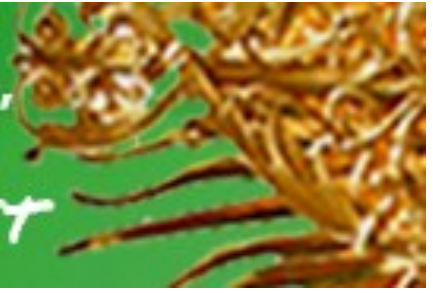




Pray for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty *JOIN THE MOVEMENT*



May 9: Friday Fast

Intention:

Let us pray that the gift of motherhood may be better understood and appreciated within our culture today.

Did you know?

In 1965, Pope Paul VI wrote an Encyclical entitled "[Mense Maio](#)" (*Month of May*). In this document, he explained that "Since Mary is rightly to be regarded as the way by which we are led to Christ, the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise."

Quick Links

- ⇒ [Call to Prayer facebook page](#)
- ⇒ [Join the Movement!](#) (video)
- ⇒ [Call to Prayer webpage](#)

Reflection:

It is very fitting that we celebrate Mother's Day during the month dedicated to the most perfect mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. A mother plays an irreplaceable role in a child's life. Without our mothers, we would not have been born and therefore would not have the capacity to live out our Catholic faith. [In the words of St. John Paul II](#), "it is precisely those born of earthly mothers...who receive from the Son of God the power to become 'children of God' (Jn 1:12)...The history of every human being passes through the threshold of a woman's motherhood (no 19)."

It is interesting to note that the Church is sometimes referred to as a mother. Just as a mother gives life to her children, so also the Church "brings forth to a new and immortal life the sons who are born to her in baptism ([Lumen Gentium](#), no 64)." Mary, the most perfect mother, is the archetype, or model for the Church because of her unflinching belief and obedience to God's will. "The Church indeed, contemplating [Mary's] hidden sanctity, imitating her charity and faithfully fulfilling the Father's will, by receiving the word of God in faith becomes herself a mother (LG, no 64)."

VISIT WWW.USCCB.ORG/FAST TO SIGN THE FASTING PLEDGE & TO SIGN UP FOR WEEKLY E-MAIL REMINDERS & INTENTIONS, OR TEXT "FAST" TO 99000 TO RECEIVE WEEKLY TEXT MESSAGES.