

March 2025

# PRAYING WITH *the Holy Father*

Monthly Intention Lesson Plan developed for  
Middle School and High School Students



**Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**  
UNITED STATES | CANADA      APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

Produced for the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#)

in collaboration with [St. Joseph Ministries](#)

IN HONOREM PRINCIPIS APOSTOLICI PAULI VI

# March 2025

## For Families in Crisis



## Opening Prayer

- Begin with the Sign of the Cross
- Prayer: The Daily Offering

Father, here I am. I know you are always with me. I place my heart in the Heart of your Son, Jesus, who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist each day. May your Holy Spirit make me His friend and apostle, available for His mission of compassion. Take, Lord and receive all of my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings this day -all I am and possess- in communion with my brothers and sisters in the Pope's prayer network. With Mother Mary, I pray for the mission of the Church, for our bishops, and for the Pope's intention this month. Amen.

## Introduce Intention

### The Holy Father's March 2025 Intention

- Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, and rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

### The Pope Video

- If time allows, watch the Pope Video produced for this month.
- The video is available at <https://thepopevideo.org/>

# Sacred Scripture

- Read Colossians 3:12-14 or Matthew 18:21-22.

**Note:** Invite one of your students to read the scripture entry.

## Reflection

Bria Halama is a LCP in Milwaukee, WI. She received her degree from Divine Mercy University and is involved with the JPPI Healing Center's Inner Healing Prayer Ministry in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

People usually come to therapy, "broken", in some way or another. Whether it's a breakup, a loss, a life transition, or overwhelming symptoms of depression or anxiety, something feels broken, or they themselves feel broken.

As a mental health therapist, this is the work I am blessed to do, to be with and love people who courageously show up to share their broken hearts. It seems ironic, that relationship is both the cause of and the cure to our deepest wounds. It is in the rupture, loss, or absence of a relationship where we experience the most profound pain. And when someone loves us, shows us kindness, or witnesses to our suffering, we can experience a restoration that can soothe the pain, though its mark can never be completely erased from our story.

I have found that as I start to see my own brokenness as the reality of my humanity and a way to receive love, rather than a shameful barrier to love, my heart has expanded and my relationship with Jesus has deepened. It is in the painful, and beautiful vulnerability of being received with love in our brokenness that we can encounter the deepest truth, goodness, and beauty of our Lord, who allowed himself to be broken like us, and for us.

So, as we pray for broken families, for our broken human family, and as we ourselves feel the ache of our brokenness and long for the fullness of being with a perfect and heavenly family, let us not fear the brokenness. Let us face the reality of it with faith, hope, and with bold confidence in our Savior who was broken for us, who redeemed suffering so that the evil of sin and death could be transformed into beauty and life. Let us start with ourselves and ask Him for the grace we need. Let us forgive and ask for forgiveness. Let us see the gifts in ourselves and in each other. Let us see, even in our differences and across divides, that we belong to each other. That our deepest identity is not our brokenness, but our belovedness.

# Saint Connection

- St. Monica, a model of perseverance and prayer, devoted her life to the spiritual well-being of her family, especially her son, St. Augustine.
- Despite years of trials and heartbreak over Augustine's wayward life, she remained steadfast in faith, offering constant prayers and tears for his conversion. Her unwavering trust in God and tireless intercession were ultimately answered when Augustine embraced the faith and became one of the Church's greatest theologians.
- Her life exemplifies patience, persistence, and the power of a mother's prayer, inspiring countless parents to entrust their children to God's providence.
- Reflect on her enduring faith, hope, and love, which brought about the transformation of her son and continues to encourage families today.

## Discussion

Encourage students to reflect on the monthly intention. Allow them to share their thoughts aloud.

- Why is forgiveness essential in family relationships?
- How can families rediscover each other's gifts and strengths?

## Extension Activities:

- Create a "family tree of virtues" highlighting qualities that strengthen family bonds.
- Write prayers for families in crisis.

## Closing Prayer

- Prayer:
  - Lord, heal families suffering from division. Teach us to forgive as You forgive and to embrace one another with patience, understanding, and love. May we rediscover the gifts You have given us in each other and build homes that reflect Your peace and mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
- End with the Sign of the Cross