

# LOOKING THROUGH STAINED GLASS



A Column by  
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## The Prayer of a Mother

Last week, we explored the beginnings of our prayer. I mentioned in that column that most of us learned how to pray from our parents. Indeed, many of us first learned to pray from our mothers. Mothers teach us to pray by instructing us in prayer, but also by being examples of prayer.

Whenever I think of mothers and prayer, besides reflecting on my own experience, I am also reminded of two great praying mothers of our tradition – our Blessed Mother Mary and St. Monica.

How do I know that Mary was a great pray-er? The Bible tells us so. For example, she conversed with the angel Gabriel during the Annunciation. [Luke 1:26-38] We are also told that during the various events of Jesus' birth and infancy, Mary "pondered [all these events] in her heart." [Luke 2:19, 51] Finally, in the book of Acts, Mary is said to have been present and praying with the other disciples in the time between Jesus' Ascension and Pentecost: "All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus." [Acts 1:14]

St. Monica, another great praying mother, is famous for her perseverance in prayer. Monica is the mother of St. Augustine, and she prayed for more than 30 years for the conversion of her son. It is thanks in no small part to the prayers of Monica that Augustine went from a terrific sinner to one of the greatest saints of our faith. Like St. Monica, how many tearful prayers have been spoken by mothers over the fate and faith of their children?

Today, we celebrate our mothers in a special way. Our mothers have spent so much time in prayer with us and for us, perhaps we can spend a few minutes in prayer for them today. While the flowers, the candies, and the brunches may be appreciated, I would venture to guess that many mothers would rather have our prayers. I have quoted below one such prayer to help us pray for our mothers today and every day:

**I thank you, Creator of us all, for my mother. I thank you that she gave me life and nurtured me all those years. She gave me my faith, helping me to know you and to know Jesus and his ways. She taught me how to love and how to sacrifice for others. She taught me that it was okay to cry and that I should always tell the truth.**

**Bless her with the graces she needs and which you want to give her today. Help her to feel precious in your eyes today and to know that I love her. Give her strength and courage, compassion and peace. Most of all, bless her this day with your love. Amen.**

[<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Mothers/#MothersDay>]

