

FROM THE PASTOR
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9, 2021

Mother's Day: As we know today is Mother's day. May God bless and reward all the mothers in our parish. A mother gives of herself completely to her family and very often in unnoticed and unseen ways. The only one of the Ten Commandments which has a blessing attached to it is the Fourth Commandment – Honor thy father and thy mother.

It is said by anatomists and medical personnel that the muscular structure of a man's arms and a woman's arms are remarkably distinct. A man's arms are straight, while a woman's arms are curved, as if to form a cradle. That is obvious to all, for God has formed human nature. A woman carries a child within her own body for nine months and then carries a child for many years after birth. Of course, men carry a child after birth, but, even though they have stronger musculature, it is more difficult for them. Their arms are not created primarily for this.

A mother is a person who receives a child into her own flesh, providing for him the stuff of his own body. And yet, the Christian mother is called to more: to receive the child in Christ's name. So many of the saints of the Church were mothers who exemplified the beatitudes. St. Elizabeth of Portugal was a peace maker. She rode out between the warring armies of her husband and son and restored peace. St. Matilda meekly removed herself from her own home rather than stir up her son's anger. St. Margaret Clitherow, on the eve of her brutal martyrdom, sent her shoes to her daughter with the clear message, follow my path. St. Monica relentlessly prayed her son St. Augustine into the Church. Augustine wrote in his *Confessions*, "*She wept more for me than mothers weep over their children's dead bodies.*" May these saints who were mothers ever intercede for our dear mothers!

Please be sure to enroll your mothers in the Mother's Day Novena of Masses.

Ascension Thursday: Thursday of this week May 13th is Ascension Thursday. Masses will be on Wednesday evening at 7.00PM and on Thursday at 9.00AM and 12.15PM

In Jesus and Mary,
Monsignor James F. Pereda