

MOTHER'S DAY AFTER-COMMUNION REFLECTION

22 March 2020

Last year, I delivered the after-communion reflection on Mother's Day. Little did I think that I would do so again this year in such a very changed coronavirus world. This Mother's Day will never be forgotten. As we face our greatest struggle in this century, mothers everywhere will feel and fear for their children wherever they are.

Today, older mothers like myself will want to be with our children, but very few of us can. We will want to touch and hug them but very few of us will have that privilege. But most of us will be able to chat and see them through the miracle of technology. Let us give thanks for that and treasure each precious moment of it and as Christians, let us, through our Universal Mother Church, remember, honour and treasure all mothers through out the world.

Firstly, it is appropriate to remember and honour MARY our BLESSED MOTHER, who said YES and gave the world her son JESUS, on whose teachings and example we model our lives. Secondly, let those of us WHO ARE MOTHERS give thanks for this AMAZING PRIVILEGE.

All of us OWE OUR LIVES to our mothers. They gave us the GIFT OF LIFE through nurturing us in their wombs and for most of us by NURTURING and CARING for our needs throughout our childhood.

Being a mother is hard work.

So, for all of that UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, DEDICATION and HARD WORK, we say an ETERNAL THANK YOU to our mothers and to all mothers.

As well as remembering our BIRTH mothers, let us remember our GRANDMOTHERS and our ANCESTRAL MOTHERS, most of whom lived through colonisation, survived famine and endless struggles.

Let us also remember the GIFT of ADOPTIVE mothers, FOSTER mothers and those whose bodies function as SURROGATE mothers.

Let us remember the anguish of the PHYSICALLY or MENTALLY ill mothers.

Let us remember with compassion the bravery and struggles of SINGLE mothers.

Let us remember HOMELESS mothers, BATTERED mothers and ADDICTED mothers.

Let us remember the aching hearts of IMPRISONED mothers.

Let us remember the fearful hearts of the mothers trapped in WAR ZONES and the mothers surviving NATURAL DISASTERS.

Let us remember the mothers who struggle in the role of mothering, especially those who were ABUSED or NEGLECTED as children themselves.

Let us remember the women who are FEARFUL of motherhood.

Let us remember the pain of BEREAVED mothers.

For all of the above, let us pray that we can respond ... with
LOVING COMPASSION and
LOVING ACTION ... towards
JUSTICE and HEALING for them all.

Last, but not least, let us remember ...

All of our SPIRITUAL MOTHERS our godmothers, our aunties, our big sisters, our friends, our teachers including all those in religious life who have given their lives to mothering, educating and caring for children at home and across the globe.

So ... let us give thanks and pray

HOLY SPIRIT, we give thanks for the LOVE of MOTHERS and their continuous SERVICE to us all.

HOLY SPIRIT, we ask you to shower your BLESSINGS on all mothers on this special day.

HOLY SPIRIT, we ask you to guide our leaders and governments towards truly HONOURING and RESPECTING the GIFT OF MOTHERHOOD.

And today, as we live through this unbelievable challenge, let us begin to care more for MOTHER EARTH, our home and abundant provider.

We make this prayer in the name of MOTHER MARY'S son, JESUS.

Amen.

Florence Conroy