



Reflection from Deacon Ross Beaudoin

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all mothers, grandmothers, adoptive mothers, step-mothers, foster mothers and all who are in the role of MOTHER.

That's a long list, and it reminds us that mother is a title that has a lot of applications. I am happy that I can share a bit today, as I myself have experienced a birth mother, and then after her early death (when I was 4 years old), a grandmother who raised me. Then my father remarried and I had a step-mother, and years later my step-mother adopted me and my brother, so we had an adoptive mother.

Along the line there were some other important figures in my life who were like a mother to me: two grandmothers and my dad's sister, "Aunt Paddy." There was also a Holy Family Sister, Sr. Venard, who seemed to understand me and related to me in many ways as another mother. All of these women had a great influence on me and my life.

This Sunday's gospel reading speaks of Jesus as the shepherd who takes great care of every sheep in the flock. "My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand" (John 10:27 ff). The Shepherd has motherly instincts. The gifts and role of the Shepherd are universal: the Good Shepherd stands in for God – and everyone benefits from God's individual, loving care. Isn't that what a mother's love and care is all about also? All motherhood (and fatherhood) come from God.

We all have a birth mother... and mothers of many other types in our lives. We give thanks for our mothers and all who bring the mothering of God to us. Jesus' mother, Mary, was his source of human life and nourishment. She was also his strength and encouragement – right up until the end... AND beyond, becoming mother to the apostles, and to us who believe.

Mothers are needed more than ever in this conflicted, difficult world of today! Thank you Mom, Mary and all the mothers in our lives. May you know our thanks and enjoy abundant blessings this Mother's Day!

*Peace,
Deacon Ross*