

THE SERMON

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Stories That Matter
The Stories Abide

John 14:15-21

Beloved Church, today we continue our sermon series "**Stories that Matter.**" As we did last Sunday, the Gospel of John invites us to meditate on these pre-crucifixion and pre-resurrection events as Jesus prepares His disciples for the moment when He will leave them to go to the Father. At this time, Jesus tells them that He won't leave them orphaned, but that His Father will give them a **Comforter, the Holy Spirit.**

What is interesting is that, as I was preparing this sermon series, I didn't even notice the beautiful connection between this Bible text and today's special day, a day we give thanks for motherhood in all its forms and shapes.

As you know, **stories matter**, big stories, and small stories; they become part of our learning process, they become part of who we are. Therefore, before spending some time reflecting on the passage and how it speaks to us on this special occasion, let me share a simple personal story that offers a glimpse of this connection.

When I was a kid, it was a regular family activity to go to the local park and play on the playground. At that time, my brother Pablo was a toddler, learning to walk. Of course, my sister and I were older, so we could play on the monkey bars or the slide. But Pablo was too little to join us. However, he was determined to cross the playground on his own and go where we were. He toddled forward with a lot of confidence, as if he knew what he was doing, but his legs and feet were not steady, so in less than a second, he was on the ground.

My mom watched us from a distance, close enough to help but far enough to let Pablo try one more time. Until the moment he fell again, but a little bit harder, and he started to cry and felt uncertain. In a heartbeat, my mom was there, scooped him up, dusted off his knees, and whispered to Pablo... *"Mom is here. You're okay. Try again."*

Even while Pablo was still crying, he stood up and kept walking, as if nothing had happened. Mom was there

for him, guiding him at the right moment, to give him the confidence to continue his walking-learning process.

I am sure many moms here relate to this story because stories matter. Perhaps many of you have experienced it with your children and grandchildren: being there for them when they need you.

Even though this seems like a simple story about a common moment in a child's life, what matters is that a child feels the encouragement, presence, and care of a mother figure at the right moment of need.

An article by the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Amanda Cortes, titled *"The Importance of Mother Parental Support: Ensuring Mental Health and Well-being,"* on the "Yes to Therapy" counseling services website reaffirms this idea by saying:

"Research has shown that mothers who are actively involved in their child's life and provide consistent support can effectively buffer the negative impacts of stress and adversity. They can provide a safe haven for their children, offering comfort and reassurance during challenging times. This support not only helps children navigate difficult situations but also fosters their ability to cope with stress and build resilience."

My siblings in Christ, that's exactly how the Holy Spirit works. God gives us room to grow, to make our own choices, even to stumble.

The Holy Spirit provides consistent support when we are experiencing adversity.

The Holy Spirit provides a safe haven for God's children, offering us comfort and reassurance in our challenging times.

And as my brother Pablo's story with my mom shows, God is never far away, watching over us. When we fall, the Spirit is there to comfort and steady us and to give us the courage to try again. Yes! To try again. Just like a loving mother, God's presence is constant, sometimes quietly watching, sometimes stepping in, but always ready to help us up and to remind us that we're never alone.

Do you see this beautiful connection between motherhood and the divine role of the Holy Spirit?

Today's Bible text says that on the night before Jesus' death, He tells His disciples that love is shown not only in affection but also in abiding faithfulness – ***"If you love me, you will keep my commandments"*** (v.15). He then promises the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will come alongside them to provide guidance, comfort,

and strength. ***“I will not leave you orphaned”*** (v.18). It is Jesus’ way of saying, *“You will never be without my presence, my help, or my love.”*

That promise resonates deeply with the spirit of Mother’s Day. On this day, we honor motherhood in all its forms. We honor mothers, grandmothers, guardians, mentors, and spiritual mothers, beautiful figures who have embodied that same steadfast presence in our lives. They are often the ones who whisper courage into us when we are afraid, who teach us right from wrong, and who help us grow into people who can love, serve, and trust. Their love is not perfect, but it often mirrors the shape of God’s love: nurturing, guiding, correcting, comforting, and empowering.

On Mother’s Day, we can name and celebrate those through whom the Spirit has worked: those who have prayed for us, taught us, held us, challenged us, and believed in us. We can also remember that even when earthly relationships fall short or are marked by loss, Jesus’ promise endures. The Spirit remains with us, filling the gaps, healing the wounds, and drawing us into the family of God.

So the connection is this: **Mother’s Day celebrates the kind of love that Jesus promises through the Holy**

Spirit—a love that abides. A love that advocates and a love that never lets us go.

As we honor the mothers and mother-figures in our lives, we also give thanks for the Holy Spirit who continues to mother the Church. Who continues nurturing us into the likeness of Christ.

Think for a moment about the nature of a mother's love. From our first breath, a mother surrounds her child with care—a gentle hand to steady us, a comforting word to calm us, and a watchful eye to guide our steps. Mothers and mother figures teach, correct, encourage, and forgive. Their love is not always loud or flashy; sometimes it is quiet, and other times it is loud. But it is always steadfast and enduring. It is a presence that remains, even as we grow up and walk our own paths.

And I am sure that all of us relate to this statement, because no matter how old we are, for a mother, or a mother figure, we are still a child, their child.

So it is with the Holy Spirit. Jesus describes the Spirit as ***"another Advocate"***—one who stands beside us, supports us, and intercedes for us, regardless of our age. The Spirit's work is not always dramatic or visible, yet it is constant. The Spirit whispers reminders of God's love into our hearts, nudges us toward kindness, and

gives us strength when ours fails. The Spirit is God's own presence, abiding with us and never leaving us orphaned.

This is the promise Jesus gives us in John 14: we are never truly alone. No matter how lost or overwhelmed we feel, the Holy Spirit is God's hand in ours—guiding, comforting, and assuring us that we are seen, known, and loved.

On Mother's Day, we celebrate all those women whose love has shaped us. Their love points us to an even greater truth: that God's love, poured out by the Holy Spirit, is with us always. The Spirit is our Advocate, our Comforter, our Guide—just like a mother, but even more, for the Spirit is God's very presence within us.

And what better way of sharing Jesus' commandments, **to love one another**, than to become channels of that same comforting, nurturing presence. We become advocates for the lonely, comforters for the grieving, guides for the lost. We become, in some small but holy way, reflections of the Spirit's presence in this world.

So, my friends, let us honor our mothers and mother figures this morning by living out the love that moms have shown us in many forms. Let us honor the Holy Spirit by listening for that quiet voice, by allowing

ourselves to be led, comforted, and strengthened. And let us remember that we are never orphaned. We are never alone. The Spirit abides with us, and in us, forever.

May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit fill your hearts this day and always as you remember that mother figure. ***Amen.***