

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

GOD BLESS OUR MOMS AND GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Recently as you might have read, there has been some controversy regarding the late singer and entertainer Kate Smith. Kate Smith who died back in 1986, was a wonderful talent who did her greatest work in the 1930's, 40's and 50's. She is chiefly known today for her magnificent rendition of "God Bless America" which until recently was played at New York Yankee games at the seventh inning and at Philadelphia Flyers hockey games.

But the song was pulled by the Yankees and Flyers. The Flyers had a statue of Smith at the Wells Fargo stadium grounds removed. Why? Because of the fact that earlier in her career, Ms. Smith had sung one song that was derogatory to black people. The song, "That's Why Darkies Were Born" is certainly an offensive song, but it was also sung by black entertainers as well-most notably Paul Robeson.

If Ms. Smith were alive today I am sure that she would have felt regret over that song. Everyone is entitled to some mistakes in their careers! But in this age of political correctness, there is neither mercy, nor might I add, basic common sense, which in today's world is not too common. Well, I just wanted to get that off my chest!

This being Mother's Day, I want to write about another song that Kate Smith sang way back in 1932-the song is entitled, "My Mom." The lyrics went something like this: "My mom-anything I do, she's my only inspiration-anytime I'm blue, she's my consolation. As years come on her, I gaze upon her-she's my Madonna-my mom!" I don't think anyone would take issue with those song lyrics because they are so true.

Our mothers are precious to us and we should appreciate them not just for one day in the year, but every day. When we stop to think about all the things that our moms have done for us and perhaps continue to do for us, it is extraordinary! Remember, it was our mothers who gave us life, raised us, fed us, brought us to the doctor, encouraged us in disappointments and helped us in so many ways we can't even count them. The role of a mother is really underestimated.

In that regard, I heard about a teacher who 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 discover that almost fifty percent of the students answered the question with the "Mother." Well, moms do a lot more than just pick up things!

Sometimes I am amazed as I talk to some moms around the parish about just how much they do and that includes working, cooking meals, chauffeuring the kids to dance lessons and games and helping them with their homework. Maybe we can call them "Super mom's." But then again, every mom is super!

On this Mother's Day during this beautiful month of May, we invoke the patronage of another Mother-Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Let's say a special prayer to Our Blessed Mother who sang her own beautiful song, "The Magnificat" in which she extolled all that God had done for her. Through the intercession of Our heavenly Mother, we ask that God will bless in a special way our moms living and deceased who indeed are our inspiration and consolation!

Sincerely in Christ,  
Father Jerome