

A BLESSED AND HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

I send my blessings of a Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers. May you be filled with the grace and peace of the Lord today and always. In a special way I pray for the eternal rest of all mothers who have gone before us. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. We remember that Jesus Christ is "Lord both of the dead and the living." (Romans 14:9) Therefore we pray to Jesus, to bring us into communion with our beloved mothers who have gone to the Lord.

A mother is one who gives life through great sacrifice. During this time of international pandemic, mothers are making tremendous sacrifices for their children. Many are unable to be with them which causes tremendous pain for them. Mothers, remember the endurance and sacrifice of our Sorrowful Mother Mary at the foot of the Cross (see John 19:25b). Giving new life through sacrifice could be by giving life to children. But not all mothers give birth to children. One of my heroes, Mother Theresa never had any children of her own, but she sacrificed her life for her spiritual children, and cared for them as her own. Or many become mothers through the gift of adopting a child(ren). They imitate our Blessed Mother who was given to us by Christ (see John 19:26 – 27). Some women live out their motherhood, by the way of sacrifice for others. They receive God's love, create new life from it, and give birth to new life in the world.

As Christians we have three mothers. Our birth mother, Our Blessed Mother, Mary, and Our Mother the Church, the Bride of Christ. As many of you know I have a wonderful mother. She has sacrificed her life for her children. My mother really became a mother long before she was mother to me and my siblings. At around 18 years old her mother died in a tragic car accident, and she was left to raise her three younger brothers. From that moment on her life was not her own. She has been mother ever since, and after helping to raise her brothers with the tremendous support of her extended family, she began her own family. As you may have heard me say before, I am the eighth of nine children. She cared for us with tremendous love, care, and sacrifice. Just so it does not go unsaid, I LOVE YOU, MOM! My mom always expressed her love in many ways, and one way was by saying to us, "Are you hungry, you got to eat." Which was code for, "I love you". It is a great thing to show our parents that we love them through our actions, but it is most especially important that we say it, also. Tell those you love that you love them as much as possible. Never let it go unsaid.

Jesus gave us his mother to be our mother also, as He said on the cross to the beloved disciple, "Behold, your mother!" (John 20:27b) The Word of God, Jesus, gave us his mother as our mother as his last will and testament. She sacrifices for us, in imitation of her Son's ultimate sacrifice for us. Bring all of your needs before Mary our Mother and she will always, constantly bring them to her Son. Jesus is God and she is the Mother of God. She cares for her children in the best and most perfect way, by bringing us to her Son, Jesus.

Finally, we have been "born anew... of water and the Spirit" (John 3:3b; 5b) through the waters of baptism into Christ. Our holy Mother, the Church, has given us life in the Spirit, through baptism. She continues to nourish us with the Word of God, and the Bread of Life, the Holy Eucharist. Holy Mother Church greatly desires with Christ, to feed us with the Bread of Life. (see Luke 22:15). May we return to being fed the Bread of Life soon, in the meantime we hear the voice of God say, "I love you."

May all our mothers be blessed on this special day, and may we always love and honor our mothers, who have sacrificed their lives to give us life.

Peace & Love,

Father Will

