



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Happy Mother's Day. May the celebrations today, with mothers and grandmothers bring joy to the hearts of all who pray with family at St. Mary's, all who enjoy a brunch, all who enjoy a phone call across the miles, maybe even spending some Facetime when distance does not allow an exchange of hugs and kisses this Mother's Day.

In an April mailing from Catholic Charities, promoting the Catholic Charities Mother's Day collection, the following question begins the appeal letter: "*When you picture your mother, what comes to mind?*" When my mom, Lorrie Nacius, the "mother of the Father" died in February this year, parishioners, family, and friends offered generous and loving support, Masses, and prayers. This Mother's Day is the first of a year of firsts for the Nacius family and every other family that grieves the loss of a spouse and mother, grandmother and friend.

When I picture my mother this Mother's Day, I picture her reunited with my dad, who died seven years ago, and other deceased family members including her niece Carolyn and daughter-in-law Marcela who died at much too young of an age, as well as many beloved friends. I picture my mom with all the saints in God's eternal Kingdom. I picture my mom with the Blessed Mother, Jesus, and all the saints as they know the grace and the joy of eternity in heaven. It is a rather comforting picture. It is a picture of hope and of love. It is a picture that I pray fills the hearts of all who have a mother in heaven this Mother's Day.

Every year, in the Archdiocese of Chicago, parishioners across Cook and Lake counties are very generous in supporting the Mother's Day Collection. This year the needs of mothers served by the Catholic Charities programs of the Archdiocese of Chicago are as great as they ever have been. They are looking for and trusting the generous support of the faithful of the Archdiocese. The appeal letter also states, "We can't do it without you. Can you spare a gift of \$50, \$100, or \$250 to help mothers now? We're trying to raise \$889,913 by May 31 to help mothers throughout the region." As pastor of a Parish filled with very generous people, thanks for your support this year to Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities is so hope filled in receiving your support, they welcome gifts through the offertory envelopes at parishes across the Archdiocese. They also would welcome any of the following:

- ❖ **Monthly Giving** – from your bank account or credit card at www.catholiccharities.net/donate.
- ❖ **Employer Matching** – ask your employer if a matching gift program is offered. You may be able to double or triple your generosity.
- ❖ **Stocks and Securities** – Donate using Northern Trust DTC #2669 to account #44-81515.
- ❖ **IRA Charitable Donation** – If you are 70^{1/2} or older, get tax savings with a direct transfer to Catholic Charities.
- ❖ **Donor-Advised Fund** – a one time or monthly gift from your donor advised fund. Catholic Charities tax ID is 36-2170821.

We are very grateful for all of the sponsors to the Dancing in the Moonlight Gala being held next Friday, May 13. On behalf of the school children who benefit from the success of the Spring Gala, thanks for your generous support. Please follow this link: bit.ly/SOSMGala to make a contribution in support of the Spring Gala.

This Mother's Day I will be spending some time with my three sisters and brother. I am asking that you keep the Nacius family in prayer this Mother's Day. We are planning on going through mom's house and claiming items that are near and dear and precious to each of us. After going through the house, we will be donating many of the remaining items to support "PADS Grads" -individuals who have graduated out of the PADS program and are beginning a life of independent living. I have learned from the wisdom of many in the parish who have navigated these waters of emptying a house that was filled with years of memories. I am grateful to Fr. Radley for covering three of the four Masses this weekend so I can spend time with my siblings. Thanks for your continued prayers and support.

May God bless us as we walk with Jesus in newness of life,