

I once bumped into a mom from one of my former parishes. We didn't "know" each other but we recognized one another. When we started talking, I told her that I recognized her from the 10 AM Sunday Mass. She was surprised I recognized her. It was a crowded Mass. I told her that I pretty much recognized everyone who comes to Mass. In fact, I even recognized them when they weren't there. I think that might have spooked her 😊.

Furthermore, she was always there with her husband and children. Unfortunately, I didn't see many families at Mass. I still don't. To me, it stood out.

Many times, it falls to one parent to take the children to Church and/or religious education. If you're that parent, I admire you. I pray for you. Please keep up the good work. God appreciates you too. Of course, the best way to show children their Catholic Faith would be for both parents to do it. Since it's Mothers' Day, I'm going to highlight the mothers who assume the bulk of their children's religious education. Perhaps, I'll give dads their due on Fathers' Day.



One of my earliest memories is kneeling before bedtime with my mom and my younger brother in front of a picture of Jesus that was in our home. My mom was teaching us how to pray. For a while, that was part of our bedtime routine. My mom was the Church-goer in my family. My dad would go on Christmas and Easter, although he claimed to go to a non-existent 6 AM Mass every Sunday. For example, I can remember coming home from Mass one Sunday with the parish bulletin and showing my dad there was no such Mass. He claimed it was a secret Mass for "early risers" and therefore, wasn't in the bulletin 😊. My mom was the one who made sure my brother, sister and I went to Church. We went every Sunday and every Holy Day of Obligation without fail. It was not appreciated by us. We complained the whole time. My mom was always telling us that God only asks for one hour a week. As far as we were concerned, that was an hour too much. Let's just say, my mom had her hands full.

A couple of things stand out to me on how my mom influenced my faith. Like a lot of young people, I stopped going to Church when I went away to college. I didn't go back until I was twenty-five years old. I remember when I was considering going back to Church, I could hear my mom's voice in my head saying, "It only takes an hour. God is asking for one hour on Sunday. You can't give Him one hour?" That voice in my head got me back in the routine of attending Mass. My mom has a very steady faith and she is a very steady person. To me, there seemed to be a correlation. As a somewhat lost twenty-five year old, I wanted to be like my mom.

The other way my mom influenced my faith is my mom is a good-hearted and well-liked person. My mom speaks well of people and gives people the benefit of the doubt. She'll try to see things from their perspective. She's never struck me as a rigidly inclined person. Sadly, I sometimes see nastiness in the Church and agenda pushing among some Catholics. I'm not saying I'm totally above it. However, the example of my mom's steadfastness and disinterest in that type of Catholicism has influenced me for the better.



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). For many of us, our mothers primarily showed us the way to Jesus. Mothers' Day is a day to honor our mothers, both living and deceased. Remember too, our spiritual mother, Mary. Jesus came to us through Mary. It's His desire that we come to Him through His Mother, Mary. It's been pointed out by Saints that devotion to Mary brings the believer purity of soul and deep intellectual and spiritual insights. I would argue that devotion to our mothers helps do the same thing to a lesser degree. Go and find a way to honor your mom today. Happy Mothers' Day!