

MOTHER'S DAY REFLECTION (May 11- 2025)

My dear brother's and Sister's in Christ;

Today we thank our mothers, pray for them, and honour them by celebrating Mother's Day offering our mothers on the altar of God.

The role of mothers in our lives: This is a day to admit gratefully the fact that none of us is able to return, in the same measure, all the love that our mothers have given us. Their influence on their children is so great that it affects the children throughout their lives. Our mothers not only gave us birth but nursed us, nurtured us, trained us in their religious beliefs and practices, taught us good manners and ideal behaviour, disciplined us as best as they could, and made us good citizens of our country, our Church, and our society. There is a beautiful Spanish proverb: "An ounce of mother is better than a pound of clergy." Hence, it is highly proper for us to express our love and gratitude to our mothers by our presence (if possible), gifts, and prayers on Mother's Day. We offer this Eucharistic celebration on Mother's Day for all the mothers in our congregation, whether they are alive here or have gone for their eternal reward. The word "Mom" is synonymous with sacrificial, *agápe* love in its purest form, as commanded by Jesus in his farewell speech: "*Love one another as I have loved you.*" Hence, let us lavish our love on our mothers and express our gratitude for them in the form of fervent prayers offered for them before God.

How did God create the first mom? By the time the Lord made the woman he was into his sixth day of creation and working overtime. An angel approached and said, "Why are You spending so much time on this creature?" And the Lord answered and said, "I am making a woman who is to become the mother of all mankind. So she should have some special features: 1) Six pairs of hands, five of them invisible. 2) Three pairs of eyes, one visible pair in the front, the second and the third invisible pairs at the back and at the sides of her head. 3) A large and elastic heart. 4) A lap that can hold three children at one time and that disappears when she stands up. The angel said, "I can guess why a mom should have six pairs of hands and a large heart, but why three pairs of eyes? God said, "One pair of invisible x-ray eyes at the sides to see through closed doors when she knocks at the door asks, "What are you kids doing?" And she already knows what is going on inside. The second invisible pair at the back of her head is to see what she is not supposed to see but has to see as a responsible mother. And of course, the third pair of normal eyes in the front is to look at a child when he makes a mistake and say without uttering a word, "Dear, I understand you, I love you." "Any other specifications?" the

angel asked. God said, “She should be able to run on black coffee and leftovers. She should have a kiss that can cure anything from a bruised leg to a broken heart from a disappointing love affair. She should be able to heal herself when she is sick. She should feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger, and finally she should have eyes that shed tears of joy and pride, tears of sadness, tears of disappointment and tears of old age aches and loneliness.” The Angel was impressed. “You are a genius, Lord! This woman is amazing.” — Is this not the picture of your mom? [Adapted from Erma Bombeck’s essay entitled, *When God Created Women*].

Ideal wife and mother in Proverbs: Prv 31:10-31 offers us God’s description and estimation of what a godly wife and mother is. 1. She is a *devoted wife* (vv 11, 12, 23). She is one who has the *confidence* of her husband; she seeks his welfare and enhances his reputation. 2. She is a *diligent partner* (vv 13-17, 18b, 19, 22, 24). As a woman with God’s viewpoint, she is a *willing worker*, a *wise shopper* and a *planner* who is able to minister to her family because she keeps herself fit, spiritually and physically (cf. vv 18a, 25). 3. She is a *dutiful servant* to the needy and the poor (v 20). She has a vision for ministry not only to her family but also to her society. 4. She is a *dependable mother* (vv 15, 21, 27). She is *devoted* to the needs of her family. She is *well-groomed, attractive, organized and disciplined*; as such, she is a testimony to her children. 5. She is a *doctrinally oriented woman* (v 26). She is a woman full of God’s wisdom. St. Paul exhorts husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the Church (Eph 6:25). Husbands have the solemn duty to sacrifice themselves continually in their total love for their wives and their children. Each day provides numerous opportunities for husbands to live out their family life with many acts of patience, kindness, and service. The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.

Anecdotes for Mother’s Day :- 1: **Mother’s sacrificial love:** On Sunday, August 16, 1987, Northwest Airlines flight 225 crashed just after taking off from the Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport. One hundred fifty-five people were killed. One survived with injuries: a 4-year-old from Tempe, Arizona, named Cecelia. News accounts say when rescuers found Cecelia, they did not believe she had been on the plane. Investigators first assumed Cecelia had been a passenger in one of the cars on the highway onto which the airliner crashed. But when the passenger register for the flight was checked, there was Cecelia’s name. “Cecelia survived because, as the plane was falling, Cecelia’s mother, Paula Chican, unbuckled her own seat

belt, got down on her knees in front of her daughter, wrapped her arms and body around Cecelia, and then would not let her go.” — She was a real mother. That sounds to me like a metaphor of the love of God.

02) “Let the boy go home with his mother. A. Lincoln.” During the Civil War a Confederate Major by the name of Horace Harmon Lurton was taken prisoner by the Union forces. In prison, Major Lurton developed tuberculosis. His mother came to visit him and was alarmed by his condition. She knew her son would die if he stayed behind bars. So, Mrs. Lurton travelled to Washington to beg mercy from the only person she thought could help her, the President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was so moved by this mother’s concern that he sat down and wrote a note to the Union forces in charge of her son’s prison. It said simply, “Let the boy go home with his mother. A. Lincoln.” — Horace Harmon Lurton was released from prison. He recovered from his tuberculosis and went on to become a distinguished lawyer and the chief justice of the Supreme Court of his state.

MOTHER’S DAY JOKES # 1: A four-year-old and a six-year-old presented their mom with a houseplant. They had used their own money to buy it and she was thrilled. The older of them said with a sad face, “There was a bouquet at the flower shop that we wanted to give you. It was real pretty but it was too expensive. It had a ribbon on it that said ‘**Rest In Peace,**’ and we thought it would be just perfect since you are always asking for a little peace so that you can rest.

#2: One Mom had a most revealing experience on the Mother’s Day. Her two children ordered her to stay in bed. She lay there looking forward to being brought her breakfast, as the inviting smell of bacon floated up from the kitchen. At last the children called her downstairs. She found them sitting at the table, each with a large plate of bacon and eggs: “As a Mother’s Day surprise,” one explained, “we’ve cooked our own breakfast.”

“A very Happy and wonderful Mother’s Day to one and all”