

When my brothers and I were children, once in a while my mother would shout in frustration. I'm not your slave! I of course being the sensitive child would feel bad when she would say things like that. Today, in light of the readings, I reflect on the fact that in every way my mom was a slave to her children. Much like Jesus was a slave as described in Philippians chapter 2, out of love. "Though He was in the form of God, Jesus did not deem equality with God as something to be grasped, but rather he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, and coming in human likeness... And he became obedient even to death, death on a cross."

Out of love for us God became a slave, he emptied his life fully and completely to the "glory of God the Father!" My mom was that for her children.

I know the word slave has very negative connotations, and we might prefer the word servant, but it is appropriate here because a servant has some say, but a slave does not...In the case of my mother and hopefully your mother and in the case of Jesus Christ, they could do nothing other than give their life fully out of love for their children, and we His brothers and sisters.

And we who in the eyes of God, should rightfully be called slaves, ourselves, are described as friends! We who are created being before God, we who should bow down and serve him, are raised to the dignity of Friend of companion.

Love is the greatest motivation in all the world. God's act of sending Jesus Christ into the world reveals His capacity to love us. This love is transformative.

And so we are taught to love and the gift of service by those who gave their lives for us...In our context Jesus Christ and on this day, I include mom's (and yes dad's) who teach us how to love without condition.

The beauty of love, that reflects God, is that it cannot be hoarded but must overflow, and bear fruit...Love begets more love. As God begets the Son and our parents love beget us...

One of the 20th centuries great theologian Karl Barth, after writing his massive 13 volumes on Church Dogmatics was asked by a close circle of Friends. “what is the most profound thought that ever entered your mind?” After a brief moment of reflection Barth replied...”The most profound thought I have ever known is the simple truth: Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”

All of the readings today, and yes this mother’s day reminds us of the profound truth, God Love us, Jesus loves us, and my mommy loves me!

There is nothing more profound than that sacred love.