MOTHER LOVE

A Newsletter To The Christian Mother VOL. 74 NO. 2 SPRING 2016

The Ministry to the Christian Mother Organization is a work of the Capuchin Franciscans of the St. Augustine Province, Pittsburgh, PA.

This quarterly newsletter is published by the National Office of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers.

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Peace be with you!

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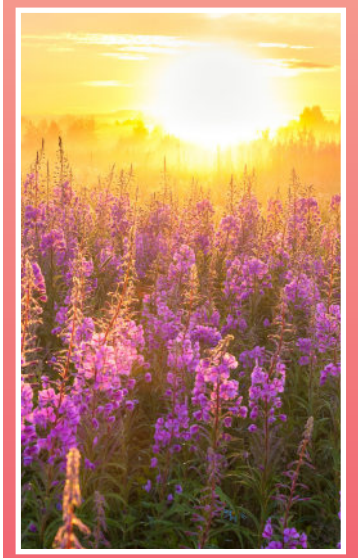


What Jesus Christ Did for Women

Jesus did much for men; but He did even more for women.

Years ago, Florenz Ziegfeld (of Ziegfeld Follies fame) took the loveliest blooms he could find - - face and figure and talent-wise took them in his shows all over creation, got them enormous audiences and great fame. He was given the title "Glorifier of the American Girl." A journalist by the name of Eddie Dougherty studied those whom Ziegfeld had glorified. Of the thirteen loveliest that he researched, one of them burned to death on-board a yacht, another died as a charity patient in a Chicago hospital, a third just missed burial in a potter's field and nine of them committed suicide. These were some of the ones that Ziegfeld had "glorified!"

That title, "glorifier of the American Girl," any woman, anytime, anyplace belongs to Jesus Christ. This is straight undiluted history.

At the time of Christ the morning prayer of a devout Jewish man went like this: he praised and thanked God that he was not born a slave, a Gentile or a woman.

Among the Romans if a man wanted an abortion for his pregnant wife it was his prerogative. She had no say-so whatsoever. The courts, the government, the powers that be were all in favor of the man. She had no rights to her own privacy, to her own offspring. Cicero claimed that men had immortal souls but not women.

They found this little note written by a Roman named Hilarion whose wife Alice was pregnant and he himself was on his way to Alexandria: If good luck to you Alice, you give birth to a boy, let him live; if bad luck to you, you give birth to a girl, throw it out to be sold into slavery or into eventual prostitution where on the slave market she fetched a good price by her ability to incite concupiscence or by her ability to work in such menial utilities like the treadmill. That is real paganism.

Enter Jesus Christ. You will not find a single passage in the gospels where Jesus ever gave a woman a hard time, except perhaps once with a Syro-phoenician woman who wanted a cure for her daughter. Jesus responded to her request: it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs. (Any person who is not a Jew was considered by the Jews to be a dog.) She gave the perfect answer: "even the dogs get the crumbs that fall from the Master's table!" And she received her cure for her daughter because of her humble faith and quick wit!

I have seen all of this first hand in Papua New Guinea, the most primitive country in the world. Until Christ and Christianity came the women were treated like slaves, completely subservient to the men. Now, the women are no longer afraid to speak up and assert themselves.

Yes, polygamy is still the custom among the pagans: a man can have as many wives as he can afford. One of my neighbors had twelve wives.

Among the Christians it is not so! Marriage is one man, one woman, united in Christ and always opened to the transmission of new life.

Fr. Angelus M. Shaughnessy, O.F.M. Capuchin

Women: Tried and True Models of Faithful Service

Christian men have so often disappointed Jesus, like Judas Iscariot who betrayed Him. Like Peter the Apostle who denied Him, like so many other males who now think that Major League Baseball or the National Football League is more important than going to Holy Mass on Sunday.

Consider the men during Jesus' Passion. It was Pilate who condemned Jesus to death. But it was Pilate's wife who told him to have nothing to do with Jesus.

Women have responded to Jesus differently.

It was Mary, Jesus' mother who met Him on His way to execution. Yes, Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus to carry His cross, but Simon had to be forced into helping the Lord.

It was Veronica who wiped the bloody face of Jesus and it was the women and children who shared His suffering on the way to His crucifixion.

And at the foot of the cross, how many men who were loyal to Jesus stayed there until He died on the cross? One man, and he was just a boy, St. John the Apostle. And how many women? **Four women: Mary, the Mother of Jesus, her sister, Mary, the wife of Cleophas, Mary Magdalene and Salome Zebedee, mother of James and John.**

Easter Sunday morning, when He rose from the dead, to whom did Jesus show Himself? To those brave Apostles in hiding for fear that they would be the next for execution? No, Jesus showed Himself first of all to Mary Magdalene, that girl who was never afraid to venture forth, from whom the Lord had cast out seven demons!

These women showed their gratitude to Jesus and they were richly rewarded.

And this has been the history of Christianity ever since!

How many Christian rulers became Christian through the influence and example of women? Bertha, Clotilde, Monept and a whole host of others, less publicized perhaps, but who achieved as much.

Would we ever have a St. Augustine without his mother, St. Monica, who prayed seventeen years for his conversion? Would we ever have a St. Francis of Assisi without his mother, Pica de Bourlemont Bernadone? St. Louis, King of France said that if there was any good in him, he owed it to his dear mother, St. Blanche. Pope, St. Pius X said the same thing about his mother. Abraham Lincoln always referred to his mother as "my angel mother."

So upon entering a Catholic Church that houses the Blessed Sacrament. After you say your prayers, take a good look around you. Those who are present there at daily Mass. Usually four women for every man and at Sunday Mass, the men who are present there usually owe their presence there to some woman from their youth; their wife or mother, their daughter, their grandmother, the good sisters who taught them in elementary school. All women!

"Without their work and tireless generosity, I fear that the Church would come to a grinding halt." Blogged by Cardinal Sean O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap.

And who is it that inspires women to do what they do and be what they are? Mary, the Mother of God!

It was Mary who kept us forever from worshiping an abstract Christ or just a "Christ Event." She it was who put flesh and blood on our God to make Him a lovable, a kissable, a caressable bundle of seven or eight pounds, so that we could get our arms around Him and love Him as He really deserves.

Centuries ago, Mary, the ideal of motherhood and the model of womanhood, bore Jesus and gave Him to the world. Today millions of women continue to bear Jesus and give Him to the world through their love of and service to their families, friends, community and especially to Holy Mother Church. Women remind us that there is no loving without giving.

Father Angelus M. Shaughnessy, O.F.M. Capuchin

Letter to an Unborn Son and His Answer

Dear Son,

I'm writing this letter to let you know we have nothing against you personally. We love you deeply and, I think, intelligently. In fact, it is this very love that has kept you from being born.

Had you been born, conditions would have been pretty hard for all of us. Your clothes would have been hand-me-downs and we'd have to live in a smaller house in a neighborhood away across town. Then you'd never go to college and, the way things look now, neither would your brother and sister. We are managing to keep them in school on what we would have had to spend on you.

Your Daddy and I would have suffered, too. There would be no television, no deep freeze, no new car, and no summer cottage. I know you wouldn't want this, for I know you are as loving and as thoughtful of us as we are of you – and we want nothing but the best for you. We couldn't give it to you. And that's why you were never born.

Some people, of course, have no real love for children. They bring them into the world without any guarantee of a fine home, a good education, nice clothes and all those other little items that make life so worthwhile.

Honestly, son, you can't imagine how thoughtless and cruel some parents are. But I always say, "You shouldn't have more children than you can care for." And by "care for" I don't mean just providing the bare essentials. I mean giving a child all the material, social, educational and financial advantages without which no one can be really happy. That's what I say, son. And I know what I'm talking about.

Only the other day, for instance, I heard a famous lecturer condemn women of the poorer class who keep on having children. It's criminal. Poverty is just about the most awful thing in the world. There's nothing quite like it and no one is more to be pitied than a child who is poor. He hasn't got a chance.

The lecturer mentioned also that having too many children is liable to leave some of them weak of body and others weak of mind. That seems reasonable. There's only so much strength in a woman and only so much food to go around. Minds and bodies are bound to suffer.

We absolutely refuse to expose you to any of these dangers. It would simply kill your Daddy and me to see you physically or mentally defective. And we couldn't stand to have a son of ours badly clothed or housed or educated. It is, therefore, our consuming love for you that has kept you from being born. I do hope you understand.

With love from all,
Mother

...And The Son Answers

Dear Mom and Dad,

Mom and Dad! Ironic, isn't it! That's the one thing you refuse to be to me. A friend, a brother, a sister – but not a mother or a father. There are so many things more important than I.

I hope sincerely they will be a comfort when you lie dying. I pray they will plead for you at the judgment and trust they add some measure of joy to the long eternity you will one day enter.

It's not too pleasant knowing you ran a poor second to objects that were made to rust and disappear. Nor is it very flattering to recall that an actual car was considered more valuable that a potential child but that's the way you wanted it. You just couldn't afford everything and us. So we were dropped off the list.

Oh, I know you felt simply awful. You promised yourself that just as soon as possible, I or another potential would be welcomed, or at least accepted. In the meantime, folks, no matter how much you love all these shiny machines, all the nice clothes, the car, and the summer home they will never run to you for a healing kiss, never call you Mom and Dad, never love you. I could have – but then there were those terrible important "other things."

I won't presume to lecture my betters, especially my "almost parents." But this must be said: the greatest gift you parents have to share is life. Nothing else approaches it in value. Compared to it all these "important things" are so much rubbish. When, therefore, you refuse life to a child - you refuse the only really important thing you have to offer.

I'd like to say, "I must be going now." That wouldn't be quite accurate. I'm not going anywhere. I've never been anywhere. I've never really been, period. But I'll leave you to meditate on the child you never had. I'm not much on theology but I wonder if perhaps a God of strict justice will not ask you one day about me and all the other children He intended you to have. Confidentially, you'd better have something more convincing to tell Him that you tried to tell me. Good bye, from one who might have loved you.

With endless regret,
Your never-born son

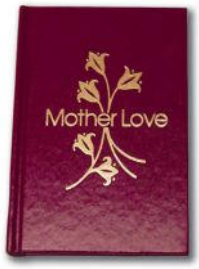
Rev. Thomas J. Cawley (1951) Little Flowers Family Press www.littleflowersfamilypress.com

Prayer

The Christian family is the first place of education in prayer. Based on the sacrament of marriage, the family is the "domestic Church" where God's children learn to pray "as the Church" and to persevere in prayer.

Highly Recommended

Every Christian Mother in the world should have and be using the "Mother Love" prayer book. Therein is the relationship with God and others that we expect our Mother to live by day-by-day.



MotherLove Prayer Book
$15.00 Plus S&H

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Spring 2016 Edition