



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Priests and Deacons

From: The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano, Bishop of Rochester* *Salvatore R. Matano*

Date: August 20, 2025, *Memorial of Saint Bernard*

Re: **Pope Leo XIV's request for August 22, 2025, the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to be a day of fasting and prayer for peace**

At the conclusion of Pope Leo XIV's General Audience today, August 20, 2025, His Holiness said:

"Friday, August 22nd, we will celebrate the Memorial of Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 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 the day of August 22 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 our Diocese accept our Holy Father's urgent invitation, imploring the intercession of Mary, Queen of Peace, praying together the Memorare, attributed to Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, whose liturgical Memorial we honor today.

The Memorare of St. Bernard

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help, and sought thy intercession, was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee,

O Virgin of virgins, my Mother,
to thee I come, before thee I stand sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate! despise not my petitions,
but, in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.