

# Message From The Pastor

**March 6, 2021**

## A Special Woman

During my lifetime I have met many nice people. I am sure you have done so too. However, it is not often you or I meet an extraordinarily remarkable person. Today, I recall one woman who definitely can be considered extraordinarily remarkable. She was a woman who taught me a few lessons about life.

Maria was her name. She was a single mother of three children. Maria was an immigrant from Italy. Her husband had passed away unexpectedly, before he reached age 50. Maria was a very good mother and a hard working woman. However, in my estimation, besides the said personal qualities, she is extraordinarily remarkable because of the following reason.

While I was a teenager growing up in Paterson, I was good friends with two of Maria's children. It was at their home very often all my friends and I would gather to "hang out." We could be found on the front porch, in the backyard, or in the above ground pool. Sometimes late into the evening, many of us would be at Maria's house. Each of us knew, if you wanted to be with friends, that was the place you would find plenty of them.

Here is the reason Maria was so special. Even though she was a single parent of three, a woman who worked hard each day to achieve success in a country that was not the first she ever lived, and as a widow surely experiencing the painful void of a beloved husband who passed away too young, Maria never chased us away from her house. As loud as it had gotten on some evenings, she let us stay. Even when the neighbors complained, Maria allowed us to remain on her property. She forgave us when we did something wrong. She spoke to us, trying to provide advice about life. Maria provided a maternal care for those who were not even her own children. Extraordinarily remarkable was the woman!

The lessons I learned from Maria, I hope will also be edifying for you. First, the virtue of patience exercised for the benefit of someone will never be forgotten by the recipient of it. Each of us ought to do the same. Second, nothing helps heal the void of losing a loved one like reaching out to those who seemingly are in need. Each of us ought to do the same. Finally, occasionally parenting sometimes means giving your time to young people other than your own children. Each of us ought to do the same.

Thank you, Maria. God bless you for your goodness. I pray I may be as good as you.

Peace  
Fr. Marc