THE DAILY BREAD

The Missio of the Beloved



Spiritual Motherhood

A Universal Vocation

A FORMATION BOOK BY

Kendall Peterson

The Everyday Apostle

THE DAILY BREAD

Missio of the Beloved

Spiritual Motherhood

A Universal Vocation

Every Woman Is Called to Mother Souls

✦ ✦ ✦

A Daily Bread Formation Book

The Everyday Apostle

INTRODUCTION

A Motherhood Wider Than the Womb

When a woman hears the word motherhood, she may think only of bearing and raising her own children, and if she has none, or her children are grown, she may conclude that this particular calling has passed her by or never belonged to her. But there is a motherhood wider than the womb, a spiritual motherhood to which every woman is called, married or single, with children or without, young or old, for every woman has within her the capacity and the calling to nurture life, not only physical life but the life of faith in the souls of others. This spiritual motherhood is not a consolation prize for those without children but a universal vocation, a real and powerful apostolate by which a woman mothers others in the faith, begetting, nurturing, and bringing to maturity the life of God in the people around her.

This book is about spiritual motherhood, the universal vocation of every woman to mother souls. It will show that every woman is called to be a mother in this sense; that this motherhood reaches beyond biology to the nurturing of faith; that Mary is its perfect model; that the Church has a maternal heart to which women contribute a particular gift; that a woman is called to see and tend the spiritually hungry around her; how spiritual motherhood nurtures faith in others; and how a mother's intercession is one of its most powerful expressions. The aim is to open to a woman the vision of spiritual motherhood, so that she embraces this universal calling and begins to mother the souls God has placed in her life.

My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! — Galatians 4:19

Saint Paul, a man, used the image of a mother in the anguish of childbirth to describe his labor for the souls in his care, longing until Christ was formed in them, and this is the heart of spiritual motherhood, laboring for the forming of Christ in others as a mother labors to bring forth life. This book will help a woman understand and embrace this calling, to mother souls toward the life of Christ. Spiritual motherhood is a vocation wider than the womb, belonging to every woman and expressed in the nurturing of faith wherever God has placed her, so that she becomes, in the deepest sense, a mother of souls, laboring until Christ is formed in those she loves. This book is about taking up that calling.

CHAPTER ONE

Every Woman a Mother

A Vocation Beyond Biological Motherhood

Spiritual motherhood is a universal vocation, belonging to every woman regardless of whether she has borne children, for the capacity and calling to nurture life is written into what it means to be a woman. Understanding that every woman is called to spiritual motherhood opens this vocation to all, whatever their state in life.

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. — Genesis 3:20

Motherhood Written into Womanhood

A capacity for motherhood is written into what it means to be a woman, a calling to nurture and bring forth life that exists whether or not she bears children. There is a maternal dimension written into the very nature of womanhood, a capacity and orientation toward nurturing, protecting, and bringing forth life that belongs to a woman whether or not she ever bears a child physically, so that motherhood in its deepest sense is not merely a biological function some women perform but a dimension of womanhood itself, present in every woman and expressed in her capacity to nurture life in many forms, the maternal heart part of what it means to be a woman. This means a woman understands that a maternal capacity is written into her womanhood, a calling to nurture life that belongs to her regardless of biological motherhood, so that she recognizes motherhood as a dimension of who she is rather than only a function she may or may not perform. The woman who understands motherhood written into womanhood sees her maternal capacity as part of who she is. Motherhood written into womanhood is the maternal capacity belonging to every woman, a calling to nurture life whether or not she bears children.

For the Married and the Single Alike

Spiritual motherhood belongs equally to married and single women, to those with children and those without, excluding no woman from this universal calling. Spiritual motherhood is a vocation for every woman without exception, for the married and the single, the mother of many and the woman with no children of her own, the young and the old, all share equally in the call to mother souls, so that no woman is excluded from this vocation by her state in life, and the single woman or the childless woman is as fully called to spiritual motherhood as any other, this maternal apostolate open to all women alike. This means a woman understands that spiritual motherhood belongs to her

whatever her state, married or single, with children or without, so that she claims this vocation as fully hers rather than thinking it belongs only to mothers of families. The woman who understands it is for the married and single alike claims spiritual motherhood whatever her state in life. For the married and the single alike, spiritual motherhood is a universal vocation, excluding no woman by her state in life.

A Calling, Not a Consolation

Spiritual motherhood is a true and powerful vocation in its own right, not a lesser substitute offered to women who lack biological children. Spiritual motherhood must not be understood as a mere consolation prize for women without children, for it is a genuine and powerful vocation in its own right, a real apostolate of eternal significance, so that the woman who exercises spiritual motherhood, whether or not she also has children of her own, is living a true calling of great worth, not settling for a substitute but embracing a vocation that stands on its own as a profound way of nurturing the life of God in others. This means a woman understands spiritual motherhood as a calling in its own right rather than a consolation for the childless, so that she embraces it as a genuine and powerful vocation of real worth rather than a lesser substitute for biological motherhood. The woman who understands it is a calling, not a consolation, embraces spiritual motherhood as a true vocation of great worth. A calling, not a consolation, spiritual motherhood is a genuine and powerful vocation in its own right, not a substitute for women without children.

CHAPTER TWO

Mothering Beyond Biology

Begetting and Nurturing Faith

Spiritual motherhood means mothering others in the life of faith, begetting and nurturing the life of God in their souls as a mother begets and nurtures physical life in her children. Understanding how a woman mothers beyond biology reveals the real content of this vocation, the spiritual nurturing of souls.

For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. — 1 Corinthians 4:15

Begetting Faith in Others

A woman participates in begetting the life of faith in others, helping to bring souls to spiritual birth as a mother brings a child to physical birth. Just as a mother participates in bringing physical life into the world, a spiritual mother participates in begetting the life of faith in others, helping to bring souls to spiritual birth, for by her witness, her sharing of the Gospel, and her prayer, she becomes an instrument through whom others come to new life in Christ, so that spiritual motherhood includes this begetting, the bringing of souls to spiritual birth and the awakening of the life of God in them. This means a woman understands that she can beget faith in others, participating in bringing souls to spiritual birth, so that she sees her role in others' coming to faith as a genuine spiritual motherhood, an awakening of the life of God through her. The woman who understands begetting faith in others sees her part in bringing souls to spiritual birth. Begetting faith in others means participating in bringing souls to spiritual birth, so that a woman awakens the life of God in others as a mother brings forth life.

Nurturing Souls Toward Maturity

Beyond begetting faith, a spiritual mother nurtures souls toward maturity, feeding, strengthening, and forming them as a mother raises a child to adulthood. Spiritual motherhood does not end at spiritual birth but continues in nurturing souls toward maturity, for as a mother feeds, protects, teaches, and raises her child to adulthood, a spiritual mother nurtures the faith of those in her care, feeding them with truth and encouragement, strengthening them in difficulty, forming them in virtue, and accompanying them toward spiritual maturity, so that her motherhood includes the long work of nurturing souls to full growth in Christ. This means a woman understands that spiritual motherhood involves nurturing souls toward maturity, the long work of feeding and forming them in the faith, so that she accompanies those in her care from spiritual birth toward full growth in Christ. The woman who nurtures souls toward maturity accompanies them in the long growth of faith. Nurturing souls toward maturity is the spiritual mother's work of feeding, strengthening, and forming others as a mother raises a child to adulthood.

The Many Forms of Spiritual Mothering

Spiritual motherhood takes many forms, through mentorship, friendship, teaching, encouragement, and example, by which a woman nurtures the faith of others in whatever way her life allows. Spiritual mothering is expressed in many forms, for a woman nurtures the faith of others through mentorship of younger believers, through friendship that encourages and strengthens, through teaching and sharing what she has received, through example that inspires, and through intercession, so that spiritual motherhood is not confined to one relationship or method but exercised in the many ways a woman

nurtures souls, adapted to the people and circumstances God gives her, the maternal care taking whatever form the situation allows. This means a woman understands that spiritual motherhood takes many forms, exercised through mentorship, friendship, teaching, and example, so that she nurtures the faith of others in whatever ways her life and relationships permit. The woman who understands the many forms of spiritual mothering nurtures souls in whatever way her life allows. The many forms of spiritual mothering include mentorship, friendship, teaching, and example, by which a woman nurtures the faith of others as her circumstances allow.

CHAPTER THREE

Mary, the Spiritual Mother

The Perfect Model of the Vocation

Mary is the perfect model of spiritual motherhood, the mother who bore Christ physically and who is given as spiritual mother to all the faithful, so that every woman learns her own spiritual motherhood from Mary. Understanding Mary as the spiritual mother reveals the pattern a woman follows in her own maternal vocation.

Then he said to the disciple, Behold, your mother! And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. — John 19:26-27

Mother of All the Faithful

Mary, given from the Cross as mother to the beloved disciple and through him to all, is the spiritual mother of all the faithful, the model of maternal care for souls. From the Cross, Christ gave Mary as mother to the beloved disciple, and in him to all the faithful, so that Mary became the spiritual mother of all Christians, caring for the whole Church with maternal love, and this reveals her as the model and mother of all spiritual motherhood, the woman whose maternal care extends to all the children of God, so that every woman who mothers souls participates in and learns from Mary's universal spiritual motherhood. This means a woman understands Mary as the spiritual mother of all the faithful, so that she sees in Mary both her own spiritual mother and the model of the maternal care for souls to which she herself is called. The woman who understands Mary as mother of all the faithful sees in her the model of spiritual motherhood. Mother of all the faithful, Mary was given from the Cross as spiritual mother to all, the model of maternal care for souls.

Her Maternal Care at Cana and the Cross

Mary models spiritual motherhood in her attentive care at Cana and her faithful presence at the Cross, noticing need and standing by those she loves through suffering. Mary's spiritual motherhood is seen in the events of the Gospel, for at Cana she noticed the need before anyone else and brought it to her Son, modeling the attentive, interceding care of a mother, and at the Cross she stood faithfully by Christ through His suffering, modeling the mother who does not abandon her children in their darkest hour, so that in both she shows the pattern of spiritual motherhood, attentive to need and faithful through suffering. This means a woman learns from Mary's care at Cana and the Cross the pattern of her own spiritual motherhood, attentive to the needs of those in her care and faithful to them through their sufferings, so that she models her maternal love on Mary's. The woman who learns from Mary's care at Cana and the Cross models attentive and faithful spiritual motherhood. Her maternal care at Cana and the Cross shows Mary noticing need and standing faithful through suffering, the pattern of spiritual motherhood.

Learning Motherhood from Mary

A woman learns her own spiritual motherhood from Mary, taking the Mother of God as her model and seeking her help in nurturing the souls entrusted to her. Because Mary is the perfect spiritual mother, a woman learns her own maternal vocation from her, looking to Mary as the model of how to nurture, intercede for, and accompany souls, and seeking Mary's help and example in her own spiritual motherhood, so that she does not undertake this vocation alone or without a pattern but learns it from the Mother of God, imitating Mary's maternal love and drawing on her intercession in caring for the souls entrusted to her. This means a woman learns her spiritual motherhood from Mary, taking her as model and helper, so that she imitates Mary's maternal love and seeks her aid in nurturing the souls in her care. The woman who learns motherhood from Mary imitates her maternal love and seeks her help. Learning motherhood from Mary means taking the Mother of God as model and helper, so that a woman imitates Mary's maternal love in nurturing souls.

CHAPTER FOUR

The Maternal Heart of the Church

What a Woman Uniquely Brings

The Church herself is a mother, and women contribute to her maternal heart a particular gift, a feminine genius for nurturing, attentiveness, and care that the Church and the

world deeply need. Understanding the maternal heart of the Church reveals the unique gift a woman brings to the nurturing of souls.

Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. — Isaiah 49:15

The Church as Mother

The Church is herself a mother, bringing forth and nurturing the children of God, and women share in and express this maternal character of the Church. The Church is rightly called a mother, for she brings forth the children of God in Baptism, nourishes them with the sacraments and the word, and raises them toward eternal life, exercising a true spiritual motherhood over all the faithful, so that the Church herself has a maternal heart and nature, and women, through their own spiritual motherhood, share in and express this maternal character of the Church, participating in the Church's own mothering of souls. This means a woman understands the Church as a mother and sees her own spiritual motherhood as a sharing in the Church's maternal nature, so that she participates in and expresses the Church's own mothering of the children of God. The woman who understands the Church as mother sees her spiritual motherhood as a sharing in the Church's maternal heart. The Church as mother brings forth and nurtures the children of God, so that women share in and express this maternal character of the Church.

The Feminine Genius for Nurturing Souls

Women bring to the Church a particular gift, a feminine genius for attentiveness, care, and the nurturing of persons, that equips them especially for the mothering of souls. Women bring to the Church and the world a particular gift often called the feminine genius, a special capacity for attentiveness to persons, for nurturing, for noticing need, and for personal care, so that women are especially equipped for the nurturing of souls, their natural attentiveness to the person and gift for relationship and care making them powerful instruments of spiritual motherhood, the feminine genius a specific contribution to the mothering of souls that the Church needs. This means a woman understands the feminine genius she brings, a gift for attentiveness, care, and the nurturing of persons, so that she sees herself as especially equipped by this gift for the mothering of souls. The woman who understands the feminine genius for nurturing souls sees herself equipped for spiritual motherhood. The feminine genius for nurturing souls is a woman's gift for attentiveness and care, equipping her especially for the mothering of souls.

What the Church and World Need

The maternal nurturing that women uniquely bring is deeply needed by a Church and a world often short of attentive, personal care for souls, so that a woman's spiritual motherhood meets a genuine need. The maternal care that women bring is deeply needed, for the Church and the world are often short of the attentive, personal, nurturing care of souls that spiritual motherhood provides, and in a culture of isolation and neglect, the woman who mothers souls meets a profound hunger, so that a woman's spiritual motherhood is not an optional extra but a response to a genuine and widespread need, her maternal care supplying what is deeply lacking. This means a woman understands that her spiritual motherhood meets a real need in the Church and world, so that she sees her maternal care for souls as a response to a genuine hunger rather than an optional good, supplying what is widely lacking. The woman who understands what the Church and world need sees her spiritual motherhood as meeting a genuine hunger. What the Church and world need is the maternal nurturing women uniquely bring, so that a woman's spiritual motherhood answers a deep and widespread need.

CHAPTER FIVE

Seeing the Women Around You

Noticing Those Who Need Mothering

Spiritual motherhood begins with sight, with noticing the women around a woman who are spiritually hungry, lost, or stalled, and recognizing a responsibility toward them. Understanding how to see the women around her opens a woman's eyes to those God is calling her to mother in the faith.

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. — Matthew 9:36

The Spiritually Hungry, Lost, and Stalled

Around every woman are others who are spiritually hungry, lost, or stalled, souls in need of the nurturing that a spiritual mother can give. Around a woman, often unnoticed, are many who are spiritually hungry, longing for God without knowing how to find Him, spiritually lost, having wandered from the faith or never known it, or spiritually stalled, believers who have stopped growing and settled into a flat and lifeless practice, so that there are always souls in need of spiritual mothering, and a woman is surrounded by people whose spiritual hunger, lostness, or stagnation invites the nurturing care she can

offer. This means a woman recognizes the spiritually hungry, lost, and stalled around her, the souls in need of spiritual mothering, so that she sees the real need for her maternal care in the people God has placed in her life. The woman who recognizes the spiritually hungry, lost, and stalled sees the souls who need her mothering. The spiritually hungry, lost, and stalled are the souls around a woman in need of spiritual mothering, whose condition invites her nurturing care.

Seeing with Compassion

A woman learns to see the people around her with the compassion of Christ, who looked on the crowds and saw their spiritual helplessness, so that her sight moves her to care. Spiritual motherhood requires seeing people with compassion, for Christ looked on the crowds and had compassion because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd, and a woman is called to see the people around her with this same compassion, perceiving beneath their surfaces the spiritual need, confusion, and hunger that move the heart to care, so that her sight is not detached observation but compassionate perception that stirs her to maternal love. This means a woman learns to see the people around her with compassion, perceiving their spiritual need as Christ did, so that her sight moves her to the maternal care that their condition calls for rather than leaving her indifferent. The woman who sees with compassion perceives the spiritual need around her and is moved to care. Seeing with compassion means perceiving the spiritual need of people as Christ did, so that a woman's sight moves her to maternal love.

Taking Responsibility for Souls

To see the spiritual need around her lays on a woman a certain responsibility, a call to take some ownership of the souls God brings into her life rather than passing them by. Seeing the spiritual need of those around her brings with it a responsibility, for a woman who perceives the hunger, lostness, or stagnation of the people God places in her path is called not merely to notice but to take some responsibility for them, to make their spiritual good her concern, to involve herself in their nurturing, so that spiritual motherhood involves accepting responsibility for the souls God brings into her life rather than passing them by, taking ownership of her part in their growth. This means a woman takes responsibility for the souls God brings into her life, accepting her call to care for their spiritual good rather than passing them by, so that her sight issues in genuine maternal responsibility. The woman who takes responsibility for souls accepts her call to care for those God brings into her life. Taking responsibility for souls means accepting a call to care for the spiritual good of those God brings into a woman's life rather than passing them by.

CHAPTER SIX

Nurturing Faith in Others

How Spiritual Motherhood Works

The heart of spiritual motherhood is the actual nurturing of faith in others, the patient work of feeding, encouraging, forming, and accompanying souls toward growth in Christ. Understanding how spiritual motherhood nurtures faith reveals the real labor of this vocation.

Older women likewise are to… teach what is good, and so train the young women. — Titus 2:3-4

Feeding and Encouraging

A spiritual mother nurtures faith by feeding souls with truth and encouragement, strengthening and sustaining those in her care as a mother feeds her child. The basic work of spiritual motherhood is feeding and encouraging, for as a mother feeds her child, a spiritual mother feeds the souls in her care with the truth of the faith, with wisdom, with the word of God, and with encouragement, strengthening them in their struggles, lifting them in discouragement, and sustaining their faith, so that her nurturing supplies the nourishment and encouragement that souls need to grow and endure, the steady feeding and strengthening that is a mother's constant work. This means a woman nurtures faith by feeding and encouraging those in her care, supplying them with truth and encouragement, so that she strengthens and sustains their faith as a mother feeds and encourages her child. The woman who feeds and encourages nurtures the faith of those in her care. Feeding and encouraging is the basic work of spiritual motherhood, a woman supplying souls with truth and encouragement to strengthen and sustain their faith.

Teaching and Training the Young in Faith

A spiritual mother teaches and trains younger or less mature believers, handing on what she has received and forming them in the way of faith, as Scripture calls older women to do. Scripture directs older women to teach what is good and train the younger women, naming a specific form of spiritual motherhood, the handing on of faith and wisdom from the more mature to the less, so that a spiritual mother teaches and trains those younger or less mature in the faith, sharing what she has received, forming them in Christian living, and guiding them toward maturity, passing on the faith as an experienced mother passes on wisdom to her daughters. This means a woman teaches and trains the younger

or less mature in faith, handing on what she has received and forming them in Christian living, so that she exercises the spiritual motherhood of passing on faith and wisdom to those coming behind her. The woman who teaches and trains the young in faith hands on what she has received to form them. Teaching and training the young in faith is the spiritual mother's work of handing on wisdom and forming the less mature, as Scripture calls older women to do.

Patient Accompaniment

Spiritual motherhood nurtures faith through patient accompaniment, walking with souls over time through their growth, struggles, and setbacks as a mother accompanies a child. Nurturing faith requires patient accompaniment, for growth in the spiritual life is slow and uneven, and a spiritual mother accompanies the souls in her care over time, walking with them through their progress and setbacks, their questions and struggles, remaining present and patient through the long process of their growth, so that her motherhood is not a brief intervention but a sustained accompaniment, the patient walking-alongside that a mother gives her child through all the stages of growth. This means a woman nurtures faith through patient accompaniment, walking with souls over time through their growth and struggles, so that she gives the sustained, patient presence that spiritual mothering requires rather than a brief intervention. The woman who gives patient accompaniment walks with souls through the long process of their growth. Patient accompaniment is the spiritual mother's sustained walking-alongside of souls through their growth and setbacks over time.

CHAPTER SEVEN

A Mother's Prayer

Intercession for the Souls You Carry

Among the most powerful expressions of spiritual motherhood is intercession, the persistent prayer by which a woman carries the souls in her care before God, as a mother prays for her children. Understanding a mother's prayer reveals the hidden and powerful heart of the spiritual mother's vocation.

For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. — 1 Samuel 1:27

Carrying Souls in Prayer

A spiritual mother carries the souls in her care before God in persistent prayer, holding them up to Him as a mother holds her children in her heart. The spiritual mother carries the souls in her care in prayer, holding them before God day after day, interceding for their faith, their growth, their struggles, and their salvation, so that she bears them in her heart and lifts them to God as a mother carries and prays for her children, her intercession a constant carrying of souls before the Lord, the maternal prayer that holds up those she loves and longs to see grow in Christ. This means a woman carries the souls in her care in prayer, interceding for them persistently and holding them before God, so that her spiritual motherhood is expressed in the faithful bearing of souls in prayer as a mother carries her children. The woman who carries souls in prayer holds those in her care before God day after day. Carrying souls in prayer is the spiritual mother's persistent intercession, holding the souls in her care before God as a mother holds her children in her heart.

The Example of Monica

The example of Saint Monica, who prayed for years for her son Augustine until he was converted, shows the persevering power of a mother's intercession for a soul. The persevering power of a spiritual mother's prayer is shown in Saint Monica, who prayed and wept for the conversion of her son Augustine over many long years, never giving up, until at last he was converted and became one of the Church's greatest saints, so that her example reveals the power of a mother's persistent intercession, the refusal to stop praying for a soul however long it takes, and the fruit such persevering prayer can bear, a model for every spiritual mother. This means a woman takes the example of Monica as a model of persevering intercession, so that she prays for the souls in her care without giving up, however long their conversion or growth takes, trusting in the power of a mother's persistent prayer. The woman who follows the example of Monica perseveres in prayer for a soul however long it takes. The example of Monica shows the persevering power of a mother's intercession, her years of prayer for Augustine bearing fruit in his conversion.

The Hidden Power of Maternal Prayer

A mother's intercession is a hidden but immensely powerful force, often accomplishing more for a soul than any visible effort, so that a woman's prayer may be the greatest thing she does for those she loves. The intercession of a spiritual mother is a hidden but immensely powerful force, for in the unseen labor of prayer a woman draws down grace on the souls she carries, disposing their hearts, softening their resistance, and cooperating with God in their salvation, so that her maternal prayer often accomplishes more than any visible effort she could make, the hidden power of a mother's intercession

being perhaps the greatest thing she does for the souls she loves, unseen but deeply fruitful. This means a woman understands the hidden power of her maternal prayer, so that she values her intercession as perhaps the most powerful thing she does for the souls in her care, trusting that this hidden labor accomplishes more than any visible effort. The woman who understands the hidden power of maternal prayer gives herself to intercession as her greatest work for souls. The hidden power of maternal prayer is the immense though unseen force of a mother's intercession, often accomplishing more for a soul than any visible effort.

CONCLUSION

Mother the Souls God Gives You

The woman who thought motherhood had passed her by, or belonged only to those with children, now sees the universal vocation of spiritual motherhood. We have seen that every woman is called to be a mother of souls, married or single, with children or without; that this motherhood reaches beyond biology to the begetting and nurturing of faith; that Mary is its perfect model, the mother of all the faithful; that women bring to the maternal heart of the Church a feminine genius the Church and world need; that spiritual motherhood begins with seeing the spiritually hungry, lost, and stalled around her; that it nurtures faith through feeding, teaching, and patient accompaniment; and that a mother's intercession is its hidden and powerful heart.

Running through all of it is a single truth: every woman is called to mother souls. The capacity to nurture life is written into her womanhood, and it is meant to bring forth not only physical life but the life of God in the souls around her, a vocation wider than the womb and open to every woman.

So mother the souls God gives you. Embrace spiritual motherhood as the universal vocation it is, yours whatever your state in life. Beget and nurture faith in others, through mentorship, friendship, teaching, and example. Learn your motherhood from Mary, the perfect spiritual mother, and bring to the Church the feminine genius for nurturing souls. See the spiritually hungry, lost, and stalled around you with compassion, and take responsibility for them. Nurture their faith by feeding, teaching, and patiently accompanying them. And carry them in prayer, with the persevering intercession of a Monica, for a mother's prayer is the hidden power that draws down grace. You were made to bring forth life. So mother the souls God gives you, laboring until Christ is formed in them.

✦ ✦ ✦

Spiritual Motherhood is part of The Daily Bread Library.

The Everyday Apostle · everydayapostle.com