

Mother's Day

For all who are mothers or have been given the gift of sharing their motherly qualities, may you be celebrated not just on Mother's Day but on all days. May being able to bring life into the world by the grace of God never be taken for granted. It is too precious a gift and responsibility: "For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb" (Ps 139). God bless all women.

Pope Francis, in speaking of mothers, quoted Archbishop Oscar Romero, who said it well when he called mothers' experiences, "maternal martyrdom." For your reflection:

Giving one's life does not only mean being killed; giving one's life, having the spirit of a martyr, it is in giving in duty, in silence, in prayer, in honest fulfilment of his duty; in that silence of daily life; giving one's life little by little. Yes, like it is given by a mother, who without fear and with the simplicity of the maternal martyrdom, conceives a child in her womb, gives birth to him, nurses him, helps them grow and cares for them with affection. She gives her life. That's martyrdom... yes, being a mother doesn't only mean bringing a child to the world, but it is also a life choice... the choice to give life. And this is great, this is beautiful.

(Pope Francis, General Audience, January 7, 2015, w2.vatican.va)

Happy Mother's Day!

