

## Happy Mother's Day Deacon George Collins

Well, here we are again! One year later, another Mother's Day. Sometimes and in some ways it feels like a repeat of last year. Another year, another bouquet of flowers, which die in 4 or 5 days; another box of candy, which is consumed by others; another piece of jewelry that doesn't match; another greeting card that says, "we love you till the sky falls down." Maybe, if you're lucky, breakfast in bed, or a dinner in a fancy restaurant. Something along the lines of a Big Mac, shake and fries.

What have we learned about this person we call MOTHER, who she really is? To repeat what we did last year doesn't speak well of our sense of appreciation for who she really is. She acts surprised and thanks you for remembering her, but this is only one day in the year. What about the other 364 days of the year? Did we ever consider how she may fret over the usefulness of her life? Secrets she holds quietly in her heart. The things that she dreams of, but has no one to share them with because she is so concerned with her family. The times she may have feared she was wasting her potential; that a more glamorous life may have passed her by, while being a devoted wife and mother.

What has she given up to be a wife and mother? Because of our own focus in life, there have been many opportunities for her to wonder if the time and energy that she has invested in family would make a difference in their lives and hers. Discouragement comes so easily when, what she does and what she dreams seem to go unnoticed and unappreciated. Is it worth it? Is there something better she could be doing with God's gift of time? What really is God's plan for her?

As we awake this morning, let us spend a few moments in silence so God can whisper to us in our hearts just who this woman He created really is. Not just a mother and wife but a vocation of holiness, a calling of compassion, a purpose of inspiration, a

fulfillment of God's plan. She is a wife because that is what God called her to be. Much of her life is hidden from the public eye. But God sees; and He blesses what others cannot see. Most of what wives give is done in secret and without remuneration. The joy of God's love is her reward. A husband cannot be the man God intends him to be without her support. A wife's influence on him is greater than you think and more powerful than you know. God blesses him through her service, and honors him through her love. She is a mother because that is what God called her to be. Her children are precious to her; they are even more precious to God. These treasures are entrusted to her care to be raised with love. Her investment in them is a silent offering to God. Her whole life is a prayer offering of joy. Her obedience to God's will shines as a bright light in this dark world.

This is who she really is! Flowers and candy, jewelry and cards can hardly express what she longs for! Love and affection, dignity and respect need to be our response. Let us offer our prayers this morning as a thanksgiving to God for His special gift of a wife and mother in our lives. Appreciation is our gift to her. HAPPY MOTHERS DAY.