

# Preparing the Hearts of Those who Suffer for Mother's Day

Mother's Day is approaching - a day in which we celebrate the glorious gift of motherhood, honor the hard work and sacrifice of women everywhere, and cherish the radiant example of our Blessed Mother. This day truly is special. As wonderful as this day can be, however, it also tends to be one of the hardest days of the year for many other women who deeply desire to carry new life in their wombs, but for whatever reason, God has said "No, not right now."

This is a deep pain that many women and couples experience each year and often don't know where to turn. We, the Church, want you to know that we see you and we need you just as you are. You are a valuable part of our community and when we celebrate Mother's Day, we celebrate you, too. In his encyclical *Mulieris Dignitatem*, St. John Paul the Great communicates that "...The motherhood of every woman...is not only 'of flesh and blood': It expresses a profound 'listening to the word of the living God' and a readiness to 'safeguard' this Word..." God calls all women to be mothers and express our originality into the world through our uniqueness and the incredible gift of spiritual motherhood. This is a profoundly healing message for women with and without children.

Healing from infertility has a lot less to do with actually getting pregnant and a lot more to do with discovering who God calls us to be, how much He loves us, and how fruitful we can be- just as we are. So, we'd like to wish a meaningful Mother's Day to all women. As you prepare your heart for this day, know that you are beautiful and needed just as you are. And even as we celebrate this special day, know that whether you struggle with infertility, miscarriage, loss of a mother or child, longing for marriage & children, or any other motherhood wound, we also suffer along with you as members of the same body of Christ.

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