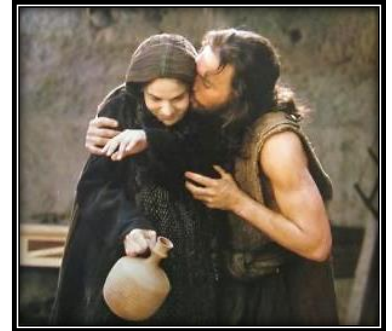




JESUS LISTENED TO HIS MOTHER

Mother's Day weekend has arrived in the United States of America and with it has come our annual *Mother's Day Novena of Holy Masses*, during which the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for nine consecutive days for "all mothers living and deceased". The schedule of those Novena Masses can be found on the following page. Why not *come home* and remember mom in *remembrance of Him* Whose sacrificial love for us is so often imitated by our mothers.



All of us have stories that we can tell about our mothers, and many of those stories will probably be told during this weekend's celebrations. Those celebrations will more than likely have a meal at their center: similar to our weekly Sunday-celebrations of Holy Mass. And not only will there be a meal to share, but again, like our weekly Sunday-gathering at the Altar/the Table of the Lord, a meal will be remembered. Every Sunday (and every day of the *Mother's Day Novena of Holy Masses* for that matter) we remember (in the *Institution Narrative* for Eucharistic Prayer III) as the Priest says:

"For on the night He was betrayed He Himself took bread, and giving You thanks He said the Blessing, broke the bread and gave it to His disciples, saying ... In a similar way, when supper was ended, He took the chalice, and giving You thanks He said the Blessing, and gave the chalice to His disciples, saying ...

And so too will it happen at our Mother's Day meal. If mom is with us then perhaps we will share remembrances with her of her meals from the past. (Hopefully she isn't making the meal; unless of course she (like many mothers) enjoys cooking.) If mom has died, then perhaps our remembrances will be enriched by preparing and eating a meal that she herself taught us how to make, or perhaps we learned how to make it from a recipe we found in her recipe box, even if it says: "just a pinch", "not too much", "only a little bit", etc.

Just as our mothers who gave birth to us in this life have/had their recipes for what we might consider the perfect meal, so too did the Holy Mother of God. And her recipe to make things just right, can be found not in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Caves of Qumran, but rather it can be found in the Book where all the recipes worth following are written down: the Bible. Where-in we find:

"On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and His disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." [And] Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever He tells you" (Saint John II:1-5).

Do whatever He tells you. And what does Jesus tell us? Well let's go back to our Sunday-remembrance of Him and recall the six words that He speaks after instituting the Holy Eucharist at the end of *the Last Supper*: "Do this in memory of Me". And while those words should bring us back to Mass to hear them anew every Sunday of the year, we can even "hear" them in the lives of the mother who *denies herself, picks up her cross, and follows Jesus* daily in the sacrificial love that she offers at home *feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, welcoming the stranger, caring for the sick*, (Saint Matthew XXV:35-36) and so much more that *if what a mother does was to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written* (cf. Saint John XXI:25).

At the Last Supper Jesus said: "I have given you a model to follow" (Saint John XIII:15). At the Wedding Feast in Cana He gave us the model: He listened to His Mother. This Mother's Day, let us follow that model! Mother's Day blessings to all! Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us.