

# FROM FR. MIKE

May 11, 2025

Thank you again to all the staff and volunteers who made First Holy Communion so prayerful and meaningful for children and their families. I know some of the children were nervous, like they were before their first Reconciliation, but that after they receive the Lord's grace and love in the sacrament, they feel better as we all do. Check out our little saints' pictures in the bulletin! May we always be children at heart before the Lord with simple, childlike trust.

--- This Sunday is Mother's Day, may all our mothers be blessed for all they have and continue to do for us.

You will notice flower sales in the vestibule after the Mass. The funds go to support the good work of the Women's Center of Greater Chicagoland. They offer counseling, free ultra-sounds, adoption referrals, material assistance, financial and social service referrals, along with the prayers of Catholics through Eucharistic Adoration and Mass in their St. Jude Chapel. For years the Women's Centers around Chicago have saved thousands of lives of babies *and* their mothers. I personally know the staff there and the good work that they do: <https://gotwc.org>.

This weekend we also have a second collection that supports Catholic Charities. Mothers and children are the largest group that Catholic Charities assists from counseling for pregnant mothers, to housing for families facing homelessness and domestic abuse, to care for aging mothers and grandmothers and more: [www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net).

--- There is a most likely legendary story that a young boy was allowed to bring Michelangelo his food while he worked for years on his famous David with a challenging piece of marble. The boy never interrupted the artist's patient, meticulous work until the glorious 17-foot David was complete. Then, the boy asked Michelangelo: *"I only want to know one thing, how did you know he was in there?"*

Michelangelo, with skill and perseverance, brought forth the hero, the saint within the rough block of marble. It is not so different with the Lord and us.

Along with being Mother's Day, today is Good Shepherd Sunday, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. They are providentially related topics. Mothers can see the diamond in the rough of their child, they try to persistently love the potential out of us. If our mothers love ever felt like a chisel and hammer it's probably because we weren't always the easiest material to work with.

But there is a deeper level with Catholic mothers. They know that the greatest good and potential for their child is found in God's will, in following Christ. My mother used to often say to us that what she and dad prayed for was that we would be open to our vocation, to what God wanted us to do. She said that at my baptism she also brought me to the statue of the Blessed Mother asking her to watch over me. She dedicated me to the Lord's will through the Blessed Mother.

Think of those holy mothers in Scripture that dedicate their child to the Lord's good purpose: Isaac's mother Sarah, Samuel's mother Hannah who prayed for a child and then entrusted Him to God. John the Baptist's Mother, Elizabeth did the same. Then we think of the greatest of all Mothers, the Virgin Mary, of her few words recorded in Scripture, she tells us her spiritual children: ***"Do whatever He tells you."*** St. Monica even recounted that once Augustine converted after years of wandering, that she felt like her life was complete and she was ready for the Lord to take her.

Good mothers pray for and entrust their children to the Lord who is always at work in their child's heart.

God bless,

Fr. Mike

