

## **A Dedication to Mom's**

To focus on this day and its meaning one must become personal. The vocation of Motherhood is a vocation to life and to being life-givers. Moms have the unique gift of being able to be like Kaleidoscope's. Many look to them and find a vision of color and a readiness to listen, to understand, to heal and to love without conditions. I watch with great enjoyment at some young friends of mind, even my grandnieces and nephews, who collect and are amazed at viewing Kaleidoscope's. Their eyes open wide with amazement every time they view the various configurations that present themselves with each turn of the scope. Even the kid in me stands in awe at the way this simple cylinder can keep me interested for long periods of time.

Our lives are like a Kaleidoscope: we constantly look through the long cylinder of life to see the various movement and colors take shape - sometime forming unbelievable images. Our children help us to understand this each time they ask us a question that comes from nowhere and they expect the "all wise one" to have an answer. Sometimes we have the answer right at our finger tips and other times we grope for an answer. In the adult world life is that way too. Many of us find it interesting how time just seems to fly by and we do not have an accurate accounting of what we have done. We get caught up in our busy life and time is consumed. Personally, now at age 76, I am amazed at how quickly time has taken its toll on my journey. These past 76 years have been years of pain and growth. Identities have surfaced and I am more aware of who I am than ever before. That is the way life is - we are constantly being confronted with new images of who we are: as child, as teen, as parent, as career person, as family member. No matter who we are our identity depends greatly on understanding our journey and the place that God plays in that journey. Personally, I am excited about the future and even more excited about spending it in Long Valley.

We have just completed another phase in our spiritual calendar: Easter. We are still walking the road from Calvary trying to understand what has happened for us personally. On the one hand we see the complexity of life that makes up our daily experience and perhaps we're asking ourselves if anything has changed? Has this person Jesus made any difference in my life? Where is he in the midst of Covet19? Sometimes we have short memories. The road to Calvary was to give us identities; to help us see that we do make a difference and that we have a power within us that touches our families and those relationships that keep us fulfilled. But none of that knowledge makes any difference if and unless we believe it; unless we come to grips with some of the realities of our lives and the fact that we are constantly changing and becoming "New People - Easter People"

As we walk from this Easter experience we are suppose to have some real feelings: love/fear of the unknown/a mixture of happy and sad feelings/perhaps even some anger in not knowing the absolute direction that we are suppose to be going. This Pandemic doesn't help us – but can cause us to feel abandoned and alone. We are not alone. But we must see the power that we have gained through this very different Easter experience is to help identify, not just feelings, but also an appreciation of what we have and whose lives we can embrace.

This is Mother's Day – those still with us and those who look upon us from Heaven. They represent for us the colors in the Kaleidoscope and help us always to see a Springtime of color. May we celebrate them today with reverence and love.

Happy Mother's Day!

Father Mike  
Pastor Emeritus