

I LOVE YOU, MOM!!!

Sermon - Mother's Day - May 9, 2021

Scripture reading: Psalm 131 & 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Golden verse: *"I am like a weaned child with its mother."* Psalm 131:2

Dear beloved,

I would like to welcome you this morning to our Calvin Family.

On this lovely Sunday morning, we are together to rejoice, to lift up our hearts to our Lord, Creator and Redeemer, who loves us with an unconditional love. We are here, also, to thank God for our mothers, grandmothers, and the mothers of our children.

For telephone companies, the busiest day of the year is this day, Mother's Day, when people try to connect with those who are the most important in their lives.

This service is an opportunity to express our thankfulness to God, who blessed us with mothers. This day is a day of expressions of love, and a day for remembering.

Even though it is not easy to find the right words to express our love towards God and towards mothers, let us lift up our hearts and let's try to find the right words and feelings in prayer.

Do you know why a mother's hair starts to turn into white? One day, a little girl was sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head of hair. "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" she asked. Her mother replied, "Well, every time you, my child, do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl pondered about that for a while, then asked: "Mom, Grandma is your mother. So how come ALL of Grandma's hairs are white?"

If your mother, grandmother, or your child or children's mother, or your wife is around, please turn towards her. I would like to encourage you to love and appreciate her in two special ways.

1. Love your mother physically.

I have two older brothers. My mom often said that my brother Mike was always nice and kind to her but was not affectionate. He rarely gave my mother a kiss on

her cheek unless my mother was asking for it. I am a very touchy-huggy person and I often gave her a hug and a kiss spontaneously. She was 62 when she died in the ambulance in my arms. For a very long time, I missed her hugs.

Let me ask you, when was the last time you gave your mother or grandmother a big hug without her asking for it? When did you give her a kiss on her cheek or a gentle touch? When did you hold her hands on the couch or when did you tell her that you love her?

Time flies so fast. Remember, every moment when you can show her physically that you love her is a unique moment, which will not come back again. There are two very important things in this life: the people we love and those who love us.

Our mother is the very first person who was ever close to us. We were under our mothers' hearts for 9 months. She was the first one who touched us with such an amazing love. She held us in her arms for months, she fed us, she touched our skin, rubbed our feet. Our mom lifted our face up to her face to show us love. She looked into our eyes when we were happy or sad. She woke up a thousand times during the night. She snuck into our bedroom when we were sleeping. She held our little hands when she was playing with us.

We often see children with a messy face giving a sloppy wet kiss to their mothers, and these mothers are still very happy with that kiss.

Please remember how your mother constantly touched you with a loving gentle touch to help you to feel you were loved. She changed your diapers and held the Kleenex to clean up your face. She was there constantly and made huge efforts to raise you.

Now it is our time to show, with gentle touch and gentle kisses on her cheek, that we love her and we are thankful for everything she did for us. A hug and a kiss would tell her more than flowers or candy or a fancy meal on Mother's Day.

As children, we showed mom love with hugs, drawings, and cuddles. But now that we are adults, some of us are uncertain how to demonstrate love to her. At times, this is because the relationship is challenging: meeting her needs as she ages can be emotionally draining and time-consuming.

2. Love your mother verbally.

Most people have a hard time to express their love verbally. They think that it is enough if they show love but they don't have to say it.

I have worked with many people who cannot say to their spouses: "I love you". I used to ask them if they saw their parents in the kitchen or living room giving each other a hug or a kiss. Did they hear their father or mother saying to each other: "I love you"? Most of the time, people said: "no, never". Their problem is that their parents did not teach them how to express love. They were raised in a clean, organized house, but they never learned how to love.

Once, I was counselling a couple. The wife was complaining that her husband never tells her that he loves her. The husband turned gently towards her, saying: "I told you when we got married 17 years ago. I never changed my mind". A woman has to hear these words, and a husband has to hear these words – not from the neighbour but from a partner. And our children have to hear this in order to learn how to love.

Love your mother and tell her many times every day that you love her. I heard about a young man who got a phone call while at school that his mother was in the hospital with a heart attack and she did not have too much time. He said he ran to the hospital, he laid his head on his mother's shoulder and from the bottom of his heart he started to tell her how much he loved her, how important she was to him and that his life wouldn't be as nice and as happy without her. He said he never told these things to his mom because he was not thinking about expressing his love to her, but now he had a feeling that he had to confess how much he loved her. A few minutes later, his mother was gone. This young man in his diary says: "Don't wait until it's too late to let your mother know how much she means to you".

We should acknowledge to our mothers and the people who bring joy into our lives that we love them. This is something we should start doing much more regularly. Why it is so hard for some people to share the love we feel for them?

Never forget: your mother often longs for you to tell her that you love her. You cannot say: "You know I love you, so I don't need to say it."

Sometimes, we forget how much our moms have done for us. We grow up thinking our moms will never understand our struggles, but the truth is they invest time making sure we never understand theirs.

It's important to give all moms out there recognition and appreciation for being multi-faceted. Here are a few things that you should say today to your mom:

- *Thank you for giving birth to me.*
- *Thank you mom for changing my diaper.*
- *Thank you for finding the things I have lost.*
- *Thank you for the nights you stayed up putting me to sleep.*
- *Thank you for helping me regain my lost dreams and helping me believe in them again.*
- *Thank you for wiping my nose, bottom and tears.*
- *Thank you for tying my shoelaces and tying up loose ends.*
- *Thank you for washing my clothes and washing the dishes.*
- *Thank you for reminding me it is okay to be human.*
- *Thank you for allowing me to make mistakes.*
- *Thank you for driving me to school every day until I got my license.*
- *Thank you for being the superstar mom who brought food for me and my friends.*
- *Thank you for taking care of me every single day.*
- *Thank you for giving me advice and listening to me.*
- *Thank you for providing me with boundaries and rules to follow.*
- *Thank you for saying no to me.*
- *Thank you for catching me in white lies and teaching me how to be honest.*
- *Thank you for rubbing my head and telling me things will be okay.*
- *Thank you for never giving up on me, even when you feel absolutely drained out.*
- *Thank you for being protective.*

Move forward in faith as you show love physically and verbally towards your mother. Let the Holy Spirit transform you. Let the Holy Spirit conform you to the image of Christ. May the Lord bless you and may the Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen