



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ and a Very Happy Mothers' Day to all our dear moms! This week marks 64 years since Pope St. John XXIII issued his encyclical letter entitled *"Mater et Magistra"* (i.e. Mother and Teacher). He used those words to describe both the Identity and Mission of the Catholic Church. The opening paragraph of that letter reads:

**Mother and Teacher of all nations—such is the Catholic Church in the mind of her Founder, Jesus Christ; to hold the world in an embrace of love, that men, in every age, should find in her their own completeness in a higher order of living, and their ultimate salvation. She is "the pillar and ground of the truth." To her was entrusted by her holy Founder the twofold task of giving life to her children and of teaching them and guiding them—both as individuals and as nations—with maternal care. Great is their dignity, a dignity which she has always guarded most zealously and held in the highest esteem.**

I share these words of our Pope Saint this weekend not only because it's Mothers' Day. But because in this time when so many in the world are looking toward the Catholic Church, it's worth recalling the Church's Identity and Mission. For some, the Church is a cause of scandal and hurt; for others, She is a beauty and mystery. She is perfect in her Founder and imperfect in us! All at the same time! Even the saints recognized this paradox. From St. Paul to 20<sup>th</sup> Century theologian, Romano Guardini who famously wrote that "the Church is the cross on which Christ was crucified"! There is a deep mystery to the reality that is the Church, the Body of Christ!

Mark Shea writes that *"The only person in the world who feels a greater exasperation with the Church than the one who hates her is the one who loves her"*! We can understand this in through the lens and vocation of a Mother. How great is a mother's love and how often we have caused great exasperation to our moms! (Not just in our birth but way beyond!) Indeed, moms like no one else suffer for their children, and they do so with great tenderness and love. As such, they deserve our love. So too does the Church.

As we celebrate this Mother's Day weekend, as sons and daughters of the Church, let us cultivate a special love for our moms and our Mother, the Church. May our Blessed Mother, Mary of Nazareth, Mother of the Church pray for us, nourish us and teach us the Way of Her Son!

Peace,  
Fr. Rogers

Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue

Lovely Lady dressed in blue -----

Teach me how to pray!

God was just your little boy,

Tell me what to say!

Did you lift Him up, sometimes,

Gently on your knee?

Did you sing to Him the way

Mother does to me?

Did you hold His hand at night?

Did you ever try

Telling stories of the world?

O! And did He cry?

Do you really think He cares

If I tell Him things -----

Little things that happen? And

Do the Angels' wings

Make a noise? And can He hear

Me if I speak low?

Does He understand me now?

Tell me -----for you know.

236

Lovely Lady dressed in blue — —

Teach me how to pray!

God was just your little boy,

And you know the way.

Mary Dixon Thayer who wrote more than one poem for Our Lady, is the author. This prayer-poem was popularized in the 1950s by Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

