

My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ and a Happy Mother's Day Weekend to all our dear moms, grandmoms, sisters and wives as we celebrate this magnificent day.

Recently, our crumbling culture has been asking "What is a Woman?". A better question is "Who is a woman?". For "woman" is always a who. She is God's irreplaceable masterpiece – the one whose tender love we all need, and without which we simply would not be. Cardinal Mindszenty put it this way:

*The Most Important Person on earth is a mother. She cannot claim the honor of having built Notre Dame Cathedral. She need not. She has built something more magnificent than any cathedral -a dwelling for an immortal soul, the tiny perfection of her baby's body. . . The angels have not been blessed with such a grace. They cannot share in God's creative miracle to bring new saints to Heaven. Only a human mother can. Mothers are closer to God the Creator than any other creature; God joins forces with mothers in performing this act of creation. .. What on God's good earth is more glorious than this: to be a mother?"*

Whether we realize it or not, the Catholic Church is a Mother. This week marks the 63<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Pope John XXIII Encyclical: Mater et Magistra -- A letter about the Church who is Mother and Teacher. Always portrayed as feminine, the Church is the Bride of Christ who Receives, Sustains, Forms and Nourishes Life. In addition, in her very nature, She is also a teacher and we are the privileged disciples. In advance of Pentecost next week, I strongly encourage you to reflect on the Church as Mother and Teacher. Pray for the wonderful gift of being Born, Nourished & Taught by Her. This poem might help.

Peace,  
Father Rogers

**Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue, by Mary Dixon Thayer**

*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.*

*Lovely Lady dressed in blue --- Teach me how to pray!  
God was just your little boy, And you know the way.*



**Many Thanks from Father Connolly**

Thank you all so very much for celebrating my Golden Jubilee of Priestly Ordination with me last Sunday at the noon Mass! Especially do I thank Fr. Rogers for his welcome and encouragement to celebrate this 50 year milestone.

I've be blessed to come to Saint Patrick's for weekend Masses for the past 20 of those years...2004-2024. And I hope and pray to continue coming to St. Patrick's on the weekends!


I thank Anne Marie McCarthy and the Choir for their beautiful musical contribution to our prayer, especially the Hymn to St. Francis DeSales which they had to learn almost overnight!!


To all who partook of our Mass and the reception afterwards in St. Joseph's Room....many, many thanks! I have truly been blessed by St. Patrick's family!

Fr. Michael Connolly, O.S.F.S.

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