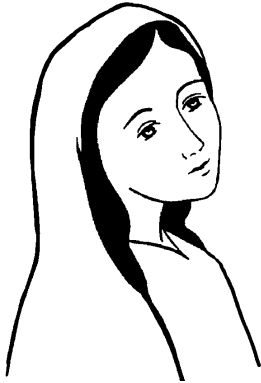


LIVING WITH CHRIST THIS WEEK

Sunday, May 9:	Sixth Sunday of Easter (C) - white
Monday 10:	Ferial - white
Tuesday 11:	Ferial - white
Wednesday 12:	Ferial - white
Thursday 13:	Ferial - white
Friday 14:	St. Matthias, apostle - red
Saturday 15 :	Ferial - white
Sunday 16:	Ascension of the Lord (C) - white



Mother in the Style of...

There are so many ways to be a mother. Some have one, two, three or more children, their own or belonging to their partners. Some have partners while others do not. Mothers today fulfill multiple roles. Our world has changed and our mothers provide us with *individual* benchmarks. I offer my praise to mothers everywhere and to the challenges they have embraced.

I must acknowledge that I hesitated before writing this article about mothers. I would not want to emulate an old fashioned model which would not reflect their modern lives. I am reminded that life is an inheritance that comes with *baggage* which has to be handled in one's own way.

At the heart of our heritage are real people, images and models. These have frequently and inevitably left their marks and the Christian tradition is rich in this respect. At its centre is a *woman, a mother* whom we may often put on a pedestal. If we only celebrated one aspect of her uniqueness, we may feel that she is inaccessible. Yet we are talking about a *human being*. This woman is *Mary, a flesh and blood being* who experienced tears, misery, obscurity, but who also knew the joy of being loved and of being a mother. Mary held a small baby in her arms. Christ was God's Son, but his human body came from Mary who rocked and nourished him. She was proud when crowds praised him, but she also experienced anxiety when shortly after his birth, the family had to flee to a foreign country and live as exiles. The adolescent Christ remained behind in the Temple without telling his frantic parents. At Christ's betrayal, suffering and death, *Mary* was truly human, *one of us*.

Is it incongruous to be a *mother like Mary*? This model is far superior to others. I am not referring to Mary whom we see depicted in works of art, but Mary whom we meet in the Gospels, Christ's Mother who knew John and the other disciples. Certainly as she said, *the Lord has done marvelous things for me*, but Mary is our *sister in humanity*, beautiful, good, faithful, patient, courageous, loving ...

Why don't we dream a little? Why don't we dream that our mothers are *beautiful, good, faithful, patient, courageous, loving* ... just like Mary. This is my prayer for all mothers - for those who experience joy as well as those who struggle with challenges.

Happy Mother's Day! You are always in my prayers.

Jacques Houle, c.s.v.

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli