



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

August 21, 2025
Pope Saint Pius X

Dear Brother Priests:

Yesterday, at the conclusion of his General Audience, Pope Leo XIV offered these words concerning the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which we will celebrate tomorrow.

Mary is the Mother of believers here on earth and is also invoked as Queen of Peace.

*While our earth continues to be wounded by wars in the Holy Land, in Ukraine, and in many other regions of the world, **I invite all the faithful to devote August 22nd to fasting and prayer**, imploring the Lord to grant us peace and justice, and to dry the tears of those who suffer as a result of the ongoing armed conflicts.*

Mary, Queen of Peace, intercede so that peoples may find the path to peace.


Let us be attentive to this invitation of the Holy Father. I understand there is little time to prepare events to commemorate the day, but please do your best to raise awareness among your parishioners and encourage their prayer and fasting.

As possible, please also include this intercession in your Universal Prayer at Mass tomorrow.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, we pray for those areas of the world afflicted by war, especially the Holy Land and Ukraine. May the suffering be comforted, the dead be given eternal rest, those mourning be consoled, and all hostility swiftly cease. We pray to the Lord.

Know of my gratitude for your pastoral charity and evangelizing leadership.

Fraternally yours in Christ,


Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre