

## **Good Job Mothers!**

I remember asking my freshmen religion class years back to describe their lessons from the resurrection of Jesus, choosing any captivating title for their papers. I was impressed how one student chose the title- GOOD JOB JESUS. The student described in the writing that Jesus not only said but did it. All our readings testified to what Jesus did. In the same way, today we remember all the mothers- living and dead. We say good job, mothers, for all you do for your families and the Church.

We ask the good Lord to strengthen them in all their struggles to become the best of mothers and, in some cases, wives. The mothers need our support and encouragement both in words and actions. I am always drawn to reflection and appreciation each time I see mothers struggling to care for their kids, especially during baptism. The scene reminds me that my mother must have passed through similar experiences to raise me.

We encourage the mothers not to give up, especially when their husbands or kids do not appreciate their motherly care and love. The perseverance of St. Monica in the face of her son, Augustine, is an excellent example for all the mothers to emulate. We pray for the gifts of perseverance and endurance in carrying out their duties as mothers and wives. The blessed Virgin is a model for our mothers. Her examples of virtues shown throughout her life remain worthy of emulation by our mothers. Also, her patience and calmness even in the face of difficulties and pains are exemplary.

We encourage the mothers to be family oriented. Spend more time with your kids and husband. Listen and show the motherly care and concern in your reactions to things. We pray for God's wisdom on mothers, especially to be able to answer wisely all the questions from their children. I remember this story- One day; a little girl is sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly notices that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast to her brunette hair. She looks at her mother and inquisitively asks, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Her mother replied, "Well, every time you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then asked, "Momma, how come all grandma's hairs are white?"

In different ways, I believe all of us would express our appreciation to our mothers, both biological and spiritual mothers. These expressions of gratitude must be ongoing. Let us ask ourselves what we need to do continuously to demonstrate the love we have for our mothers. As the disciples in the first reading today "were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit," let all our mothers amid all the challenges be constantly filled with the joy of the Lord. Amen.