

“M” IS FOR MARY AND MOTHER... I heard a story recently about two little boys who wanted to give their mom a special gift on Mother’s Day. So they saved up their allowance money and were able to order mom a very beautiful bouquet of flowers. When they arrived, the mother was absolutely thrilled by the beautiful flowers that she received. However, she was just a little bit confused about the inscription that the boys had put on the arrangement. The card read, “Rest in Peace!” When she asked them about it, the boys replied, “Oh, mom we know that on Mother’s Day you wanted to have a peaceful day so that’s what we wrote!” not a bad explanation. Well, we wish all mothers today a restful and peaceful day! I thought of that little story in reference to one of the gospels that was read at morning mass this past week. In the Gospel of St. John, Jesus told his disciples, “Peace, I leave with you and my peace I give to you.” Furthermore, Jesus tells us that the peace he came to give us is not at all like what the world has to offer. You see, the Lord offers us “Peace on the inside” which is a great gift. Many people today in our world are far from peace. We know that there is a lot of anxiety in our society because of crime, drugs, terrorism and immorality. So how can we be at peace? Well, on this Mother’s Day, a good piece of advice would be to listen to our mother-that is our heavenly Mother-Mary! For we know that besides our mothers on this earth, we have a mother in heaven and that is the Blessed Virgin Mary. One beautiful way to honor the Mother of God during this beautiful month of May is to say our rosary every day. The Rosary is a marvelous prayer that can truly bring us peace. As our lips utter the vocal prayers- the Our Father, the Hail Mary and Glory Be our minds are meant to soar aloft heavenwards in contemplation of a series of mysteries in the life of Our Lord and Our Lady. There are four sets of Mysteries in the rosary- The Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious. One of the criticisms of the rosary is that it is repetitious. Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen once told a story about this. A woman came to see him one time and she commented, “I would never become a Catholic! You say the same words in the rosary over and over and anyone who repeats the same words is never sincere!” The woman had her fiancé with her and so Bishop Sheen asked her, “Does he love you?” the woman replied, “Certainly he does!” “But how do you know?” She replied, “He told me!” “When did he last tell you?” “About an hour ago...” “Did he tell you before?” “Yes, last night!” “What did he say?” the bishop inquired. The woman answered, “I Love You.” “But never before?” Somewhat irritated, the woman said, “He tells me every night!” The good bishop said, “Do not believe him! He is repeating; he is not sincere!” In the rosary, the very prayers that we say over and over again are a litany of love for Our Blessed Mother. That word “Rosary” means “Crown of Roses.” Many of us this Mother’s Day might give a gift of roses or special flowers to our moms. I am sure they really appreciate it. When we pray the rosary we are really presenting beautiful “Spiritual Roses” to Our Heavenly Mother which she certainly does appreciate. It is very certain that Mary, the Queen of Peace will confer her abundant peace on her beloved sons and daughters. She always points to Jesus her Son and tells us, “Do whatever he tells you!” Let us follow the advice of Our Mother! Happy Mother’s Day.

Sincerely,

Fr. Jerome