

Reflection for the 6th Sunday of Easter

"I will never forget you my people, I have carved you on the palm of My Hand"

Isaiah 49 by Carey and Carl Jean Landry

Today we celebrate the 6th Sunday of Easter and we as a nation also celebrate Mother's Day. Our readings this day truly lend themselves to the Easter Season and Mother's Day for the focus and message of these reads are about a constant love that is found in the love that God has for us and the love that a mother has for her child. Our readings this Sunday with the exception of Psalm 98 are all taken from the New Testament and were all written within 50 years of each other. The message that they contain is timeless and transcends the 1st century that they were written in.

Cary Landry and his wife, Carl Jean Kinghorn-Landry, wrote the song "Isaiah 49" which was inspired by the Book of the Prophet Isaiah chapter 49. It is in this chapter that we are reminded that God's love is unending and is there for all people and all times. Verse 15 states *"Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you."* This verse uses the example of the love of a mother for her child to explain how deeply God loves us.

For humanity in this world, it is natural for us to see the love that a mother has for her child as the deepest and most profound love that is found in the universe. This love can be for humans as a measurement scale to measure love by. In fact that is what Isaiah 49:15 does, it uses the love of a mother for a child to explain the love that God has for humanity. Verse 15 points out that God's love for us is deeper and more profound than what we would consider to be the deepest and most profound love, the love a mother has for her child.

We as a society and as a people have found many ways to honor and express admiration for a mother's love of her child. Mother's Day is an excellent example of how we as a people place a mother's love on a pedestal. This is a love that we as a people honor and are inspired by, for us as a people it is rare that a mother would fall short of complete love for her child. We see a mother, having a love for her child to the point that she will without thinking give her life for her child. This is a love that is inspiring and respected by all humanity. As humans living in this world we look around the animal kingdom and we see animal mothers acting in a similar way as human mothers, be it a mother bear, duck, or others, looking out for and protecting their young.

Our readings this Sunday provide us with an opportunity to be reminded of the love that God has for us which is truly evident in the Season of Easter. But as we are invited to try to understand how much God truly loves us, we can find ourselves reflecting of how we see a mother's love for her child as the model and example of what love truly is. Of course today being Mother's Day it is a perfect time to reflect on a mother's love for her child and how this love impacts not just the child but the world at large.

So, on this Mother's Day may we embrace the opportunity to be inspired by and grow from how we as a society and as a world honor and cherish a mother's love. May this example of love inspire us as individuals and as a community to pray for and support all mothers in our world and to strive to have the same type of love that a mother have for her child, to have that same love for all humanity.