

From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of [Diocese of Belleville](#)
To: [Stacie Smith](#)
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Gratitude is one of the key attributes of an authentic Christian. And this is for good reason.

As Saint Paul says so directly in his first letter to the Corinthians (4:7): *What do you possess that you have not received? But if you have received it, why are you boasting as if you did not receive it?*

In our day, often we see what is ours as strictly ours. But what skill, what talent, what blessing do we have that was not first given to us by God? Our ability to make a living, to proclaim the Good News, to show compassion to the needy – all of these are gifts given from above. The relationships we enjoy (and those we might find challenging), the faith that guides us, the communities that support and challenge us – all are given by God.

And therefore, as we have heard in the Church for well over a thousand years, *it is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give God thanks.* The outrageous generosity and mercy of the Most High is reason for our **perpetual** gratitude, which is right and just. As

we become more grateful for those endless good gifts, we naturally become more humble – what could we ever do to deserve all that God has done for us? How can we repay Him?

Sometimes, it would seem that we are only called to deep gratitude one day a year at the end of November. But for the Church, every Mass is fundamentally a work of gratitude. Do our faces, our voices, our behaviors express that when we gather for Mass? If not, we have the opportunity to work on it.

As we read in the *Roman Missal*: *O God, the Father of every gift, we confess that all we have and are comes down from you; teach us to recognize the effects of your boundless care and to love you with a sincere heart and with all our strength.* May it be so!



Pope Leo XIV
Prayer Intention for August

For mutual coexistence

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.



The USCCB Jubilee of Young People is a significant event in the Catholic Church's Jubilee Year, offering young adults ages 18-35 a chance to travel to Rome or celebrate stateside for a transformative experience. The event, which will take place from July 28 to August 3, 2025, is a call to be "Pilgrims of Hope" and is expected to draw an estimated 1,000,000 young people to Rome. The USCCB will host a National U.S. Pilgrim Gathering on July 30, 2025, **TODAY**, at the Papal Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls in Rome featuring a procession with U.S. saints, witness, catechesis, and a Eucharistic Holy Hour. Bishop Robert Barron and Bishop Edward Burns will be featured, and the event will be livestreamed on the USCCB's YouTube channel.

To watch the livestream of this event today from 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm CST, click [HERE](#).

You can also download the program guidebook book [HERE](#)



For information on parish picnics throughout the diocese, click [HERE](#).



August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary!
May her motherly love guide and protect us, and her heart lead us ever closer to Christ.





Sent by Mary Fleming



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