

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – May 8, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I want to take this opportunity to wish all our Mom's an incredibly happy and blessed Mother's Day. May Mary, our Mother, bless you and guide you in your vocation as a mother; may that be biological, adoptive, fostering or simply having a maternal spirit towards all God's children.

*Dear God,*

*Thank you for the gift of motherhood. Thank you for the blessing it is to be called "Mom." Thank you for the good plans you have in store for those who still wait to be a mom. Thank you for the numerous spiritual children you have given to so many "spiritual moms" and mentors. We pray that you would fill this day with favor and grace as we honor Moms all around our nation.*

*We ask for comfort for those who are grieving loss and heartache, especially on this day. We ask for strength for those who wait for children to come back home. We ask for healing for those who have been hurt by relationships that were intended to be loving and nurturing. We ask for faith for those who will someday be Moms, who find themselves on a journey that seems so hard. We ask for great encouragement and grace to cover those who have made a brave and loving choice for adoption. We ask for incredible provision and care over every single parent mom who works so hard on behalf of her children. We ask that you remind many of those who, though they do not have "physical" children, have the gift of being amazing hope-bringers to many spiritual children they've been blessed to nurture through these years.*

*God, thank you, for the gift of life. Thank you that your heart is for us, and that you are with us, in all our unique journeys and pathways. Thank you that you are Sovereign over every part of our lives. Thank you that your ways are perfect, and you make our footsteps secure. Today we pray for refreshing, for joy, for grace, for wisdom, for great peace...for all moms, for moms to be, and for women who nurture and lead. Amen*

I congratulate all our 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders who have received the Body of Christ. May you allow Christ to be your guide and strength throughout your life. A big "thank you" to Mrs. Zola and all our teachers, classroom assistants, and Hall Monitors for your dedication and commitment to the religious education of our young people. May God bless you always.

The sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 5<sup>th</sup>, please keep all our Confirmandi in your prayers.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

(Please include this prayer with your personal and family prayer)

*Gracious and loving God, help the men and women of our parish to hear the call to serve in the Diocese of Trenton. Our needs are great, and our people thirst for your presence.*

*Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel, dedicated, holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons, who will spend themselves for your people and their needs.*

*Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance.*

*Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

*Fr. Martin*