




service

Sue Lubowitz



Mary, Mother of Us All ... Mother of Hope

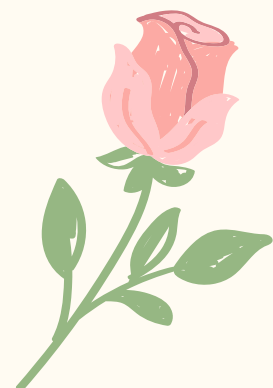
As members of the Catholic Women's League we have come to know Mary under her many titles including as our patroness, Our Lady of Good Counsel. One of her lesser known titles is Mother of Hope. In June 2020, among the many titles under which Catholics invoke Mary, Pope Francis asked us to add 'Mother of Mercy', 'Mother of Hope' and 'Comfort of Migrants'. The titles are to be inserted into the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Litany of Loreto).

Hope is what keeps us going during times of hardship, sickness, distress, loss, and fear. Hope leads us to believe in peace. Throughout her life on earth, the Blessed Virgin Mary exemplified the virtue of hope.

At the Wedding at Cana, Mary's sensitivity is brought to the foreground. During the festivities, the couple ran out of wine – a disgrace in that time period and culture. In her sensitive, motherly way, Mary noticed the needs of the wedding couple. In making sure there was enough wine, she also brought them hope. In the same way, she brings us hope when the wine of our lives runs out. When we find ourselves without resources, understanding, direction, and possibility, she brings our concerns before her Son. With certain hope that Jesus will remedy our situation, she turns to us and says, "Do whatever he tells you."



Happy
Mother's
Day





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When she was at the foot of the Cross, looking up at her dying Son, the circumstances appeared hopeless. The Blessed Mother had every earthly reason to give in to despair but Our Lady knew that God would never abandon her. So instead of giving in to despair, the Blessed Mother placed her trust in God's promises.

Mary is the Mother of Hope and we turn to her when our state of affairs seems hopeless. "Abound in Hope!" is the theme for this year's National Family and Life Week (May 11-18). This is a week that affirms and celebrates the sacredness of human life. We are called to bear hope from the youngest to the eldest, the vulnerable and for those who cannot speak for themselves. The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops invites families to explore the resources in the Pastoral Toolkit found at <https://www.cccb.ca/faith-moral-issues/family-and-life/national-family-and-life-week/>.

In this month of May, let us remember that as our spiritual mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary can help us attain the virtue of hope. She wants us to trust in God's promises, even when all else in our lives is going wrong. She never regretted placing her hope and trust in the Lord – and neither should we.

Mother's Day is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the beautiful vocation of motherhood and the gift of life. It calls us to cherish the gift of life that we receive from our mothers and to pray for all women to whom God has entrusted life both physically and spiritually. Happy Mother's Day!