



From the Pastor's Desk

Across our nation this weekend, we honor our mothers. Mothers have always had a special place in the hearts of their children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and even those who are not related by blood. We symbolically seek to acknowledge and appreciate the love that they have shown and shared with us. We give symbols of our love for them and our appreciation of their being who they are. We give flowers, cards, breakfasts, dinners, homemade gifts and even real expensive ones. Yet, none of these can truly say or come close to saying what we deeply desire to express.

How can we show our appreciation for the gift of one's self? How can we give thanks for the gift of life? Perhaps the greatest gift is of a more personal and lasting nature, the gift of imitation. Throughout our lives, our mothers have been an example of unselfish giving of themselves. The gift they have given all of us is from the greatest resource of all, God. Mothers have traditionally shown us through example how to give unselfishly out of what we have been given by God, what each of us has been blessed with. All that we have, both spiritually and materially, has been given to us by God to continue His work. Mothers have been "good stewards" of those blessings as they have taught and shown us how to love like God.

The greatest gift we could give our mothers is not something that we can buy, box or wrap, but something more intimate, the gift of ourselves. When we act as true stewards of our blessings by using and sharing ourselves in doing God's work, we show our appreciation for the love our mothers have shared with us. It is said, "Imitation is the greatest form of flattery." Wouldn't it be great if we all lived out our lives in the way our mothers (and fathers, too) showed us? We could all live our lives dedicated to the unselfish sharing of the blessings God has entrusted to us by the giving of ourselves to a world so in need of God's love.

We join in prayer on this Mother's Day to give thanks, to remember, and to appreciate. Thank you, God, for the example of your Son, Jesus. Thank you, God, for the example of your mother and our Blessed Mother, Mary. Thank you, God, for the example of our mothers and those who mother us. Thank you, God, for their unselfish giving, their understanding and their patience. Thank you, God, for those who have shown us your love and whom we seek to imitate — our mothers, stepmothers, and grandmothers.

May all our mothers, both living and deceased, find a special place in our lives today and everyday. May we live out our lives as the people of God, as followers of Christ, and imitators of those who have shown us how to share God's greatest gift. May we be good stewards by giving back to God what He has shared with us.

Fr. Fred Tomzik

