

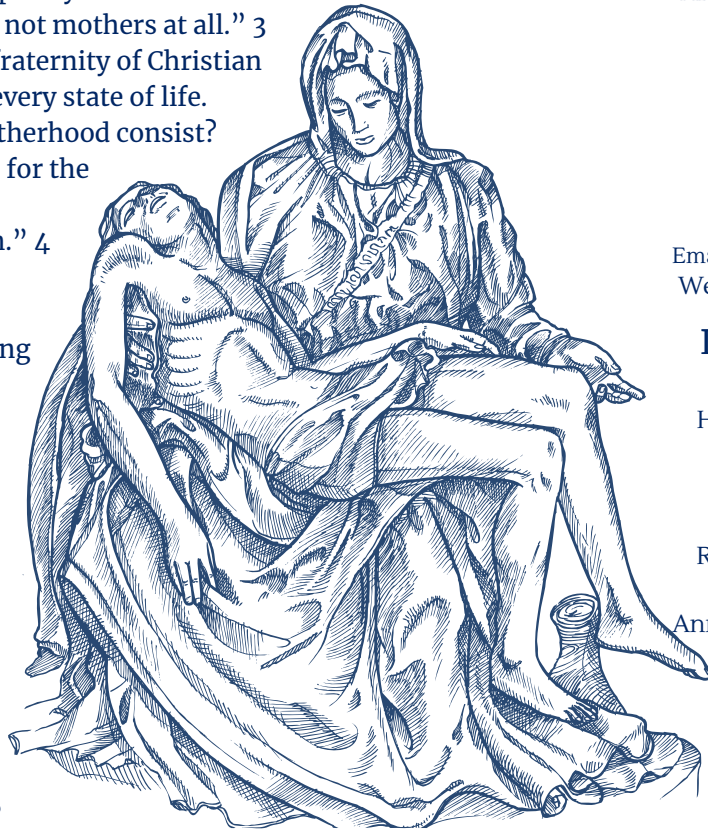
Honoring Our Mother

Written By Jill Kaufman

"It is not good for man to be alone." ¹ Thus the good God expressed His loving plan for the creation of women: this jewel in the crown of creation was made by Love and for love. She was never alone. Rather, she has always been a living sign that humanity is not fundamentally a collection of individuals, but a loving communion of families. In turn, the woman's fullest and most fundamental expression of family is as a mother; every woman is indeed called to this sublime office, whether or not she is called to raise children.

As Saint Teresa Benedicta puts it, "Whether woman is wife or mother in the physical sense, or neither, she is called to be a mother in the spiritual sense." ² And Alice von Hildebrand tells us emphatically, "Spiritual motherhood is more important than biological motherhood. There are plenty of women who are biological mothers and yet are not mothers at all." ³ Fittingly, membership in the Confraternity of Christian Mothers is open to all women, in every state of life. But of what does this spiritual motherhood consist? St. John Paul II says that "concern for the human being... is a fundamental component of a woman's vocation." ⁴ St. Teresa tells us further that "to be a mother is to nourish and protect true humanity and bring it to development." ⁵ St. Teresa goes on to add, however, that this is impossible unless the woman "possess[es] true humanity herself, and that she is clear as to what it means; otherwise, she cannot lead others to it." ⁶ We do not become spiritual mothers automatically, any more than we become biological mothers automatically. And what is the source of this true humanity, this human formation? If we are to nourish others and promote their development, where can we turn for the source of our own?

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MOTHER LOVE

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MATER DOLOROSA, ORA PRO NOBIS

ARCHCONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS Newsletter

Spring 2026
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Announcements from the Office

Welcome to the Confraternity

May is a time of great joy and celebration for our Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers. We are blessed to welcome many new members and to see new chapters forming. It is inspiring to witness our mission thriving and expanding across the country—and even around the world.

As many of you prepare for or are currently holding induction ceremonies, the International Office would like to share a practical note:

During the month of May, a time of heightened celebration, we often receive a large number of orders from both new and existing members. While this is a wonderful sign of growth, it can occasionally lead to supply-and-demand-driven delays. If this affects your Confraternity, please remember that only a single medal is required for the induction ceremony. It is not necessary for each woman to have her own medal at that time. This approach can also be a cost-effective solution when needed.

The medal itself is a sacred symbol—representing the protection of our Sorrowful Mother and our devotion to her.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all those who have discerned a call to join the Christian Mothers. The International Office is always available to assist with any questions regarding the Confraternity, and we warmly invite you to reach out. We also encourage you to visit our website, where you will find a variety of helpful resources regularly updated with the most current information.

We are receiving a new shipment of *Mother Love* books in mid-late June! Be on the lookout for our next printing, come June.

Call the office: 412 683 2400

Summer Office Hours:
Tues, Thurs, Fri 9AM–4PM EST

or email us at:
admin@christianmothers.org

Of course, we know the answer: we turn to our beloved Lady, the Mother of God. Her life is a school of virtue at which we may always study: through the deepest sorrow and the most sublime joy, she gives us countless examples of kindness, meekness, courage, wisdom, patience, gentleness, fortitude, and prudence, and every other manifestation of holiness. In the particulars of her life she was indeed beyond extraordinary, but every woman still has a special affinity with her.

She was at once a wife and mother and a virgin. She was a mother of only One, Whom she buried, and yet the mother of many. Her life was contemplative and active. And in a special way, we are close with her when we suffer. After all, it was at the foot of the Cross that she labored to become our Mother. By imitating our perfect Mother we gradually grow in the formation we need to live out the universal vocation of woman as mother. Our motherhood consists in bringing this formation to others in precisely the way Our Lady does: by compassion, gentleness, humble example, material help, listening, and, more than anything else, loving conformity to Jesus Christ.

Most fundamentally, most blessedly, this amazing woman is no distant heroine of a bygone age. She is truly our mother! And by her unique relationship with the Blessed Trinity, she has a preeminent role in interceding for us. We must always seek to cultivate a deeper relationship with her, and always call upon her. By the grace of God we are no longer alone, as she reminds us: “Am I not here, who am your Mother?”⁷

7 Our Lady of Guadalupe to St. Juan Diego

6 Ibid.

5 Essays on Woman

4 *Mulieris Dignitatem*

3 Interview with Plough Magazine, 2015

2 Essays on Woman

1 Genesis 2:18



Reflections on Motherhood

“Motherhood Was Not What I Expected”

Motherhood was not what I expected. Mostly because I didn’t plan on having any children.

Right after I graduated high school, I left home with the passionate desire to give my life to and for Christ. I became a lay consecrated woman, taking promises of poverty, chastity, and obedience. I was never going to be a physical mother, but I knew I was certainly called to be a spiritual mother to many, and I embraced that with all my heart. I loved offering my life to God in this way: praying and making sacrifices for souls, and educating myself in the Church’s teachings so I could bring our rich faith to others. It was a joy and a privilege. Yet... God had a different plan for me. After five years, and through much prayer, guidance, and discernment, it became crystal clear to me and my superiors that my path of sanctification was something other than consecrated life. It was indeed what I had not expected. It was a marriage. And therefore, if it be God’s will, motherhood. I was blessed to

find, meet, and marry the love of my life shortly after I left consecrated life. We became pregnant not long after our wedding, and our son was born, very unexpectedly, at 26 weeks of gestation. He was a tiny, beautiful little thing – 2.2 pounds of pure miracle. I spent every waking moment of the next 3 months at his side while he was in the NICU. I often contemplated Mary during this time, wondering if her heart felt a pain like the one I was experiencing– a joy-filled, heart-wrenching kind of pain... so happy for the gift of this precious life yet not knowing how to console him in the midst of his suffering. I have no doubt that Mary felt these same pangs in her heart. I know she looked at Jesus when He was a baby, a toddler, a teenager, an adult, and a condemned criminal and felt in her heart the pain of not knowing what she could do for Him, her beloved Son and Savior. She taught me in those days the importance of standing at the foot of the cross. Strong and courageous. Full of unwavering love and dedication. Stabat Mater Dolorosa.

It has been one of the greatest blessings in my life to become a member of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers. I know that I am standing alongside so many other women who are firmly founded in their faith and in their vocation as mothers. To them, there is no sorrow or suffering that they or their children may have to endure that will ever shake their love for God. We stand with Mary at the foot of the cross of each of our lives, waiting and hoping for resurrection. And truly, what better way to live this life than united to hundreds of other faithful women who are lifting you and your children up in prayer and supporting you in any way that they can? No mother is alone when she is a Christian Mother. There is a beautiful, undeniable spiritual bond between all of us that keeps us strong, faithful, and one.

I now have four rambunctious and delightful boys who run me ragged in all kinds of ways. I recently put Mary officially in charge of my oldest son– that tiny, premature baby boy is now 16 and has never ceased to be both surprising and challenging! He is about to get his driver's license, and Mama Mary is going to be riding shotgun every time he takes the wheel! I also know that my son has many other spiritual mothers out there who are praying for him daily. Thank you, Christian Mothers, for everything!

Mary, Mother of Sorrows, Pray for us!

written by Nina Madrid

MARIAN *feast* DAYS

MAY 13 *Our Lady of Fatima*

MAY 31 *The Visitation*

JUNE 27 *Our Mother of Perpetual Help*

JULY 16 *Our Lady of Mt. Carmel*

AUGUST 15 *The Assumption*

AUGUST 22 *The Queenship of Our Lady*

MAY - AUGUST

Wisdom From Our General Director

Fr. Joseph Tuscan, OFM Cap.

As the gentle beauty of May unfolds around us, the Church invites us to turn our hearts in a special way to Our Blessed Mother. This month, so richly adorned with blossoms and light, reminds us of Mary's quiet, faithful "yes" to God—a yes that changed the world. She is the model of every Christian woman and mother, teaching us that holiness is found in daily fidelity, humility, and love.

This May also finds us looking forward with joy and gratitude to our pilgrimage to France this September, where we will celebrate the 175th anniversary of the establishment of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers. It is a moment to give thanks for the countless women who, across generations, have lived their vocation with courage, faith, and devotion to Christ and His Church.

The Confraternity reminds us that spiritual motherhood is a beautiful and universal calling. Whether a woman is married or single, with children or without, she is invited to nurture life, faith, and hope in the hearts of others. Every faithful Catholic woman who seeks holiness becomes, in some way, a mother of souls—through prayer, sacrifice, encouragement, and witness.

In our present age, one of the greatest challenges facing families is the growing influence of technology, especially in the lives of children. True formation requires presence, conversation, prayer, and shared life—things no screen can replace. For those seeking guidance, we recommend several helpful books: *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt, *The Amazing Generation* by Jonathan Haidt and Catherine Price, and *The Tech Exit* by Clare Morell. These works offer practical wisdom for overcoming technology addiction, protecting children's mental and spiritual health, and fostering homes rooted in real relationships rather than screens.

May Our Lady guide each of you, and may she help you live your beautiful vocation as Christian mothers—spiritual and natural—bringing Christ's love into the world.

Pilgrimage to France: 2026

We are still seeking pilgrims for our upcoming pilgrimage, with 20 spots remaining for members of the Confraternity.

The *Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers* warmly invites you to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage to France from September 10–20, 2026. Join our Director General, Fr. Joseph Tuscan, along with fellow Christian Mothers, on a meaningful journey to explore the historical and sacred sites connected to our mission.

Cost: \$4,800.00 per person (Spouses are welcome to attend)
For more information please scan the QR code.

*Interested parties may still register after the May 30 date

Deposit: \$500 per person (due at time of enrollment)
Registration Deadline* (for group flights): May 30, 2026 — or until capacity is reached!

Final Payment Due: July 12, 2026



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