



THE MONTH OF MAY

By Marge Loenser:

Praise God for the beautiful month of May. Bring on the lilacs and the peonies! (Not to mention the lilies of the valley) May is set aside to honor mothers, especially our Blessed Mother, Mary. "... Oh Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today, Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May...." Many Altar Rosary Societies, will crown Mary on May 2nd, a reminder that God has already crowned her Queen of Heaven and Earth!

May 1st, is the day we usually honor St. Joseph, the worker (this year it falls on Sunday, so we will not celebrate it with Mass) St. Joseph personifies what a good husband and father should be. He was faithful to God's will for Him, to be guardian and provider for Jesus and Mary. Surely Joseph was a pure-hearted and honorable man, that God chose him for such an extraordinary vocation. St. Joseph pray for our families, especially those torn apart by drugs, alcohol, resentments, selfishness and indifference. Pray that we never cease to continue to honor the vocation of parenthood. Pray that children honor their mothers and fathers (the 4th of the 10 commandments).

On May 14 we celebrate the feast of St. Matthias. He was chosen by the apostles to replace Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus, then took his own life. He is the patron saint of alcoholics. The name Matthias means gift of the Lord.

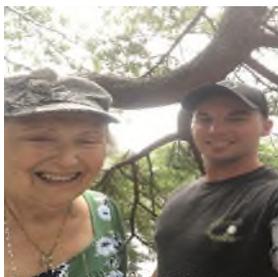
We are all probably familiar with the Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr, which is recited at most AA meetings, it goes:

***“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
The courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.”***

There is a second part of the prayer and I would like to share it with you, it goes:

***“Enjoying one day at a time,
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace,
Taking as He did, this sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it, and
Trusting that He will make all things right,
If I surrender to His will that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with Him forever, in the next. Amen”***

My dear sisters let us not cease to pray for each other, for our church, for our country and for peace in the world. Thank you, Lord, for today, for You are the God of the present moment. Let us not live in the past, or be anxious for tomorrow. God bless us, each one. Love, Marge



Marge Loenser is a member of Saint Mark's Church in Sea Girt where she is Lector and Eucharistic Minister. She has retired from teaching CCD at Saint Mark's. She has been a member of Catholic Women of Zion for about 30 years and is also a member of Mary Queen of Peace Prayer Community for about the same length of time. She writes for a monthly column for Saint Mark's Church Bulletin.