

From the Desk of Fr. Patrick

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On this Mother's Day weekend, we pause as a community of faith to give thanks for one of God's most beautiful gifts in our lives: mothers. Mothers are truly special people, women who nurture, guide, sacrifice, and love in ways that shape not only families, but the very future of our world. Today, we say with grateful hearts: thank you. And we wish all mothers a blessed and joyful Mother's Day.

In the Gospel of John 14:15-21, on this sixth Sunday of Easter, Jesus speaks words of comfort and promise: *"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."* These words reveal the tender heart of God, who never abandons His children. In many ways, mothers reflect this very promise. Through their constant presence, their care, and their unwavering love, mothers make visible the closeness of God. They are often the first to teach us how to love, how to pray, and how to trust. When Jesus speaks of love expressed through action, *"Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me,"* we see this lived out daily in the quiet sacrifices of mothers.

Motherhood is a vocation, a calling to love generously and faithfully. Whether through sleepless nights, daily efforts, or years of guiding and supporting their children, mothers give off themselves so that others may flourish. They embody patience, strength, and hope. In honoring mothers, we also celebrate the gift of life itself, recognizing that each of us has received life through a mother's love.

At the same time, Mother's Day is not always easy for everyone. For some people, it carries quiet sorrow, the loss of a mother, a strained relationship, the pain of infertility, or the grief of losing a child. As a Church, we hold all these experiences with compassion. We remember that love takes many forms, and motherhood is lived not only biologically, but spiritually and emotionally as well. We give thanks for grandmothers, godmothers, adoptive mothers, and all women who care for others with a mother's heart.

The month of May also invites us to look to our Blessed Mother, Mary the Blessed Virgin, who is the perfect example of faithful and loving motherhood. In her "yes" to God, she shows us what it means to trust completely and to love without reserve. On this special day, we entrust all mothers to her care and ask her intercession.

As we celebrate, let us remember that honoring our mothers is not meant for one day alone. The commandment reminds us: *"Honor your father and your mother."* This is a lifelong call, to show gratitude, respect, and love in our words and actions every day.

To all mothers, thank you. You are loved. You are cherished. Your sacrifices are seen, your love is felt, and your lives are a blessing to us all. May God bless you abundantly today and always.

-Fr. Patrick