



Holy Family with St. Elizabeth by Pellegrino Tibaldi (1527-1596, Milan), Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg.

"Garlands of Grace"

When we observe Mother's Day and Father's Day we not only obey but embrace the fifth commandment to "honor thy father and mother" (Ex. 20:12). So resonant is this commandment that we find it repeated in St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians. It is the first one, the Apostle tells us, that comes with a promise: "that you may live long on the earth" (Eph. 6:1-3). Elsewhere the bible pays homage to our parents by highlighting their unique brand of wisdom:

Listen my son to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland of grace upon your head and a chain to adorn your neck (Prov. 1:8-9).

Parents, then, have a privileged status in Scripture as they do in our lives. That is why we devote special days of the year, Mother's Day and Father's Day, to them.

Every year, at the St. Jude Shrine we amplify the celebration of our mothers and fathers with Novenas in their honor. This year the Mother's Day Novena is on

May 2-10, 2009, and the Father's Day Novena on June 13-21. Both Novenas are not preached but, as is our custom, they will provide ample opportunity for you to honor your parents, or your parents' memory, with spiritual bouquets, "garlands of grace" and gratitude for the blessings that they have brought to your lives.

You will find the "spiritual bouquet" intention forms attached to this letter. Please complete and return them to us at your earliest convenience. They will adorn the St. Jude altar and be offered in the prayers and Masses of the Dominican Friars of the Shrine. In addition, we have included reproductions of this year's Mother's Day and Father's Day cards. If you would like to purchase them, please so indicate in the space provided.

May St. Jude intercede for you that you will enjoy a new flowering of faith, hope and love as you celebrate or remember your parents on these special days that we have reserved for them.

In Christ's Peace and with St. Jude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Martin Walsh O.P." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Fr. Martin Walsh, O.P.

***Mother's Day Novena Spiritual Bouquet at the Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus
May 2-10, 2009***

***Dear Father,
Please pray for*** _____

My donation is _____.

Please place this slip with your donation in an envelope and return it to the Shrine of St. Jude either by mail or by depositing it into the black candle collection box at the Shrine. Thank you.

***Father's Day Novena Spiritual Bouquet at the Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus
June 13-21, 2009***

***Dear Father,
Please pray for*** _____

My donation is _____.

Please place this slip with your donation in an envelope and return it to the Shrine of St. Jude either by mail or by depositing it into the black candle collection box at the Shrine. Thank you.



Mother's Day Novena Cards

Please send me ____ cards. My donation is _____.

Please send the cards to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____



Father's Day Novena Cards

Please send me ____ cards. My donation is _____.

Please send the cards to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Size: 4 ½" wide X 6¼" high

A Mother's Day
Blessing

**Of all
the special joys in life,**

**The big ones
and the small,**

**A mother's love
and tenderness**

**Is the greatest
of them all.**

A Father's Day
Blessing

**May the
blessings and love**

**of our
Heavenly Father**

**be yours
in abundance**

**this Father's Day
and always.**

Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus
Mother's Day and Father's Day 2009

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