

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 9, 2021 ~ Bulletin No. 19 Vol. XXXVII

CALENDAR ~ May 1-9, 2021

Sat 5/8	5:00pm	Mass for All Mothers
Sun 9	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for All Mothers Mass for All Mothers Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 10	9:00am 7:00am	Mass for ROS Beverly Axline by Don Axline Men's Prayer Group
Wed 12	6:30pm	Mass for ROS Lee & Doris Reinhardt by Lynn Reinhardt
Thurs 13	12:10pm 1:00pm 7:00pm	Mass for ROS Richard Krupar, Sr. by Renee Bursley Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel Rosary and Benediction, Chapel
Fri 14	12:10pm 7:00am	Mass for ROS Clarence & Mary Smith by Dianna Pendleton Men's Prayer Group
Sat 15	5:00pm	Mass for ROS Ronnie Corn by the Jones Family
Sun 16	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for our First Communicants and <i>Confirmandi</i> Mass for ROS Al Urban by Barbara Urban Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information

May 10: The Ladies Guild will meet Monday May 10th at 10:00 A.M. Masks and social distancing will be practiced.



CONFIRMATION is May 12th at 6:30pm. All *Confirmandi* and their sponsors should meet in the parish hall **NO LATER THAN 5:30pm**. There will be a reception following the Confirmation Mass in the parish hall sponsored by the Ladies Guild.



May 16: FIRST COMMUNION at the 9am Mass. Students should arrive by 8:40am in the narthex to line up. There will be a reception following the First Communion Mass in the parish hall sponsored by the Ladies Guild.



May 16: Hands of Hope Sunday. Our item to donate is children's disposable diapers, any size

Raffle tickets for the Quilt are attached to this weeks bulletin. Please buy or sell your tickets. Sold tickets should be brought to the gift shop with the stubs and the money in an envelope. Thank you for your support. Make checks out to the Ladies Guild.

Collection Information for May 2, 2021

- Regular Offering \$9,214.00
- Building Repair Loan \$30.00
- Seminarian Education \$50.00



**Pope Francis Added 7 New Invocations
to the LITANY OF SAINT JOSEPH**

- Guardian of the Redeemer**
- Servant of Christ**
- Minister of Salvation**
- Support in Difficulties**
- Patron of Refugees**
- Patron of the Afflicted**
- Patron of the Poor**

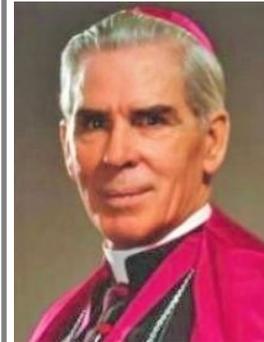
From the Church Doctors

"It is true that Our Lady is Queen of heaven and earth, but at the same time she is more Mother than Queen."

~ Saint Therese of Lisieux ~
Doctor of the Church



Wisdom of the Saints



"The ideal love we see beyond all creature love, to which we instinctively turn when flesh-love fails, is the same ideal that God had in His Heart from all eternity-The Lady whom He calls Mother."

~ Venerable Fulton J. Sheen ~

For Annulment Information Contact:

Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or
Email: Rachel_harrill@yahoo.com

COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS

We encourage parishioners to make their contributions by mailing them in to:

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION RC CHURCH
1024 W. Main Street
Forest City, NC 28043

You can make online donations through the following link:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity>

WEEKEND OF MAY 16: There will be a second collection for the International/National Combined Collection which includes: Catholic Relief Services, Collection for the Holy Land, Collection for the Works of the Holy Father (Peter's Pence), Catholic University of America, Catholic Communications Campaign

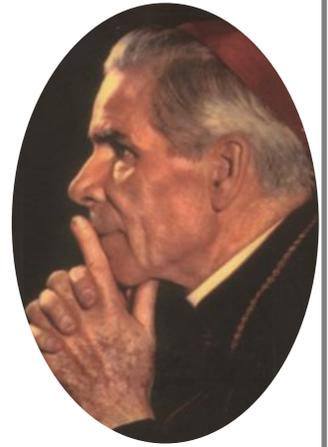


*Mothers Day Blessings from Father Burke,
Deacon Andy, Deacon Dave and Deacon Steve*

Submit information for the bulletin to Penny Watkins, at pjwlmg@gmail.com; Deadline: 12:30pm, Wednesday

All Mothers Are Alike—Save One

By Venerable Fulton Sheen



No mother whose son has won distinction for himself, either in a profession or in the field of battle, believes that the respect paid her for being his mother detracts from the honor or dignity that is paid her son. Why, then, do some minds think that any reverence paid to the Mother of Jesus detracts from His Power and Divinity? We know the false rejoinder of those who say that Catholics "adore" Mary or make her a "goddess," but that is a lie. Since no reader of these pages would be guilty of such nonsense, it shall be ignored.

The Fourth Commandment says: "Honor *thy* father and *thy* mother." It says nothing about honoring Gandhi's mother or Napoleon's father. But the Commandment to honor our fathers does not preclude adoring the Heavenly Father. If the Heavenly Father sends His Divine Son to this earth, then the Commandment to honor our earthly mothers does not preclude venerating the Mother of the Son of God.

If Mary were only the mother of another man, then she could not also be our mother, because the ties of the flesh are too exclusive. Flesh allows only one mother. But *Spirit* allows another mother. Since Mary is the Mother of God, then she can be the Mother of everyone whom Christ redeemed.

The key to understanding Mary is this: We do not start with Mary. We start with Christ, the Son of the Living God! It is on account of Our Divine Lord that Mary receives special attention, and not on account of herself. Left to herself, her motherhood would dissolve into humanity. But when seen in the light of His Divinity, she becomes unique. Our Lord is God Who became man. Never before or since did Eternity become time in a woman, nor did Omnipotence take on the bonds of flesh in a maid. It is her Son who makes her motherhood different.

A Catholic boy from a parochial school was telling a university professor who lived next door about the Blessed Mother. The professor scoffed at the boy, saying: "But there is no difference between her and my mother." The boy answered: "That's what you say, but there's a heck of a lot of difference between the sons."

That is the answer. It is because Our Lord is so different from other sons that we set His Mother apart from all mothers. Because He had an Eternal Generation in the bosom of the Father as the Son of God and a temporal generation in the womb of Mary as the Son of Man, His coming created a new set of relationships. She is not a *private* person; all other mothers are. We did not *make* her different; we *found* her different. We did not choose *Mary*; *He did*.

As we study His Divine life, seeing Him as the first refugee persecuted by a cruel government, working as a carpenter, teaching, and redeeming, we know that it all began when He took on our human nature and became man. If He had never taken on our human flesh, we would never have heard His Sermon on the Mount or have seen Him forgive those who dug His hands and feet with nails on the Cross. But the Woman gave Our Lord His human nature. He asked her to give Him a human life—to give Him hands with which to bless children, feet with which to go in search of stray sheep, eyes with which to weep over dead friends, and a body with which to suffer—that He might give us a rebirth in freedom and love.

It was through her that He became the bridge between the Divine and the human. If we take her away, then either God does not become man, or He that is born of her is a man and not God. Without her we would no longer have Our Lord! If we have a box in which we keep our money, we know that one thing we must always give attention to is the key; we never think that the key is the money, but we know that without the key we cannot get our money. Our Blessed Mother is like the key. Without her we can never get to Our Lord, because He came through her. She is not to be compared to Our Lord, for she is a creature and He is a Creator. But if we lose her, we cannot get to Him. That is why we pay so much attention to her; without her we could never understand how that bridge was built between Heaven and earth.

It may be objected: "Our Lord is enough for me. I have no need of her." But *He* needed her, whether we do or not. And, what is more important, Our Blessed Lord gave us His Mother as *our* Mother. On that Friday men call Good, when He was unfurled upon the Cross as the banner of salvation, He looked down to the two most precious creatures He had on earth: His Mother and His beloved disciple John. The night before, at the Last Supper, He had made His last Will and Testament, giving us that which on dying no man was ever able to give, namely, Himself in the Holy Eucharist. Thus He would be with us, as He said, "all days unto the consummation of the world." Now in the darkening shadows of Calvary, He adds a codicil to His will. There beneath the Cross, not prostrate, as the Gospel notes, "stood" His Mother. As a Son, He thought of His Mother; as a Savior, He thought of us. So He gave to us His Mother: "Behold thy mother."

Born of the Virgin Mary: this is a true statement not only of Christ but also of every Christian, although in a lesser way. Every man is born of woman in the flesh as a member of the race of Adam. He is also born of the Woman in the Spirit if he is of the redeemed race of Christ. As she formed Jesus in her body, so she forms Jesus in our souls. In this one Woman are virginity and motherhood united, as if God willed to show us that both are necessary for the world. Things separated in other creatures are united in her. The Mother is the protector of the virgin, and the Virgin is also the inspiration of motherhood.

God, Who made the sun, also made the moon. The moon does not take away from the brilliance of the sun. The moon would be only a burnt-out cinder floating in the immensity of space were it not for the sun. All its light is reflected from the sun. The Blessed Mother reflects her Divine Son; without Him, she is nothing. With Him, she is the Mother of Men. On dark nights we are grateful for the moon; when we see it shining, we know there must be a sun. So in this dark night of the world when men turn their backs on Him Who is the Light of the World, we look to Mary to guide their feet while we await the sunrise.