

Dear Padre,

Are there models I can use to help me better understand what a mother is to do or be?

A great model for mothers is the Blessed Virgin Mary. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* uses the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix when speaking of Mary (CCC 969). These titles are important in explaining Mary's special relationship to us, her children. We can also use these titles to show how mothers today can relate to their children and spouses.

Mary encourages us in our efforts to follow Christ. So it is the duty of all mothers to be a guiding presence to their children as they begin to pray and learn to follow the Lord.

As Advocate and Helper, Mary assists us by her own prayer and example. Mary prays for us, and we only have to read Scripture to understand Mary's example of listening to God. Today's mothers share the task of praying for their children and spouses. A mother's example of listening for God can teach her children the importance of seeking God's will.

As Benefactress, Mary is a patron and invites us to receive the graces that only her Son can bestow. In today's family, a mother offers a constant stream of love and encouragement to her spouse and children. She is the patron of love, a refuge from the harshness that life can bring.

As Mediatrix, Mary brings people together to be coworkers with Christ in the work of salvation. Also, a mother is a mediator, a coworker with Christ, helping her children and spouse on their journeys toward salvation. Her family is a little church where heaven and salvation are proclaimed. Happy Mother's Day!

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



Calendar

Monday
MAY 11
Easter Weekday
Acts 14:5–18
Jn 14:21–26

Tuesday
MAY 12
Easter Weekday
Acts 14:19–28
Jn 14:27–31a

Wednesday
MAY 13
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:1–6
Jn 15:1–8

Thursday
MAY 14
St. Matthias,
Apostle
Acts 1:15–17, 20–26
Jn 15:9–17

Friday
MAY 15
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:22–31
Jn 15:12–17

Saturday
MAY 16
Easter Weekday
Acts 16:1–10
Jn 15:18–21

Sunday
MAY 17
Sixth Sunday
of Easter
Acts 8:5–8, 14–17
1 Pt 3:15–18
Jn 14:15–21



May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 6:1–7

1 Pt 2:4–9

Jn 14:1–12

What Is God Really Like?

That is a very profound question, asked by children and adults alike. Answers range from the image of an old man in a white robe with a beard; the all-seeing eye on the back of the dollar bill; “the big guy” up there. Such answers seem frivolous when we think about the dynamic force behind the Big Bang from which evolved everything in the billions of galaxies that we know exist. What is such a God really like?

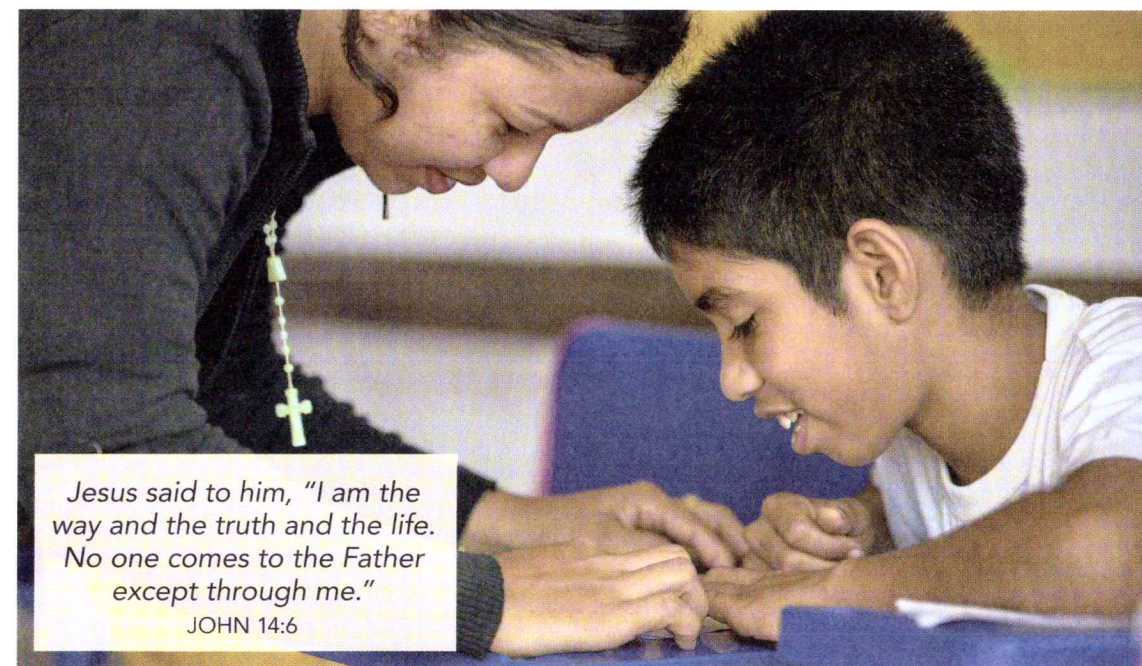
Reflection

- ✦ How do you think of God?
- ✦ Why do you suppose you think of God in that way?

The disciples were probably not thinking of astrophysics when they asked Jesus about God. Their questions flowed from Jesus' constant reference to God as Father. That title in itself tells us something about God. It tells us that God, like a father, is the source of Jesus' being and existence.

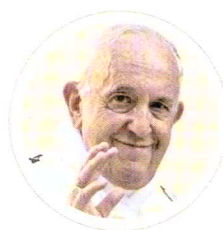
In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that he is about to return to his Father. He also assures them that they also will have a place with the Father. However, like us, they still are not sure what this Father is like. Jesus responds to their lack of understanding and suggests: “Look at me!” His life is lived for others. He is one who cares for those in need rather than walks past them, who forgives rather than condemns, who endures misunderstanding without retaliating, who tolerates the pettiness of others without being snide. Why is it so hard for us to realize that *this* is what God is really like?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

JOHN 14:6



A QUOTE FROM Pope Francis

Be my ambassador, [Mary] says to us, giving food to the hungry, drink to those who thirst, a refuge to those in need, clothe the naked and visit the sick. Come to the aid of your neighbor, forgive whoever has offended you, console the grieving, be patient with others, and above all beseech and pray to God.

—HOMILY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016



St. Anthony's Church 600 Soderberg Street (PO Box 983), Lakin, KS 67860

355-6405, 408-5538— Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com <https://www.saintanthonylakin.org/>

***SUNDAY, May 10, 2020 ***

Even though all public celebrations of the Holy Mass are cancelled until further notice, daily Masses are still offered by Fr. Peter. When you watch the livestreamed Mass, please remember to pray for the following Intentions. Let's joyfully celebrate the most important mystery of our faith: the Suffering, Death, and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. ALLELUIA—HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA

Sunday, May 10 Teresa Shimkel, Bernie Hugo

Monday, May 11 Wayne Miller

Tuesday, May 12 Helen Rice

Wednesday, May 13 Pedro H. Asebedo

Thursday, May 14 For the Country

Friday, May 15 For the sick of parish

Saturday, May 16 For The People, Clarence Knoll & Steven Burgardt

Sunday, May 17 Neal Cahoj, Paul Temaast

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY: Our sincere condolences and prayers go out to the Moreno Family for the loss of their beloved father, Alejandro Moreno. May the Risen Lord embrace Alejandro in the Kingdom of Heaven & May the tender mercy of Almighty God continue to be with the family during this very difficult time. May he Rest In Peace.

MOTHER'S DAY Happy Mother's Day to all mothers! Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, pray for all mothers, so that they will be able to fulfill their maternal responsibilities. Help them to be lovers and nurturers of all human life from the moment of conception until natural death, all the while being examples for their own children. Pray for their children, so that they, too, will be faithful followers of Your Son. We offer these prayers in Jesus' name, in union with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen

RUMMAGE SALE: We will be having it again this summer (not date has been set), but if you have items you would like to donate we will gladly accept them anytime. You may call any of the following people to bring items to the hall. Tressa Powers 355-6206; Jana Jenkinson 290-5201; Carolyn Robertson 290-5569; Jane Sullivan 355-7341, or Gwen Waechter 355-7203.

COLLECTION for May 3: Envelopes: \$700; Online Giving: \$1,383.47; Total \$2,083.47; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,989.55. Income over/under (93.92) Maintenance Fund: \$109.65.

Thank you so much to our faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.

VOCATION VIEW: "How can we know the way?" Jesus shows us the way. Believe and he will do great works in you. (John 14:1-12). If you think God is calling you to priesthood or to consecrated life, visit our website at www.dcdiocese.org/vocations

STEWARDSHIP VIEW: "The one who has faith in me will do the works I do, and far greater than these," Jesus tells his disciples. That's quite an assignment for us as Christian stewards!

WORD OF LIFE: "O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties." "Oh Madre Santa, recibiste la buena nueva de la encarnación de Cristo, tu Hijo, con fe y confianza. Concede tu protección a todas las embarazadas que enfrentan dificultades."

CATHOLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: Why did God choose Mary to be the mother of Jesus? This question is actually hard to answer with accuracy. In many ways, the answers remain a mystery. But here are some thoughts. From a theological perspective we can say that God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus because she, herself, was the Immaculate Conception. This means that she was the only fitting mother for God in the flesh. Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother in a miraculous way in that she was conceived without sin. God chose to bestow upon her a "preservative grace," meaning, God preserved her from all stain of sin, including Original Sin, at the moment of her creation in the womb of her mother. Of course, He did this so that she would be a fitting vessel for God the Son to become incarnate in her womb. The grace that preserved her came from the Cross of her Son Jesus, but it transcended time so as to free her at the moment of her conception. Thus, her Son was her Savior even though He had not yet been born in time. If that's confusing, try to ponder it for a while. It's a great mystery of faith and a deep one also. Additionally, Mary chose to remain free from sin throughout her life. Just as Adam and Eve were born without sin, so was Mary. But unlike Adam and Eve, Mary never freely chose to sin throughout her life. This made her the perfect vessel for the Son of God. Her body and soul were perfect making her the perfect instrument. But this only answers your question from one perspective. You may also be wondering, "But why Mary?" This is a question that is hard, if not impossible, to answer. It's most likely a matter of God's mysterious will. Perhaps God, who can see all things and knows all people even before they are born, looked at all women from all time and saw that Mary was the one who would never freely choose to sin. And perhaps for that reason God chose to gift her with the Immaculate Conception. But this is ultimately a mystery of faith that will be revealed only in Heaven. (Online Catholic Q & A)

SUNDAY MEDITATION *Do not let your hearts be troubled. (John 14:1)* Not troubled? That's hard to imagine! Jesus had just predicted that Judas would betray him and Peter would deny him. He had just told the disciples that he would be with them "only a little while longer" (John 13:33). Something really big was about to happen. *Of course* the disciples were shaken up! Anyone would be upset and anxious. *Be at peace*, Jesus said. *Don't be afraid*. It's the most common command in the Gospels. Much of the time, Jesus says it when the disciples catch a glimpse of his glory. Think about his Transfiguration, or when he walked on water. But this time, Jesus reassures them because he is leaving. *You are used to having me walk with you in one way*, he seemed to be saying, *but once I'm gone, I'll be with you in a new way. I will never leave you, even if you have a hard time finding me the way you used to*. Jesus wanted his friends to know that even though he would not be with them in bodily form, he wasn't really leaving them alone. He would be with them through the Holy Spirit living inside them. He would be with them in his Eucharistic presence. He would be present in their brothers and sisters in the faith. They just needed to learn to see him in a different way. Like the disciples, we experience change in our lives—change that might make us wonder if Jesus is still with us. The things we are accustomed to can get disrupted. Our youngest child moves out of the house and goes off to college. The main breadwinner in the family loses their job, and we have to relocate to a new city. But Jesus hasn't left us alone during these times. He wants to give us eyes to see him in every situation. So take his words to heart: *Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me (John 14:1). "Jesus, help me trust that you are with me always. Lord, come and calm all my fears."* (WordAmongUs)