

Mother's Day
May 12, 2018
Ascension

This is Mother's Day and the Solemnity of the Ascension of our Lord. Assumption and Mother's Day go together. Let us reflect for a moment on what was going on with Mary the mother of God when Jesus ascended into heaven. There is no account in Scripture regarding this but we know that it happened. Mary was in on it all. There is no doubt that Jesus would have confided in her in detail and in depth about all that was to happen. And just like before, Mary treasured all these things in her heart.

Can you imagine what it must have been like for Mary, the Mother of God, when Jesus ascended? You can bet that Mary and Jesus had a good conversation or two about what was next. What a rollercoaster ride she must have had after the crucifixion, then the resurrection, and now this.

Any mother knows the anguish when, if even for an instant, you cannot find your child. Much more horrific is the death of a child. A mother's pain cannot be put into words. You would think that with Jesus being the perfect child, there would be no problems or angst. But right after his birth there was the murder of the Holy Innocents. Herod had all the infant males of the area killed. Joseph and Mary and Jesus had to escape to Egypt.

Then, at about 12 years old Jesus is lost for three days. He was found in the temple. Can you imagine a mother's pain?

Joseph must have died early because we hear no more about him. He was not at the crucifixion for sure. Mary was on her own. But Jesus and his mother must have talked a lot. Mary knew a lot more than she let on. At Cana, the wedding feast Mary simply says, after they ran out of wine, do what he tells you to do.

When he left Nazareth to begin his public life, Mary was left alone. She obviously had close family ties. I'm sure she had a lot of friends.

What do you think Mary was thinking when Jesus came back to Nazareth and they tried to throw him out of town? When Mary went down to the well to get water the next day, what do you think the scuttlebutt was all about? They were all talking about her and Jesus.

I could go on but moms, you're in good company. Moms know moms. Mary is your model. God bless you, mom, when you watch your child get on the school bus for the very first time and disappear down the road. God bless you when you jump out of bed at 2:00 a.m. to check your sleeping baby. God bless moms when your child keeps crying and won't stop.

God bless moms who stumble through diaper changes and sleep deprivation. God bless moms who sit on cold bleachers, sew together Halloween costumes and make kool aid.

What is it that makes a good mother? Is it patience? Compassion? Is it the ache you feel when you hear about an accident and then frantically hug your child when you see she is ok? Moms are tenacious and passionate. There is no human bond that compares to the bond between mother and child.

God made moms so that this world could live on. Mothers are collaborators with God in the on-going act of creation. What more awesome thing is there in this world than the birth of a new human being. Moms, you are at the center of this great act of love.

Today, as we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord into heaven, may your hearts ascend as well. Bless all of our mothers. By extension we are all blessed. Last week, my mother would have been 104 years old. She lived until she was almost 97. Whether your mom is near or far, living or reborn to eternal life, we honor her and we give thanks. Happy Mother's Day.