



Thoughts on the Journey

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The vocation of motherhood is a body, mind, and spirit transformation. It's a transformation that begins at the conception of a new life. It is there, in a mother's womb, where the baby becomes solely dependent and the mother begins her conversion from living an independent life to giving her life for her child. During each week of gestation, the mother provides everything the child needs to thrive and, if all goes according to God's plan, it is there where both the mother and infant's lives are permanently woven together in a miraculous bond of love. When the umbilical cord that connects them physically is severed at birth, the mother's bond continues to intensify as her baby develops and grows.

As our children develop, we journey with them through the joys, the sorrows, the ups and downs. We face the uncharted territory of parenting in the hopes that we won't make mistakes that will scar them and that our lack of experience will autocorrect at some point. It's a demanding journey that leads you to places you never thought you would go and to places you're glad you went.

Motherhood is a one-day-at-a-time trek that requires a life-long investment of faith and trust in the Creator: a spiritual commitment to follow His son Jesus, whose example has given us a road map for leading our children to eternal happiness.

The vocation of motherhood is a privilege with many joys. It's also a vocation of profound responsibility calling mothers to love, protect, teach, guide, and lead through example, with strength, vigilance, and courage to ward off the evil influences that prowl about in search of our children's souls.

In John's gospel, Jesus tells us of the greatest love there is:

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. “

This command is at the heart of the vocation of motherhood and what better example do we have for a 'mom than the Virgin Mary. Mary was just a young woman when the angel Gabriel delivered the invitation to her to be the mother of God. Her trusting response was, *“be it done unto me according to your word”*. She was open body, mind, and spirit to the will of the Father. She had little regard for the consequences of her acceptance and put her Father's will before her own will. Like all mothers. Mary did not fully comprehend what actually lied ahead for her, but she trusted that the seed of the Spirit would grow within her and give her everything she needed to be sustained as the mother of God.

With each event in Jesus' life, the labor of our Blessed Mother's love, brought her into a deeper cooperation with God's grace and a greater inner strength to keep moving closer to the moment when she would have to “let go” and deliver her son back to his heavenly father.

In this month of May dedicated to Mary and on this Mother's Day, let us give thanks for our Blessed Mother who was chosen to give her life (body, mind, and spirit) in order to cooperate with the mission of salvation. Let us also acknowledge mothers everywhere, who die to themselves in order to cooperate with the mission of salvation. May their love bear fruit for the Kingdom and may Christ be with them and give them peace on their journey.