

# 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 9/10, 2020 – Reflection on Mother's Day

Every week at our 9:00 Mass after the reading of the Gospel, the homily, and the Profession of Faith, we welcome our littlest children ... we call them "Mary's Little Lambs" ... back to the big church where we all like to hear from them what they've learned in their time together hearing that Sunday's bible story. Sometimes they say things that are so precious and innocent and beautiful and sometimes they say things that tickle all of us and make us laugh out loud at the cuteness of it all. But after a couple of minutes, I always ask them, "Now, what's Fr. Dan gonna say to you?" And, they all shout back at me, "Go Away!!!" and then, they go to sit out in the church with their families.

The last time I told them to go away was about eight weeks ago. I guess that time they took me seriously ... who would have ever have thought that two months later we'd still be away from each other as a church.

I thought this Mother's Day Weekend might be a good time to try to reconnect with our families and especially with our children, our Blessed Mother Mary's "Little Lambs".

Mother's Day ... what is a mother? Moms love us even when we're not very loveable. Moms are chauffeurs. Moms are cheerleaders. Moms bake cookies. Moms give the best hugs. Moms put our works of art up on the refrigerator. Moms read us bedtime stories. Moms sing lullabies. Moms braid our hair. Moms work hard for us. Moms are the boss of Dads! Moms pray with us and for us. Moms worry over us. And, no

matter how old we get, how grown up we think we are, for our Moms, we're still their kids ... and always will be.

I brought some things to show you to help you remember what a Mom is. We spell the word mother: M - O - T - H - E - R.

M ... I brought a map to remind us that mothers take us places and show us the way.

O ... I brought an orange to remind us that mothers feed us with good food that they can make taste yummy delicious!

T ... I brought a thermometer to remind us that mothers take care of us all the time but especially when we're sick or hurt.

H ... I brought a little house to remind us that wherever we live, in a big mansion, in a little cottage, in a cramped apartment, even in a car or a shelter, mothers try to make the place we are with her safe, warm, a home.

E ... I brought my ear to remind that whenever we call she hears and comes running to take care of us.

R ... I brought my rib, the one right here closest to my heart to remind that like Eve who God made from Adam's rib, who was the first mother, my mother is a gift from God to me too.

Oh, and I brought two more things to show you. These are little images of both our churches: St. Brigid and Assumption; to remind that the Church is our mother too. She gives us birth to new life from the womb of Baptism's waters. Mother Church feeds us on the Holy Eucharist. She forgives us in the Sacrament of Penance and heals us in the Anointing of the Sick. She guides and shows us the way in the Word of

God and she loves us with a mother's love as she leads us in the Spirit through Jesus our Savior to God our loving Father.

Today's a good day to thank God for the gift of mothers: for the Church; for our own mothers and grandmothers and mothers-in-law and mothers-to-be and Godmothers and stepmothers ... "Dear God, thank You for our mothers who love us and care for us in so many ways. Amen."