

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

A teacher gave her class of second graders a lesson on the magnet and what it does. The next day, in a written test, she included this question, "My full name has six letters. The first one is "M." I pick up things-what am I?" When the test papers were turned in, the teacher was astonished to find that almost fifty percent of the students answered the question with the word "Mother."

Some second graders were also asked some questions about their moms. One question was, "What kind of little girl was your mom?" There were three answers. One: "My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff." Two, "I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy." And three: "They say she used to be nice!"

Well, it's not easy to be a mother these days. I call some of the moms around the parish here, "super moms" because of all the activities and the things that they do for their families. We are so very blessed to have our mothers here on this earth. On this Mother's Day weekend we honor them in a special way.

But this month of May that we are now in, reminds us that not only do we have an earthly mother, we also have a heavenly one as well and her name is Mary. May is Mary's month and there is good reason for that. It is one of the most beautiful months of the year and Mary was one of the most beautiful of all mothers. An old hymn put it this way: "You are all beautiful O Virgin Mary; the stain of sin was not in you."

Mary was conceived without original sin. God prepared her for this most important role in salvation history. She was to be the bearer of the God Man, Jesus Christ to this world, so the mother had to be exceptional. One time, the artist Whistler, was complimented on the beautiful painting he made of his mother. "Whistler's Mother." He replied, "Well, you know how it is. One tries to make his mother as nice as she could be!"

As Catholics, we gave Mary a higher degree of honor than we do for any other Saint. For instance, there are so many Feasts of Mary throughout the year. Every Church has an altar to Our Lady and statues and images of her. She is our Heavenly Mother. Some of us might send our moms roses on Mother's Day. Now, we can't give those kinds of flowers to Mary. But the rosaries that we say to honor the Virgin Mary are really like giving a wonderful bouquet of flowers in her honor. That very word, "Rosary" means, "The crown of roses."

The Rosary is truly a magnificent prayer and certainly all of us need to pray. Even our Lord himself prayed. The rosary can help us in our efforts to do that. As our hands finger the beads and say the prayers, our minds soar heavenwards in contemplation of the mysteries of our salvation. It's unfortunate that many of us don't have the rosary in our hands too often. As we get older maybe we don't get smarter!

Let's not wait for the undertaker to press a rosary in our stone cold hands after death! We need the prayers of Our Mother Mary when our hands are vibrating and pulsating with life. On this Mother's Day, may our Blessed Mother Mary bless all our earthly mothers both living and deceased.

Sincerely in Christ,
Father Jerome