

Reflection for the 5th Sunday of Easter – Mother’s Day

This Sunday we as a nation and as a community celebrate Mother’s Day. Naturally, our celebration of Mother’s Day will be different this year from other years. But no matter how we celebrate Mother’s Day it is still an opportunity for us as families and as a Parish to honor and thank the mothers of our community for all that they do for their children and for our Parish.

This once a year celebration of Mother’s Day is rooted in the efforts of Ann Reeves Jarvis, who in the year 1868 created a committee to establish a “*Mother’s Friendship Day*.” The stated purpose of this day was to help reunite families that had been divided by the Civil War. Ann Reeves Jarvis and her committee were looking for a way to help families and the Nation heal from the divisive nature of the Civil War. They saw focusing on mothers as a way to bring people together and facilitate healing for families and a divided nation.

The roots of Mother’s Day help make this day all the more amazing. Today in the 21st century, Mother’s Day is an opportunity for us to focus on our mothers and to be thankful for all that they have done for us. But it is also a chance for us to remember all the wonderful women that have been a part of our lives and have helped us become the people that we are today. As a child growing up in Albuquerque, I remember that my Dad would always take my sisters and I on the Saturday before Mother’s Day to get flowers and cards for our Mother. On Mother’s Day we would always fix a meal for her, this day in my family is a day that has always brought us together. For many years now my sisters have lived in different parts of the country, so we are not always able to come together on Mother’s Day. Even though my family may be in different parts of the country for Mother’s Day we still find a way to connect with each other on a day that is rooted in uniting families and healing a nation.

The national history of the development of Mother’s Day does not end with the committee that Ann Reeves Jarvis formed in 1868. On May 8, 1914, the United States Congress passed a law designating the 2nd Sunday of May as Mother’s Day. Anna Jarvis, the daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis, was an active supporter of having a National Mother’s Day but she also had concerns of Mother’s Day becoming too commercialized and that the true meaning of the Day would be lost to future generations.

In the 21st century, many of us might not be aware that the history of Mother’s Day in the United States goes back 152 years and that it became an official holiday 106 years ago. What most of us are aware of is the concern of the over commercialization of Mother’s Day. Just like Christmas the true meaning of Mother’s Day can get lost in the over commercialization of the Holiday. So, it can be helpful for us to discover the history of the Holiday and to reflect on how we have celebrated the Holiday with our families. Turning to the history of the Holiday and remembering our family traditions of the Holiday can help us focus on the true meaning of the celebration.

In closing may this Mother’s Day be a time of being thankful for our mothers and for all the wonderful women that have been and are a part of our lives. May we pray for those who have passed on from this world and may we reach out to those that are still a part of our lives. Just as Jesus expressed His love and concern for His mother, our Blessed Mother, so may we express our love and appreciation for our mothers on this Mother’s Day. As we express our love and appreciation for our mothers, may we be brought closer together as families and may our Nation be brought closer together, in unity and concern for one another.