

JESUS, THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers and to those who fill in as mothers in helping children to become mature adults. I'll start with a reflection on mothers, before my thoughts on today's readings.

In John's gospel, John 13:31-38 Jesus gives us the commandment of love;... *"love one another as I have loved you..."* in those verses, mothers are advocates. And they stand by not silently, but with words of direction and wisdom repeated over and over again to their children as their guide them in life.

Jesus says; "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." This is the summary of the Christian message: to love as Jesus loves us. That word, **"as."** pops up several times in Jesus' teaching: "Love one another as I have loved you., forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" be compassionate your Heavenly Father is compassionate." This is the standard by which our moral lives are to be measured. It is worthwhile to remember, however, that Love is not instinctive, not inborn; It is a learned response! To make an analogy in the animal world, catching and eating prey is not automatic. The cubs have to learn that. And it is completely appropriate, on this day in particular, to ask from whom do they learn how to catch and eat prey? Who protects the baby animals? Who Moves them from den to den? Who defends them to the point of death? And who teaches them Survival skills?

The answer to those questions above is: their mothers. Human mothers, it should be mentioned on this Mother's Day, do the same. They teach us survival skills! But more than that they Teach Love! And they teach it in the only effective way one teaches anything: by doing loving things for their children and for other people. Mothers following Jesus' command in their own way, become the measurement on how we are to love! As Jesus said, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another," *so every mother silently says the same.* Watch me and you will learn how to love: Let me move you from selfishness to sharing and concern for others. Watch me and I will show you how to do it. In this way, every mother furthers the gospel-----**Someone once said that: "A mother's patience is like a tube of tooth paste....it is never quite all gone."**

So whose day is this day.....? This day is for all the mothers who have sat up all night with sick toddlers, sited beside them and saying with confidence: "It's OK honey. Mommy's here." This is the day for all the mothers of Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Sudan and in many other WAR-TORN nations who fled in the night and can't find their children. This is the day for the mothers who gave birth to babies they'll never see. It's also for those mothers who took those babies and gave them homes. It is for the mothers who bite their lips sometimes until they bleed when their 15-year olds dye their hair green or Purple! This is the day for the Mothers whose children have gone astray, who can't find the words to reach them. This is the day for young mothers stumbling through diaper changes and sleep deprivation. This is also for the mature mothers who have learnt to let go. It's the day for single mothers and married mothers. Mothers with money and mothers without money. This day is for all of you mothers who SHOWED and continue to SOW the seed of love! May God bless all of you mothers today and on!

Let us Pray in a Special way for all our Mothers: Lord God we pray for all the Mothers. Those here present at home, continue to give them your Spirit of Love, so that they may continue your love in their off spring.

For those you have called home Lord, give them eternal life as a gift for the love they shared.

We ask all this through Christ our lord. Amen.

The gospel today talks about the father's house with many dwelling places....it talks about our home in Heaven. It's impossible to exaggerate the importance of home. When things fail, when we feel tired and lonely, there is always home to go to. 'Let's go home.' 'I want to go home.' How many times and in how many different circumstances have we heard people say those words, or have said them ourselves. *Home is where we are safe. Home is a place of communion.* If you know you're going home, the trip is never too long or too difficult. We must go out into the world to know how lovely our own home is.

Imagine if we had no home to go to. During this Lockdown we are all enduring, some people we have been talking to over the phone, have asked; “when are we coming to our home...the Church of St. Ann! To have a home is not just to have a house. Some people sometimes say you can buy a house BUT you cannot buy a home! It is to have a set of close ties with people who accept us for what we are, and who give us a feeling of belonging. But in spite of all the buildings we put up and roots we put down, here on earth we do not have a lasting home. **All we have, as Paul says, is a kind of tent.** At death the tent is folded up. There are many rooms in my Father's house. I am going to prepare a place for you. I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you also may be.' This means that we have an eternal home to go to, namely, the Father's house. To die is to go to God, and to go to God is to go home.