

## In Celebration of Mothers

*By Metropolitan Saba (Ispër)*

The mother remains the soul and heart of this world. Whatever might be said about the mother would be insufficient to describe her tenderness toward her offspring. Every child comes into the world from a mother who feels that she is a part of it and that it is a part of her. Her blood flows in it and her body dissolves into the formation of its body. Therefore, the mother feels a deep emotional bond with her baby.

An old Eastern proverb said about the role of a mother, "A soul perishes to create a soul." Therefore, Mother's Day was founded in recognition of the mother and her maternal role in nurturing and upbringing. Father's Day, while important, followed Mother's Day a long time later.

The tenderness of the mother cannot be compensated by any other tenderness. Anyone who has experienced a real mother is well aware of the meaning of the word *mother* and knows that her presence cannot be replaced by anything else. As Christians, we have the greatest example in the relationship of the Lord Jesus and His mother.

Our Lord did not leave His mother, in the flesh, until the Cross, for she accompanied Him with some women in His travels and ministry. When she asked Him for a miracle prematurely, He agreed, even though His time had not yet come. At the Cross, before surrendering His Spirit to the Father, He asked His beloved disciple to take care of His mother "and from that hour that disciple took her into his own home."

Dearly beloved, there is no doubt that our contemporary world is witnessing many rapid changes. After many people no longer know what a father means because they simply did not live with a father, or at least a good father, the concept of the mother is changing and being lost as well. The mother's preoccupation with work, as a result of the material and consumer pressure that characterizes our modern societies, is increasing her fatigue and draining her ability, nerves, and time. Thus, forcing her to replace some of her traditional responsibilities with others or with specialized institutions, such as nurseries, kindergartens, and babysitters, in addition to various children's activities.

The change in bioethics being imposed day by day through the development of biology and medicine has overshadowed the role of the mother and distanced her

and the newborn from her maternal instinct. In some cases, the mother has become nothing more than a vessel for having a child.

All this, in addition to the changes in other fields of life, triggers changes in the concept of motherhood and the mother's role and has deprived the relationship of a mother and her children of an emotional dimension that is essential to the human personality.

Thank God that Mother's Day still exists, so that we do not forget her status and role, and so that the family unit can meet together and honor those who are an example of sacrifice and self-deprivation for the sake of the upbringing of their children. The Bible, as well as human history, gives us countless stories of mothers who gave their lives for their children.

Many people today work hard to secure a better quality of life for their children, but in the midst of their efforts, they forget about priorities. Our Lord said in His Holy Gospel, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" His Word applies today to us when we care for all the earthly needs of our children and neglect to nurture them in God's love, faith, and His holy Church. When they grow up and face the hardships and challenges of life, they will find no help and salvation except in the presence of their Lord at the heart of their lives. But, if they cannot sense His living presence in their homes as they grow up, they will not sense His presence later, without it being a miracle.

God bless you all and give you a blessed motherhood and blessed children. I pray for all mothers, that God may make you share in His tenderness and love, so that you may become an image of His tenderness and love, so that your children do not feel a lack of love and, therefore, do not seek it where they will not find it.

Happy Mother's Day to all of you! And may this world never be deprived of mothers.