

FROM THE PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters,

Today the Church celebrates World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We remember that a vocation is a specific call from God to follow Him in holiness. This call can be lived out through the call to priesthood, diaconate, religious life, married life, or holy single life in the Church. Whichever call is our particular call, we always have to remember that God is calling each one of us to become the best version of ourselves – that we have to become who God made us to be!

Every vocation is a call from selfishness to generosity, from turning in on oneself to turning outward to others, from “taking care of number one” to remembering always that “I am third” (God is first, others are second, and I am third).

Today is also Mother’s Day. This is one of the beautiful vocations to which God has called many women. This beautiful call is, like the other vocations, a call to die to self and live for others. I think that we see this call to die to oneself more often lived out in mothers than in many others vocations. I reflect on my own mother: she bore her children in her womb for nine months, went through intense labor, and then C-sections, the nights she stayed up with us as we were sick, making lunches, combing messed up hair, cleaning off dirt smudges (albeit too often with the universal solvent of “mom spit”) ... and the list goes on and on. She constantly gave – and still gives – of herself.

I learned my faith from both of my parents, but my mother was always the bedrock of our Faith (when I was a child, my dad was a new Catholic). I watch her pray; I see her integrity of living our Catholic values in a secular workplace (which, I would guess, is much harder than within a Church environment, as I get to do). I can honestly say that my mother’s first desire for my sister and me is for us to get to heaven. When I look at my mother, I see holiness.

On this very special day, I say thank you to ALL mothers (and especially to my mother)! May you have the grace to live out your vocation to the fullest, allowing your motherhood to help you become the best version of yourselves. And for the rest of us, may we become as generous and self-giving in our vocations!