

FROM FATHER JOHN – *“Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds; His right hand has won victory for him, his holy arm. The LORD has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice. has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God. Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song; sing praise.” ~ Psalm 98*

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power, Alleluia!



Happy Mother's Day! I want to wish all of our Mothers, and their families, a Most Blessed Mother's Day!

Jesus says to us in John's gospel to love on another as he has loved us. *"This is my commandment; love one another as I have loved you."* But, if we think about it, how can we be *commanded* to love? The poet, W.H. Auden, said that only God could ask us to love our crooked neighbor with all our crooked heart. Everyone has flaws, even mothers. But Jesus calls us all to his great commandment, love one another as I have loved you. How can we be commanded to love?

When I was a child, it was easy for my mom to command me to clean my room, make my bed, empty the garbage, wash the dishes, etc. These are easy

commandments; they are things we do. These are things we're obligated to do. Surely love has to be a free response, not an obligation. We can be commanded to obey, but how can we be commanded to love?

The key to understanding all of this is how Jesus finishes his commandment. "*No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*" Jesus didn't just say it, he went out and did it on the cross. He laid down his life for you, for me for all of us.

This is what Mother's do; they give their lives for their children. In other words, they sacrifice their own desires, their own interests, their own good, even their very own lives in order to give their children everything they need to grow, to mature, to learn, to love and to receive the ultimate good; life eternal in the heavenly kingdom.

When I was little, before I could read, my Mom was there reading to me every single day. When I broke my leg, my Mom was there, she spent four nights in the hospital with me. This was in the days before managed care. When I fell out of a willow tree, my Mom was there to bandage me up. When I got hit in the head with a baseball bat, my Mom was there at the hospital with me. When I played high school football, my Mom was there sitting in the stands at every game. When I needed someone I could talk to, my Mom was there. When I needed some advice about women, my Mom was there to tell me what to do, what to say. (Given that I am a celibate priest, maybe that advice wasn't so good after all.) Whenever I needed her, my Mom was always just there. She never did the spectacular but she was always there doing the memorable.

So, what is a Mom? What is a Mother?

A Mom is a good person who is called to sacrifice for the good of her children. We all love spectacular stories of great sinners who have a huge conversion in their lives and become great saints. But, this isn't the way things normally work in the world. Most of us are just good persons who at some point are called by God to do more with their lives. This is exactly what a mother is; a good person who is called to do more with her life than to care about her own self-interest.

The loveliest
masterpiece of
the heart of God
is the heart
of a mother.



St. Therese of Lisieux
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On this Mother's Day we are most thankful for the Lord's gift to us of our mothers. It is important for all of us to recognize what a vital role our mothers' exercised in our upbringing, the love that they have shared with us, and the spiritual, emotional and material gifts that God has given each of us in, and through, the love and care that our mothers have shown us over the years.

Our Mother Mary trusted in God, placed her faith in God, said yes to God and our Lord Jesus Christ came into the world offering us salvation. Our very own mothers trusted in God, placed their faith in God, said yes to God when they brought us into the world. Every time they loved us, cared for us, watched out for us, they taught us something about the love that our Lord Jesus Christ has for each one of us.

This weekend, I pray for all the mothers of our parish, for my own mom, for all those women in our parish who have yet to be mothers, who wish to be mothers, who act in the role of mothers and who may never have the opportunity.

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.

“THANK YOU WOMEN WHO ARE MOTHERS!

*You have sheltered
human beings within
yourselves in a
unique experience of joy and travail.*



THIS EXPERIENCE MAKES YOU ... THE ONE
WHO IS THE ANCHOR AS THE CHILD MAKES
ITS WAY ALONG THE JOURNEY OF LIFE.”

-Blessed John Paul II

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