

## **A PRAYER for OUR MOTHERS**

My child, keep your father's commandment,  
and forsake not your mother's teaching.

Proverbs 1:8

### **MOTHERS: EVERY YEAR IS THEIR YEAR**

This blessing is for all the mothers who have sat up all night with sick toddlers saying, "It's OK honey, Mommy's here."

This blessing is for the mothers who gave birth to babies they may never see. And the mothers who took those babies-- forever to be their own children.

This blessing is for all the mothers who attended ball games, recitals, rehearsals, etc. etc. and who said, "I wouldn't have missed it for the world," and meant it.

This blessing is for all the refugee mothers who fled in the night and can't find their children or can't feed their children.

Creator God, what makes a good mother anyway? Is it patience? Firmness? A soft lap?

Or is mothering what is in her heart?

Is it the ache she feels when she watches her child disappear down the street, walking to school alone for the very first time?

The jolt that takes her from sleep to dread, from bed to crib at 2 a.m. to put her hand on the back of a sleeping baby?

The need to flee from wherever she is and hug her child when she hears news of a school shooting, a fire, a car accident, a baby dying?

Yes it is so.

So this blessing is for all the mothers who sat down with their children and explained all about making babies. And for all the mothers who wanted to but just couldn't.

This blessing is for all the mothers who yell at their kids in the grocery store with frustration and despair.

This blessing is for the mothers who show up at work with milk stains on their blouses and diapers in their purse.

This blessing is for all the mothers who teach their sons to cook and their daughters to speak up with pride.

This blessing is for mothers who put pinwheels, teddy bears, or flowers on their children's graves.

This blessing is for mothers whose children have gone astray, who haven't the words to reach them, and yet have never put them from their heart.

This blessing is for new mothers stumbling through diaper changes and sleep deprivation. And mature mothers learning to let go. For working mothers and stay-at-home mothers. Single mothers and married mothers.

And this blessing is for all of us who will move beyond sentiment into actions which support mothers and mothering persons in all of their life-giving and life-nurturing roles. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you!  
Blessed are you among all women  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now,  
and at the hour of our death. Amen.



God of all Living and Loving:  
How pleasant it is when women, men, and children  
live together in unity!  
How noble is your creation and the world that you have made!  
How blessed we are to receive the gifts of life and love!

Saint John Baptist de La Salle  
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,  
help us to have a great respect for all mothers.

Live Jesus in our hearts.  
Forever!

