

SAID ED May 11, 2014

Mother's Day

This weekend we welcome our new Bishop Salvatore Matano to our parish. It is a blessing for us to welcome us to our community and I hope that even if you are planning to attend the 11am Mass you might consider dropping by afterwards for the reception in our Great Hall. Welcome Bishop Matano!

Some years ago I came across a beautiful essay by Hope Edelman on the influence that, even in death, mothers have on their daughters. Experience tells me that this influence also applies to sons. On this Mother's Day, I offer it for your consideration.

"Nature often offers metaphors more elegant than any we can manufacture. In the redwood ecosystem, all seeds are contained in pods called burls, tough brown clumps that grow where the mother tree's trunk and root system meet.

When the mother tree is logged, blown over, or destroyed by fire, the trauma stimulates the burl's growth hormones. The seeds release, the trees sprout around her, creating circles of daughters.

The daughter trees grow by absorbing the sunlight their mother cedes to them when she dies. And they get the moisture and nutrients they need from their mother's root system, which remains intact even after her leaves die. Although the daughters exist independently of their mother above ground, they continue to draw sustenance from her underneath.

I am fooling only myself when I say my mother exists now only in the photograph on my bulletin board or in the outline of my hand or in the armful of memories I still hold tight. She lives on beneath everything I do. Her presence influenced who I was, and her absence influences who I am. Our lives are shaped as much by those who leave us as they are by those who stay. Loss is our legacy. Insight is our gift. Memory is our guide." (From Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss ©1994 by Hope Edelman.)

We find ourselves in the Easter Season for several more weeks and it seems to me that what Edelman says about mothers can also be said Christ the Lord. We draw powerful strength from those whom we love even when we are separated from them. How much more so do we draw from the well of grace given us by the resurrected Lord Jesus!

Have a good week, everyone, and remember we are still celebrating the resurrected presence of the Lord in our midst.

