leo's call for peace with our prayer for peace. We ask that your Spirit move within the leaders of India and Pakistan to turn a fragile cease-fire into the beginning of the end of a violent conflict. We ask that your Spirit move within the leaders of Israel and of Gaza to end the bloodshed there. We ask that you move within the leaders in so many places in the world: Russia, Ukraine, Myanmar, Maghreb, Sudan, Ethiopia, and far too many more, to bring an end to fighting, destruction, and death.

Grant to us, O God, the grace to imitate Tabitha and Simon Peter and Jesus. May we offer a mother's love not just to our children but to all around us. May the Earth and its creatures thrive in our care through your blessings.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.