

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" **Amen! Please be seated!**

## **Mothers**

Elizabeth was a relative of Mary, the mother of Jesus. Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah had difficulty in conceiving a child but due to their devout prayer life, an angel appeared to Zechariah and announced that Elizabeth would have a son. That son was John the Baptist who would be the forerunner of the promised Messiah, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In Luke 1: 42 we learned how Elizabeth greeted Mary when Mary went to visit her saying "Blessed are you among all women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Great favor was bestowed upon both Elizabeth who bore John the Baptist and Mary who would be carrying the Messiah, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Favor has been bestowed upon us earthly mothers too! Sometimes I look at Oliver, and this song always comes to me "Count your blessings name them one by one!

Count your blessings, see what God has done

Count your blessings, Name them one by one

Count your many blessings, See what God has done!

I've always wanted to be a mom from the time I was a little girl. So after, I got married I was like "Let the babies come". However, I didn't have my son until four years later. As a mother, I would say that my son has been and is my greatest joy! Divine favor was bestowed upon me

because a little person calls me mommy, and I'm sure many of you who are present today can relate to this.

Children grow up and they make mistakes. Mistakes that sometimes can make us feel ashamed, however, just like nothing can separate us from the love of God, a child cannot outgrow a mother's love. I've witnessed this several times! I genuinely enjoy hearing older women say things like "I know my kids are legally adults now, but I still see them as people needing my protection and guidance. They are still my babies!" This statement is such a beautiful display of profound love! Another thing I love hearing older women say "My children have grown up and are living on their own. My oldest is a nurse and the second one is an engineer" and so on.

Proving that women build their children's characters and help them become productive members of society. Some of us are still alive because of our mothers' prayers, our grandmothers' prayers. They ask God to protect, to guide us and bless us abundantly. One of the reasons I love attending college graduation is because I get to witness several mothers with joy in their eyes and others with happy tears. Sometimes, they can't even put into words what it took to bring their child to this level of success. They just celebrate because they know God was on that journey with them all along.

Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit also called the "Spirit of truth" teaches us and helps us believers to do as God has called us to do and that includes everything that a mother does. Mothers enable us to believe in ourselves, to discover and nurture our skills, our talents, and encourage us to make the most out of life but mothers are the Unsung heroes of our society. I once saw a quote that says "Mothers are like glue. Even when you can't see them, they're holding the family together" I made sure I saved it on my phone and showed it to Oliver's dad a few days ago so I could get a nice Mother's Day gift.

All jokes aside, becoming a mother changes everything! All of a sudden, safety becomes a priority. You start dealing with fears you never thought of before. Swim lessons to prevent drowning, karate lessons for self-defense. All of this is due to the fact that we know we won't always be with them everywhere they go. Mothers find themselves in this unending work of sustaining a household, yet childcare isn't a burden but a joy to them! Growing up in the impoverished nation of Haiti, I've always admired my mother's strength and dedication to our family. Going to work as a preschool teacher and coming home to take care of us after a long day. So, thank you mom!

When we look at today's Epistle taken from 1<sup>st</sup> Peter, it says "Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you". Mothers understand that there is a way of living our human story which corresponds to the way Jesus lived his. In Matthew 19: 14 Jesus Himself said "Let the little children come to me for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them". Women have a weak spot for children and the orphans. Taking care of children in general requires sacrifices on our part and sometimes, extended family members or friends may question our life choices not understanding that the good work that we are doing is what has been put on our heart. Today's Gospel tells us that the Christian life of love calls for an active involvement in a broken world which God loved so much He sent His only son to save it. It reminded me of 1st Corinthians 13:4-7 which says "Love is patient and kind. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" It made me think of how sometimes life takes us into these roles without necessarily having biological children. I'm referring to: Stepmothers, foster mothers, Godmothers and women who sponsor children who are living in third world countries. All of these women I just mentioned have stepped up to the plate one way or another. Most of them by choice and the sacrifices that they make are for children

that they didn't give life to. If this applies to you, then you are giving love in its purest form!  
You are deeply appreciated and God sees you! Your good deeds will not go unnoticed!

To struggling mothers, call out to God and ask Him for strength to keep raising those children He has entrusted you with. However, don't be ashamed to reach out for help because it does take a village to raise a child!

For those of you who couldn't or didn't have children, know that women have a greater purpose in life than procreation! You are here to build God's kingdom and spread kindness everywhere you go. You are loved and you are just as precious as every other woman! We are not here to just procreate or co-exist; we are here to co-elevate!

**Conclusion:** Happy Mothers' Day to all of you mommies! May God continue to bless you and give you courage to mold your children and grandchildren into greatness. May the church, like a mother, continue to accompany those who are troubled and need spiritual guidance. Also, in our times of trial, may we remember that we are not orphans for the Lord will come to us for deliverance! **Amen!**