

Mothers Day

Today we celebrate in each family here at St. Mary's, a tribute to our mother. Each of us have our own special memories that we cherish. It really doesn't matter if mom is alive or deceased, we all should frequently find moments to be thankful for all the great things our mother has done for us. There is no other person in our lives that should be more important. All of us have discovered love through the actions of our mother. But, we must never forget the greatest mother of all, Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Jesus gave us Mary to be our spiritual mother. We know that she is a witness to faith and prayer for us. She is a teacher of love – not because she speaks words of love, but because she made in her life an inner space where love could grow and flow into action.

Mary decided to love. Love is a decision, not an emotion. If love depended only on feeling, there would not be much loving, because feelings come and go, and negative feelings would drive us away from some friends. Real love does not bother with reasons for loving others, but puts a lot of effort in finding ways to love those around us. The best love is a firm decision rooted in our faith in God. Religious faith is the hidden heart of our decisions of love, because it gives us the courage to become what God within us at birth directed us to do through our baptism.

Mary practiced “letting go” love many times. She let Jesus go off to His chosen career, and encouraged Him to do so. Jesus rewarded Mary by making her the mother of all Christians. I'm sure that each of us, not only as mothers, but all of us as parents can relate to the “letting go” of our children; maybe on the first day of school, their marriage, etc... We must remember the cross that challenged Mary to “let go” in a way she would not have anticipated. No mother wants to let her son die. I'm sure Mary felt the pain of Jesus when the soldier's lance pierced His heart. Also, when Jesus committed Mary to John's care, we read, “It is time for you to release me, let me go to death.” The love between Mary and Jesus at that moment remained as impenetrable silence. She surrendered to Him, exhibiting true release and love. Jesus replied with the word that confirmed the love challenge where Jesus called her “woman” for the first time. She then became both the mother of the Redeemer and the redeemed!

I'm sure we have countless mothers here in our faith community that have had both wonderful and difficult experiences, but if we all use Mary as our model mother, all of our problems could become more centered in faith and suddenly more burdens would be lifted. This is Mary's gift to each one of us.

When all of us can see Mary as the foremost model of our faith, we can recognize her as our common mother, and without hesitation, call on her to pray for us and to intercede with Jesus on our behalf. Only then will we allow Mary a prominent place in our faith.

Let all of us find ways to bring Mary into our lives during the “Mary” month.

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

Dale Cousino