

## Homily of Fifth Sunday of Easter of Year A: USA Mother's Day, 2020

Ten quotes on motherhood:

- There is no role in life that is more essential than that of motherhood. - Elder Russell Ballard
- A mother understands what a child does not say. - Jewish proverb
- A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take. - Cardinal Mermillod
- The influence of a mother in the lives of her children is beyond calculation. - James Faust
- Moms are like buttons - they hold everything together. - Unknown
- When you are a mother you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always thinks twice, once for herself and once for her child. - Sophia Loren
- Mother is the bank where we deposit all our hurts and worries. - Dewitt Talmage
- Mothers are like glue. Even when you can't see them, they're still holding the family together. - Susan Gale
- Mother is the heartbeat in the home; and without her, there seems to be no heart throb. - Leroy Brownlow
- A mother's love is more beautiful than any fresh flower. - Debasish Mridha

God demands our respect for mothers:

- The Lord confirms a mother's authority over her children (Sirach 3:2).
- "They store up riches who respect their mother" (Sirach 3:4).
- "They multiply sin who demean their mother" (Sirach 3:11).
- "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her... Husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself" (Ephesians 5:25-28).

An important question every mother needs to ask herself is whether she fits in, in the description above; because, there is such a thing as bad mothers. Sometimes, too, some mothers lose their God-given authority and become subservient to their children and manipulated by their children.

A good mother is the greatest gift. God stopped the work of creation when he made woman. God blessed her with the gift and power of reproduction. God could have used any other means of bringing human beings into the world. He did not. Rather, he designed the means of reproduction through woman. Child bearing is the greatest and highest responsibility. It is very sad that in some cultures women are maltreated; in some cultures, they are abused. In some cultures, women are discriminated against; some positions and benefits are denied them. The good news is that women are rising up all over the world and breaking the human made yoke. We encourage our girls and young ladies to join in the "march of progress."

The first reading tells us the segregation that existed in the early Christian community in Jerusalem between the Hellenists and Hebrews. The Hellenists were said to be Palestinian Jews who spoke only Greek, while the Hebrews were Palestinian Jews who spoke Hebrew or Aramaic. The Hebrews discriminated against the Hellenists. Unfortunately, segregation, racism, discrimination, and tribalism have continued their ugly impact in our world.

The apostles advised the Christian community to select among themselves people with the following qualities: reputable men, filled with the Holy Spirit, and wisdom. That was the origin of deaconate ministry. It was totally a ministry of service. Of special importance are the qualities of leadership recommended by the apostles: reputable men, filled with the Holy Spirit, and wisdom. If those who present themselves or those we present for leadership positions have these qualities, our world will be a better place.

We, also, need to learn from the amicable way the apostles resolved the crises in the community. The apostles, without any imposition, urged the community to select those they wanted to be their servants. The choosing of the deacons was from both isles (the Hellenists and the Hebrews) without reports of fighting, manipulation or rigging.

In the Gospel Jesus tells us: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me." He continues, I am the way and the truth and the life." If we bring our troubles to him; he will show us the way out, set us free, and renew our life.

Jesus says, "Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father." How can we perform greater works than Jesus? Is this possible? What is Jesus trying to communicate to us? Jesus lived for about 33 years and did his ministry for three years and in Israel only. But today, Christianity has reached every corner of the world. This is the "greater work" believers have done from the apostles to our time. We pray that God will continue to use us to do "greater work" wherever we find ourselves. Amen.

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