

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Dear Friends of St. Cecilia & St. Mary Parish Community,

Once again, Mother's Day is coming. But this time, as we continue observing the shelter-in-place order, it feels totally different to me. I am sending you this Mother's Day reflection, to share my feeling and also to encourage you to be patient and consistent in prayer: faithfully keep God present in your daily life as the coronavirus crisis cancels our religious activities.

This Sunday we celebrate the 5th Sunday of Easter. What Jesus said in the gospel as a part of his last words before he left the disciples behind in this world. He knew what would happen to them. He knew they would have to endure this hostile world. We can see this through his tone when Jesus encouraged the disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." Do not be afraid, but have faith in me... and remain in my love.

As we celebrate Mother's Day today, I really miss my Mom who passed away about seven years ago. Even more, I miss my Dad who recently died, in March. And because of the coronavirus outbreak, all my brothers and sister in the US and Canada and I couldn't go back home in Vietnam for my father's funeral.

You may agree with me that we are created to love and to be loved. When each special event during the year, such as Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, Mother's Day, or Father's Day comes, we are reminded to give thanks to God for all blessings we have in this life. We have a family to come home to celebrate these special events. We have people whom God sends into our life for us to love, and we are, in return, to be loved.

I am ending this Mother's Day message to you, to thank you for your loving supports to me during this difficult time: for your phone calls to check on me, for your emails and notes of care and encouragement, for your continuing supports to the parish by dropping off or mailing your weekly donations to the church's rectory. Especially, I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to those who play the role of a parent to me by providing me meals and giving me supplies for my daily need.

For everything has been happening these days, it seems to be a frustrating and discouraging time, but I survive and I hope you all do, too. I have more time for private prayers, for exercise by walking or hiking, for working in the garden to upkeep the appearance of both churches. Thanks to the help of Daphne and Ken, we cleaned up the churches and St. Cecilia's parish hall. Last Friday, Ken and I came to mow the lawn at St. Mary's church. All look clean and beautiful.

To comply with the guidelines of the Archdiocese and of civil leaders, I celebrate private Mass only – no community Mass – at St. Cecilia Church, at 8 a.m. daily, including Sunday. I still fulfill the Mass intentions requested by the parishioners and others. I encourage you to keep attending livestreamed Mass, making a spiritual Communion, reading the Bible, praying the Rosary, etc. I also want to remind you that I keep St. Cecilia church's doors open most of the time for those who wish to visit the Blessed Sacrament and pray privately. Confession time is on Saturdays from 4 - 4:30 pm at St. Cecilia Church or by appointment (415) 488-9799. As always, I am available for sick call or anointing of the sick. During this difficult time, I volunteer to visit patients at Marin General Hospital one day a week. I will update more information when announced by the Archdiocese.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and sacrifice in this critical time. Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God. Remain in Jesus' love, for the love of God will ultimately overcome this hostile world. The good will defeat the evil. Light will push away darkness. Let us put our hope in the Lord, and we will be blessed with the holy peace that God grants us through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO YOU ALL, ESPECIALLY TO THE MOTHERS!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Ngoan Van Phan, Pastor

MOTHER'S DAY JOKES

As we celebrate Mothers' Day, here are some beautiful things to talk about mothers:

1. I would say almost to every child, MOM IS ALWAYS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PERSON on this earth.
2. A little girl asked her mother: "Mom, how come you have a lot of grey hair?" The mother said: "It is because of you, my Sweetie." "How so?" Asked the child. "Each time you cry, each time you're sick, each time you misbehave, and especially each time you disobey me, you add more grey hairs on my head." The girl seems very surprised: "Is that right, Mom? Sorry, Mom! Ah! But now I know why Grandma's hairs are all white!"
3. As Susan and her teen daughter dress up to go to her parents' home for Mothers' Day celebration, she makes a comment to her daughter: "Sweetie, I am not comfortable with your short skirt. I don't think it is appropriate to wear that short skirt to Grandparents' home." The daughter "agrees," and she changes another dress... When they arrive the parents' home, as soon as they walk in the door, Susan's mother exclaims: "That is a beautiful dress you have, Susie. But the neckline is sort of too low." Susan exclaims: "Sorry, Mom..." MOTHER IS ALWAYS MOTHER.
4. My mother reminded me: "At the parish you are a priest; at home you are my boy. Be careful what you say to me, and how you talk to me." MOTHER IS ALWAYS MOTHER.

MASS INTENTIONS (5th Week of Easter – from Sun. 5/10 to Sat. 5/16)

- * Sunday 8 a.m. SC ... Margaret Slugocki (75th birthday)
- * Monday 8 a.m. SC ... Guido Mori-Prange (for health)
- * Tuesday No Mass
- * Wednesday 8 a.m. SC ... Kathy Drady & Family (thanksgiving)
- * Thursday 8 a.m. SC ... for those affected by Covid-19
- * Friday 8 a.m. SC ... Rose Shaddock (repose)
- * Saturday 8 a.m. SC ... Susan Penada (healing)

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