

6th Sunday of Easter- A: Mother's Day: "A Mother's Love Reflects the Love of Christ": Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; 1 Pet 3:15-18; Jn14:15-21

A little boy once asked his mother, "Mom, why do you love me so much?" The mother smiled and said, "Because you are my son." The boy replied, "But I break things, make mistakes, and sometimes don't listen!" His mother hugged him and said, "That is exactly why I love you even more." That simple conversation explains the heart of motherhood — unconditional love.

Today, as we celebrate Mother's Day alongside the 6th Sunday of Easter, the Gospel gives us a beautiful message from Jesus: "If you love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15) True love is shown not merely by words but by sacrifice, faithfulness, and service. And who teaches us this better than our mothers? Mothers are living examples of Christ-like love. They sacrifice silently, forgive endlessly, pray constantly, and give without expecting anything in return. A mother's love is often the first experience of God's love that a child receives.

That is why today we salute all mothers: for their sacrificial love, for their tremendous influence on their children, and for their lifelong care from birth until death. Someone once said, "We learn to speak by saying 'Mom,' and often die with the same word on our lips."

The celebration of Mother's Day began because a woman named Anna Jarvis deeply loved her mother and wanted the world to honor all mothers. Eventually, Woodrow Wilson declared the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day — a day of love and reverence for mothers.

In today's First Reading, we hear that the people of Samaria were filled with joy when they received the Holy Spirit. Wherever the Spirit of God is present, there is joy, healing, and unity. Many of us first experienced the Holy Spirit through our mothers — mothers who taught us how to pray, brought us to church, taught us kindness, and encouraged us in faith. Behind many saints, priests, religious sisters, and good Christians stands a praying mother.

In the Second Reading, St. Peter tells us to be ready to give reason for our hope with gentleness and reverence. Mothers do this every day. Even during suffering, they continue to hope, to trust God, and to encourage their families. Think of the countless

sacrifices mothers make: sleepless nights, silent tears, hidden prayers, endless patience. A mother may become tired, but she never stops loving.

There is a touching story about Pope St. Pius X. After becoming a bishop, he proudly showed his episcopal ring to his mother. His mother quietly lifted up her old wedding ring and said, “If it were not for this ring, you would not have that ring.” What a powerful reminder that behind every successful child stands the sacrifice of a mother.

As Christians, we also remember that we have two mothers: our earthly mother and our Heavenly Mother Mary. The month of May is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of the Church.

Pope St. John Paul II said that in Mary we see the beauty of self-giving love, strength in suffering, and tireless devotion. Mary is the perfect model for every mother. At the foot of the Cross, Jesus gave Mary to us as our mother. And like every loving mother, Mary continues to guide, protect, and pray for her children.

Today, let us thank our mothers: if they are alive, by showing love, gratitude, and care; if they have died, by praying for them and offering this Mass for their eternal rest.

Let us also pray for all women who show motherly love — grandmothers, teachers, religious sisters, and caregivers. Finally, let us remember: The greatest gift children can give their mothers is not flowers alone, but a life rooted in faith, love, and goodness. May God bless all mothers with strength, peace, and joy. And may Mary, our gentle Mother, continue to teach us wisdom and love. Amen