



Mother of Mine

9 May 2021



CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY CENTRE
Encountering God • Healing Hearts • Empowering Lives

Definition of the **“mother of all”** - is used to say that something is larger, better, worse, etc, than all other things of the same kind.

In the name of **“mother”** - mother nature, mother of all bombs, mother of all lies...etc

In 2017, the Pentagon unleashed a weapon so massive that it had to be dropped from the rear of a military cargo plane which is formally name the GBU-43B Massive Ordnance Air Blast. It was nicknamed the **“mother of all bombs”** – the most powerful conventional bomb in the American arsenal used against ISIS terrorist in Afghanistan. Pope Francis was not pleased when he heard of this devastating and shocking news. Speaking to a group of students at the Vatican, he expressed his great displeasure of the name – **“mother of all bombs.”** Pope Francis said, **“A mother gives life and this one gives death, and we call this device a mother. What is going on?”** The Holy Father was not attuned to all the idioms and figures of speech in English. But what he attuned to is the importance and the dignity of motherhood!

Dignity of Motherhood

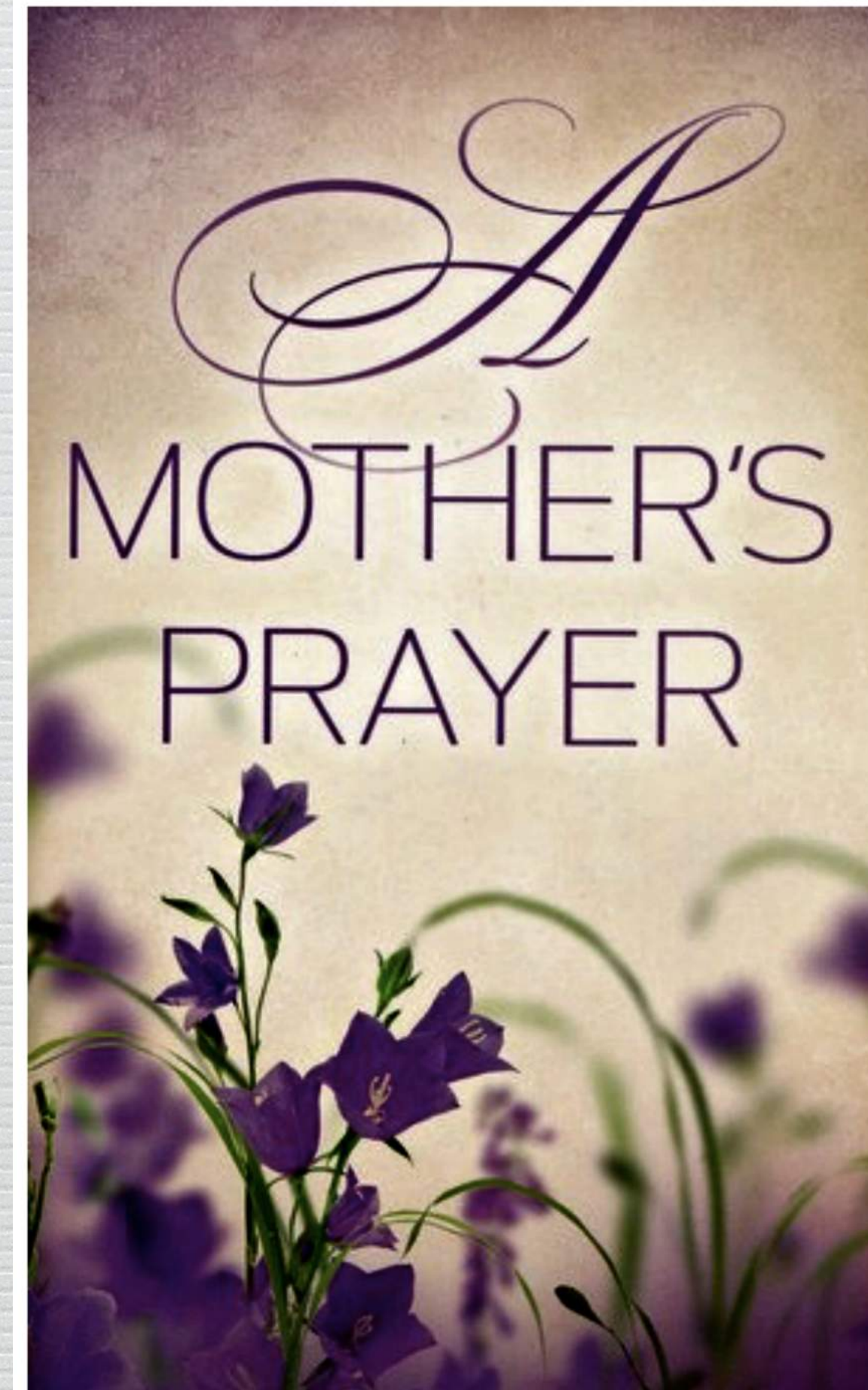
We should also be attuned to the importance and dignity of mother - and not just once a year, on Mother’s Day! Many, of course, are not so attuned. Let’s be honest about it, we live in a society right now where motherhood is very often treated like it’s a disease. That’s one reason why contraception and abortions are so prevalent.

Well, motherhood is not a disease! It’s a gift - a gift without which none of us would be here right now. Yes, it’s true, no earthly mother is perfect - and some of us had an earthly mother who is (or who was) extremely imperfect, maybe a ‘tyrant’. But all of us were birthed from our mother’s womb. Even if we have had a severely-flawed biological mom, the good news is that at the same time we have have a heavenly Mother who is not flawed in any way whatsoever - and her name is Mary. On this Mother’s Day weekend, we honour all mothers and not forgetting our Blessed Mother Mary. She came to remind the three children in Fatima, Portugal: Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia and all of us to pray (especially the Rosary), to repent, and to obey God in every situation of life. This is basically the message the Blessed Virgin Mary gives in every apparition. A mother’s message that gives life and not death.

Like every good mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary tells her children the same things over and over again - because children usually need to hear the same things over and over again! They usually don’t “get it” the first time. These days children don’t often say “thank you” to their mothers for accompanying them to their school concerts, sports activities and doctor’s appointments, for cooking and cleaning.

Hopefully we will never forget to say “thank you” to our mothers daily not just once a year on Mother’s Day!

Please don’t complain that your mothers make you go to Mass every Sunday! Or attend virtual on-line Masses. We thank God that we have a mother who cares about you that much - a mother who makes sure that we have an encounter with Jesus in Word and in sacrament every weekend and every holy day! She’s helping us to build our life on a solid rock foundation, before we ‘collapse’ and face all kinds of problems in life.



Loving
God

"As a Mother gives life
and nourishment to her
children, so you watch
over your church.

Bless these women, that
they may be
strengthened as christian
mothers.

Let the example of their
faith and love shine
forth.

Grant that we, their sons
and daughters, may
honor them always with
spirit of preformed
respect. Grant this
through Christ our Lord"



The Role of Motherhood

- It is the role of a mother to nurture her children.
- It is the role of a mother to comfort her children.
- It is the role of a mother to discipline her children even if they respond by whining and stomping their feet and calling her names!
- It is the role of a mother to challenge her children - whether they want to be challenged or not!
- It is the role of a mother to settle arguments that take place between her children. In fact, in most homes it's the mother who functions as the family's unpaid referee!
- It is the role of a mother to teach the truth to her children. Most of us learned our first - and perhaps most important lessons in life from our mothers.

Speaking of important lessons, it's the role of a mother to be a teacher of forgiveness and a facilitator of forgiveness. Think about it: Who was the first person we said "I'm sorry" to in our life? It was probably our mother. And how often did our mother say to us, "Tell that person you are sorry"? "Tell our brother we are sorry for yelling at them"; "Tell our sister we are sorry for taking their things without their permission and breaking it".

The Role of Holy Mother Church

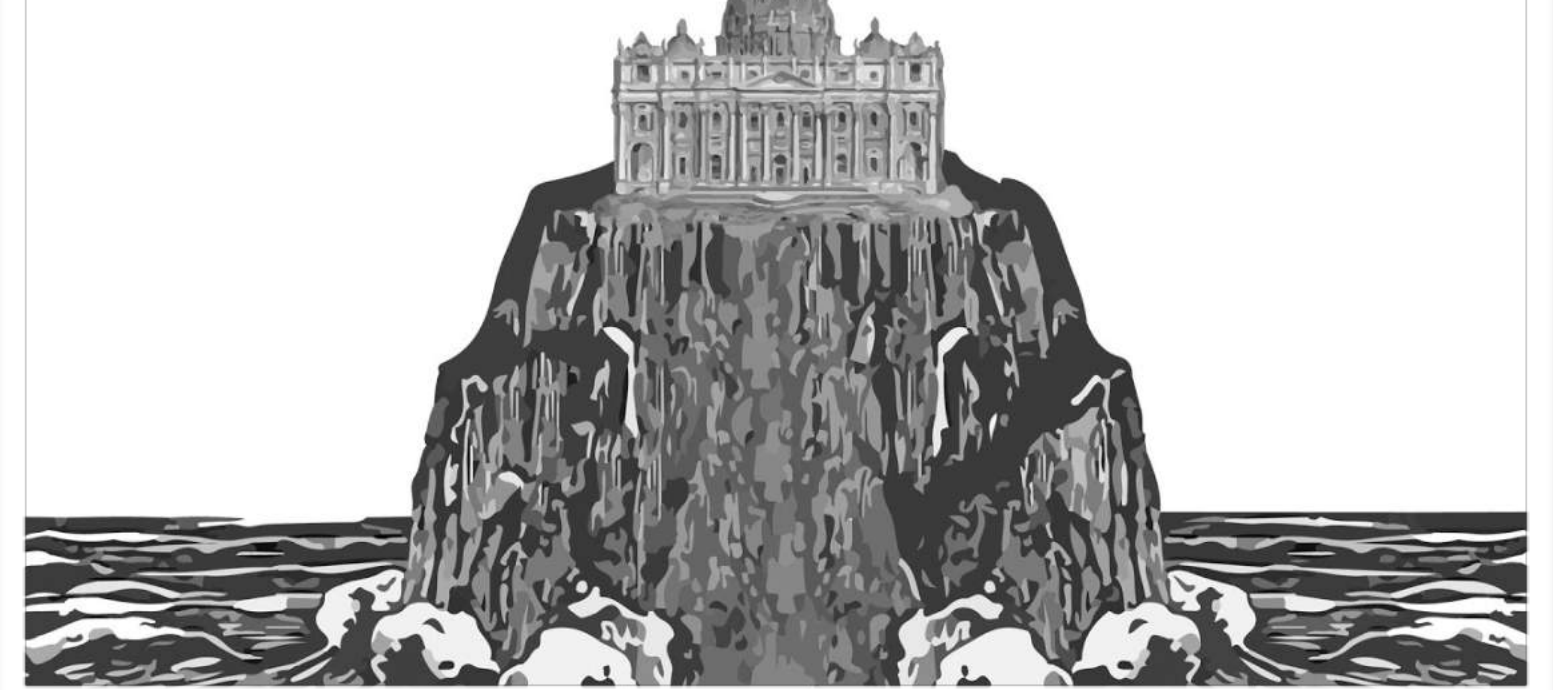
There is also a spiritual dimension of our lives – especially to that reality we call "Holy Mother Church." Some may think that the Church is an impersonal institution and top down bureaucracy. It's not anything like our mother! Think again. Yes we call her Mother Church for many reasons. It's the role of a mother to give birth to her children. That happens for us, spiritually speaking, at the moment we're baptised. Through a sacramental act of Mother Church, we are "born again" of water and the Holy Spirit; we become God's adopted children; we receive sanctifying grace. But it doesn't end there. It's the role of a mother to nurture her children. The Church does that for us spiritually every day through the word of God and the sacraments, our spiritual food. If we hunger and want to be fed. Jesus said it clearly in John 14:23-24, *"If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me does not keep my words; and the word which you hear is not mine but the Father who sent me."* In other words, whoever love me will be nurtured by my word – formed in obedience by my word through prayer and the sacraments, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. But we must allow this nurturing to happen. It's not automatic! You see, just as we can cut ourselves off from our nurturing biological mothers, so also we can cut ourselves off from our nurturing spiritual Mother. We can choose not to pray; we can choose not to actively participate at Mass; we can choose to tune-out the truth of Scripture and teaching of Holy Mother Church. But when we do that - when we choose to turn our backs on our spiritual Mother and live by our own rules - we almost always end up angry and unhappy (just as we become angry and unhappy if we cut ourselves off from our biological mothers). And we lose our way in life and for many, depression sets in.

Illustration. A lapsed catholic was very angry and bitter with the Church. Every time this person gets together with friends or talks on the phone, this person spews vulgarity and venom against the Church and the Church's teaching. This person whines and stomps the feet and calls the Church all kinds of names! The lapsed catholic has not allowed to be nurtured by Holy Mother Church for many years. In fact, this bitter person would tell us in no uncertain terms – all the bad things of the Church and the people who are still under the "umbilical cord" of Mother Church. They have no inner peace; which is evident from the conversation with friends and family members. That's no coincidence! No one can have inner peace without a healthy connection to the source of our earthly and spiritual birth – our own mothers and Mother Church.

Holy Mother Church continues to teach and to challenge and to discipline - with the authority of Jesus Christ - in the world today; and many people (including many Catholics) don't like it! But what do we expect? Every good mother teaches her children and challenges her children and disciplines her children out of love, so that they will fulfil their potential and be the best they can be! Shouldn't we expect the very same thing from our spiritual Mother? Every good mother also forgives, and is an exemplary of forgiveness when her children fail to live according to her teachings. The same is true of Holy Mother Church, who forgives us through the sacraments, especially Baptism and Reconciliation. So today is a day to remember and to thank God for the mother who gave us physical birth - who nurtured us and taught us and challenged us and disciplined us and comforted us when we were in pain, and who forgave us when we strayed away and rebelled. Even if she was not the best of mothers, she did choose life for us, and for that alone we should praise God!

But at the same time we should also thank the Lord for providing us with a Mother who has given us our spiritual re-birth, a Mother who will nurture and teach and challenge and discipline and comfort and forgive us for the rest of our lives, if we let her. We should thank and praise God, in other words, for giving us Holy Mother Church to be our guide here on this earth - because we all need a mother; we all need a motherly presence in our life. And this being the month of May, dedicated also to Mother Mary and the Holy Rosary, we can offer a spiritual bouquet of rosary petals (reciting the rosary with devotion) and pray for our mothers for the strength to carry on their vocation to be "mothers for life" and "mothers of holiness."

HOLY MOTHER CHURCH



I DREAM OF A CHURCH THAT IS A MOTHER AND SHEPHERDESS

POPE FRANCIS

We dedicate this classic 1971 song to all mothers, and those no longer with us. We honour all mothers remembering that it is never too late to say we love them and are sorry for the lack of gratitude.

“Mother of Mine” by Bill Parkinson, made famous by a Scottish child star Neil Reid, who sang it on ITV and won the competition on 13 December 1971

Mother of mine, You gave to me
All of my life to do as I please
I owe everything I have to you.
Mother, sweet mother of mine...

Mother of mine, when I was young,
You showed me the right way things had to be done.
Without your love where would I be?
Mother sweet mother of mine.
Mother you gave me happiness,
Much more than words can say.
I pray to the Lord that He may Bless You every night and every day.
Mother of mine now I am grown.
And I can walk straight all on my own.
I'd like to give you what you gave to me...

Mother, sweet mother of mine...

Mother you gave me happiness much more than words can say.
I pray to the Lord that He may Bless you every night and every day...

Mother of mine now I am grown.
And I can walk straight all on my own.

I'd like to give you what you gave to me...

Mother, sweet mother of mine... Mother, sweet mother of mine...

