

### **~ Mothers' Day Prayer and Story ~**

*A blessed Mother's Day to all you mothers! And a blessed day to all who are not mothers. As Jesus said: "All who the Word of God and keep it are mothers, sisters, and brothers to Jesus." This is also God's day, and all share in the blessings of this day. To all you mothers and women who so generously and caringly give life to others, we offer this prayer of blessing for each day of your year: "God of Sarah and Miriam, God of Elizabeth, Anna and Mary, as a mother gives life, nourishment and protection to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless all our women – strengthen them as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith shine forth. Grant that we, their daughters and sons, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this and all your blessings through Christ our Lord. Amen!"*

#### **Date With Another Woman**

*After 21 years of marriage, I discovered a new way of keeping alive the spark of love. A little while ago I started to go out with another woman. It was really my wife's idea. "I know that you love her," she said one day, taking me by surprise. The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my Mother, who had been a widow for 19 years, but the demands of my work and my 3 children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally. That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie. "What's wrong, are you well?" she asked. My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a late night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news. "I thought that it would be pleasant to pass some time with you," I responded. "Just the two of us." She thought about it for a moment then said "I would like that very much."*

*That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up, I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she too, seemed to be nervous about our date. She waited in the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary. She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel's. "I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed," she said as she got into the car. "They can't wait to hear about our meeting." We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cozy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady. After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could only read large print. Half way through the entree, I lifted my eyes and saw Mom sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips. "It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small," she said. "Then it's time that you relax and let me return the favor," I responded. During the dinner we had an agreeable conversation -- nothing extraordinary but catching up on recent events of each other's life. We missed the movie. As we arrived at her house later, she said "I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you." I agreed.*

*"How was your dinner date?" asked my wife when I got home. "Very nice. Much more so than I could have imagined," I answered. A few days later my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I didn't have a chance to do anything for her. Some time later, I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place mother and I had dined. An attached note said: "I paid this bill in advance. I was almost sure that I couldn't be there but, never the less, I paid for two plates -- one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me. I LOVE YOU." At that moment, I understood the importance of saying, in time: "I LOVE YOU" and to give our loved ones the time that they deserve. Nothing in life is more important than God and your family. Give them the time they deserve, because these things cannot be put off to "some other time." Yesterday is a cancelled check. Tomorrow is a promissory note. Today is cash... Spend it wisely. May the Lord bless your day and all the days of your life.*

**Fr. Joe Lutz, U.S.A., Madonna House Associate**