

MOTHERS' DAY – 2016



FIRST READING:

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: "To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

PROV. 8:1-3

SECOND READING:

Wisdom says, When the Lord established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race."

PROV. 8:27-31

PSALM 100

- 1 Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; * serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 Know this: The Lord himself is God; * he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; * give thanks to him and call upon his name.
- 4 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; * and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Loving God, you have created us as your people, and you sustain us with your hand. Help us always to give you thanks, for you alone are worthy of thanksgiving and praise and honour, now and for ever. Amen.

Third Reading:

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

ACTS 2:46-47

Fourth Reading:

The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

JOHN 10:3-4

Fifth Reading:

“Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

JOHN 10:9B-10

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice?

It is sometimes funny in a way what may come unexpectedly out of a person’s mouth. There are those who think through an important thought before uttering it for others to hear. And some other folk seem to have a direct connection between their mind and their mouths. Even before a thought is completed in the brain, it is literally falling out of one’s mouth for all to hear. Sometimes this can lead to problems. One may end up saying things that are of the moment and do not actually reflect long-term beliefs or intentions. Then alternatively, there can be the expression of thoughts that may represent great creative thinking. Wisdom can then be expected to spew forth — thoughts which astonish everyone.

A man who worked for me many years ago was analyzing an urban planning issue at a drafting table. This was not an unusual sight. All of a sudden he said that he thought it was good that God made both men and women. Because if there was only one sex, we would never have need to dress up for the opposite sex and we would all look like slobs.

I must say that I really had no thoughtful comeback to his remarks. I said a quick, but soft, *Uh, huh* and quietly returned to my work. He just kept on working without saying anything further. But it is true that his comment spun through my mind for quite some time afterward.

God is a God of many mysteries. There is so much that we do not know. But we have a sense that our lives are indeed enriched by the actions of God — actions for which we have no explanation.

Today, is national Mothers’ Day! A day that celebrates one of the great mysteries of creation — God creating two types of human beings. Now from a scientific perspective having men and women has obvious benefits for the growth and survival of human beings. But from our perspectives as spiritual and social beings, there is much more involved here. And that brings us to Mothers’ Day.

Now what is it that makes us want to hold this day as being so special? Is it simply the greeting card industry trying to maximize sales? Does the same go for florist business interests? Or is it truly something of the heart? It is likely a mix of all the above choices. I think when all is said and done, we will find that Mothers’ Day is celebrated because we have a deep need and desire to express in some small but meaningful way our thanks and appreciation to our Mom’s for what they have done for us.

I hope everyone here is happy to be in the land of the living. For we wouldn’t be here without our mom’s. But that is simply again pointing out an obvious biological necessity.’ What is really important has been the role our mothers have played in our growth and development. A lot of

who we are can be traced back to our moms or people who have acted as our *mom* in the absence of our birth mother.

Many of us here are of an age and a generation that grew up in homes where the dad was at work during the day while the mom looked after the home and the children. In those days there was no mistaking the major impact of our mothers on our lives. Even if our mom may have been less than ideal, if we thought carefully about things, she still had a defining role in our lives.

As we all know, things are quite different in 2016. Moms are not as likely to be a stay-at-home persons. Two incomes are needed to support most families. And there is the additional satisfaction that comes from women now being able to pursue career choices. What we see often happening is a blending of workplace and homeplace responsibilities. For many mothers, that maternal drive emerges unmistakably strong.

There is a lot of talk and print about feminism these days. Women's roles, opportunities, responsibilities, and choices are constantly under a microscope. To a lesser degree, this is going on for men as well. The landscape continues to change. But in the midst of all the reshaping that is being advocated and accomplished, we still find that for many there is a strong underlying call for the nurture of young family members.

At the same time, as society evolves we find that as gains are made, losses also occur. We hope and pray for the gains to outweigh the losses. People and institutions are trying to offset some of the losses by taking on parental responsibilities where they can't be met in the homeplace. These adjustments are in response to a recognition of the importance of unique role of mothers for the healthy development of children.

I believe this to be because of the intrinsic wisdom of God found in how we were created. We just heard about Wisdom as the first creation of God. We also heard how Wisdom delights in God's creation and in humanity in particular. There is a basic wisdom built into the universe as we know it. There is a basic wisdom inherent in humanity. And there is importantly the wisdom offered through the years by our mothers.

We hear more these days of human corruption and failures. But overall, humanity has been, if anything, maybe a little too much of a success. After all, we now number around 7 billion and our planet is beginning to show serious stresses.

May Wisdom guide our spirits, minds and hearts as mothers, as people, and as individuals. May our appreciation of the gift of mothers forever remain high in society. May we in whatever way seems the best thoughtfully say aloud or in our hearts:

*Thank you Mom.
I appreciate your love.
I love you!*