

Invitation to Prayer: And 'ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4)

### PRAYER FOR THE CHILDREN OF OTHERS

O Lord, grant me the patience, the sensitivity, the tolerance, and the genuine love to reach out to all children everywhere. My neighbor's child is sad and needs a shoulder to cry on. Down the street lives a young man who is angry and rebellious. He walks by every day and I usually turn my head—a gesture of disgust—just like everyone else. The Boy Scout Troop has been asking for volunteers to do some simple things with young boys, and the school near my house has asked for someone to come and help serve lunches.

I used to think that I had raised my children, that I had paid my debt to society, but I am beginning to realize that all children are my responsibility. Yesterday at the grocery store a young woman asked me to hold her baby while she readjusted her burden of groceries and various other items. As I held the baby, I sensed new life flowing into my body. Perhaps the child too, knew for a moment that someone else cared. As I left the store, my eyes filled with tears and soon I was crying openly.

Thank you, Lord, for each of these children and for the chances to love them, chances which appear and disappear so quickly and unexpectedly. *Amen*