

May 14, 2017 – 5th Sunday of Easter -- Year A – Mother’s Day

Moms – Just Like Jesus

**“You are Lord; you are Lord.
You are risen from the dead and you are Lord.
Every knee shall bend, every tongue confess,
That you are Christ the Lord.” (sung)**

Scene 1: The TV room at home

“Mom, this high school homework is so hard!”

“Well, son, tell me about it.”

“Mom, I have to write a 500 word book report. *500 hundred words* is so much!”

“Son, how soon do you need to turn it in?”

“Tomorrow morning, in my 9:00 class.”

“Well son, when did your teacher assign the task.”

“A week ago.”

“Oh, son, you still don’t get it! How many times have I told you not to wait to the last minute with important things like homework?”

Scene 2: Here we are at a kitchen table.

“Oh no! You spilled your milk again!”

And the five year old says, “Sorry, Mom.”

“How many times have I told you to put your glass away from the edge of the table so you would not bump it with your elbow?

You just don’t get it, do you?”

“Oh Mom!”

Scene 3: Right here in church, today.

Well, do *you* get it?

Yes, moms are like Jesus!

They tell us things over and over and we don't get it.

They show by example how to do things and we don't get it.

A big "thank you" to all our moms who just keep trying over and over again.
Go ahead, all you Moms here today - stand up and take a bow!

Today's Gospel story happens at the Last Supper, less than 24 hours
before Jesus dies on the cross.

The Apostles have been with Jesus for three years.

They have heard him preach.

They have witnessed him doing miracles.

They have seen him listening to people who are in need and they have
seen Jesus reply in generosity to those in need.

Yes, after three years Philip asks Jesus to see the Father.

An important part of Jesus' reply to the Apostles is key to our belief in
Jesus:

"The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own.

The Father who dwells in me is doing his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me".

Yes, Jesus, we get it ... even though it is so much beyond our grasp.

The Father and you, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are united as our God.

As complex as that is, we believe.

"You are Lord; you are Lord.

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Our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles tells us about grumbling
in the early Church.

The grumbling is about serving food to one of the groups in the early
church, the non-Jewish, the Hellenists, the Greek widows.

The reading goes on to speak of the beginning of deacons in the Church, serving tables for the Greek widows.

Today deacons wear a stole slanting across our bodies to remind us of the towels worn by people waiting on tables, to remind us and you that deacons have our origins in service.

Our reading stops before a surprising turn of events.

Stephen, one of those first seven deacons, is so fired up about his faith in the Lord that he speaks publicly about it... and he gets martyred for his preaching, killed by stoning!

He went from waiting on tables to becoming the first martyr!

I can't resist the comparison with today.

Regardless of our roles in this world ... serving food at a restaurant, laboring to construct a house or a machine, managing a huge business, being a stay-at-home mom, resting in our period of retirement ... yes, regardless of our roles, there is still some degree of a calling to spread the word of the Lord.

"Who, me?" you might ask.

I need to say "Yes, YOU!", and I need to help you find ways that fit you and your life, ways that bring Jesus, the mercy of Jesus, the word of Jesus, the love of Jesus, the joy of Jesus to people in your life.

In one small step in that direction, I'd like to again suggest some ideas for everyday evangelization.

You received a blue card when you came into church today.

Like the two previous times we did this, the card has five ideas for evangelizing.

The ideas range from really easy to rather challenging.

We invite you to read the ideas, reflect on them, pray about them and see which of those *can* fit into your life.

And then pick one or two to try out over the next month or so.

Where do you try them out?

- With your family -- At work -- In a chance meeting with a stranger.

Give it a try! *Just try Jesus!*

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