

# MAY: CULTIVATING FAMILY

## MOTHERHOOD



Being open to relationships means being vulnerable, opening ourselves to love as well as heartache. A mother's heart is particularly vulnerable as she remains receptive to God's will for her family. The solitary nursing mom may crave intellectual stimulation, some sort of interaction with her peers, especially someone who understands what she is going through. The empty nester may ache to fill what feels like a gaping hole left by their adult children. The mom who lost her child before birth or at any age carries an unspeakable sorrow. This Mother's Day, let's remember our debt to our own moms and let us pray for those mothers suffering loneliness and sorrow.

Many parishes throughout the Diocese and across the country celebrate the month of May and its special association with the Blessed Virgin Mary by crowning a statue of our Blessed Mother. She is Queen of Heaven and Earth, but she is also a person like you and me. Even more relatable still, she is our mother! Like all mothers, she has a heart that is vulnerable, that loves unceasingly, that ponders God's grace in her life. And, like many mothers, she had great sorrows in this life. The worst grief of all was the death of Jesus, her Son, who died for our sins. Despite this, she does not loathe us but loves us with a love like her Son's. We are her adopted sons and daughters!

## MARY IN MAY



## FARMERS



May 15 is the feast of St. Isidore, the patron of farmers and rural communities. Isidore was born poor and married a poor girl named Maria Torribia, who was also canonized as St. María de la Cabeza. Isidore was a day laborer. He attended Mass every morning, prayed during the day, and often gave much of his food to people in need, even though he and Maria were poor themselves. Maria and Isidore's only child, a baby boy, died as an infant. The couple lived out the fruitfulness of marriage by caring for others. They gave of themselves to improve the well-being of those around them. The image of this holy farming couple can make us rethink what it means to be a family: to plant seeds of faith and hope, water them, watch them grow. To cultivate abundant life in the hearts of our spouses and of those in our community. To do that *for everyone we meet* is the universal vocation! Sts. Isidore and María, pray for us!

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## Parish LiFE Note

FROM THE DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD'S  
Life and Family Evangelization (LiFE) Office



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