

Mother's Day Reflections

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“Deus lo Vult!” As we all experience a unique set of trials as a human family, this motto of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem presents each of us with a unique opportunity to “abandon” our former way of thinking, praying and acting.

As we hear in the Second Book of Samuel: “We all die, and like waters that return no more, we fall down into the earth: neither will God have a soul to perish, but recallecth, meaning that he that is cast off should not altogether perish.”

Omnes morimur, et quasi dilabimur in terram, quae non revertuntur: nec vult Deus perire animam, sed retractat cogitans ne penitus pereat qui abjectus est.

We all die. This is a difficult saying for all of us today, because of the pandemic that has swept through our lives. Yet this is the reality that so many of our brothers and sisters must face increasingly as a result of religious persecution. This is a reality that we attempt to constructively face through our Catholic Faith and our fraternal charity through our illustrious Order. In a very tangible way, the Way to Jesus Christ is found in that mystical moment at the foot of the Cross, when Our Lord gives the Blessed Mother to the beloved disciple, and he in turn, to our Lady. This Sorrowful Lady is the key for our way forward as Catholics.

As we celebrate Mother’s Day in the United States, under a unique strain, God wills that men should not perish, even though we are subject to the laws of death. God wills that you and I step forward in faith allowing the tenants of our blessed Faith to arm us for a spiritual battle that has assaulted our sense of security and stability, has upended all the “usual” ways of coming and going in our culture. At the center of the tumult is Our Lady. She is the one who stands at the foot of the Cross and in the center of the Cenacle. She shows us how to submit to the will of God that we might triumph through these days with our souls and our faith intact.

Today is our national day to remember those women who have shaped our lives and have provided a glimpse into the grandeur of femininity that is found in the daily tasks of creating a home and binding hearts. The Evangelists show us that Our Lady is silent at the foot of the Cross and in the Cenacle. Our natural mothers point us toward our supernatural mother by their silent, daily commitment to each of us. Our Lady invites us to be her children, so that we might run to the Mercy of the Father through the Face and the Heart of Her Son. Our natural mothers ask for nothing from us but our hearts, they ask that even when we are often spread at a distance from our homes, that we are always their children. Our Lady stands above each of us inviting us to embrace a child-like faith that accepts her as Mother as the beloved disciple did. One can never be anything but a child before the face of a mother, even when she has grown old and you and I stand as a caretaker for her. This embrace is a moment when we can “abandon” our former life and say “Yes” as she did to the Will of God, the One who Willis that we enter into this time as

each moment is presented to us – with our faith renewed by the graces that He can extend at a moment's notice.

“Deus lo Vult!” Brothers and sisters, our good God has willed this time for our purification! May He bless our natural mothers who, so often, show us the way of constancy in life that we might be constant in faith, that we might remain at the foot of the Cross and in the tumult of the Cenacle with Our Lady, imploring Our Lord until He deigns to end this crisis.

Our Lady of Palestine, pray for our mothers!