

Reflections: A Grandmother's Love

Reflections: A Grandmother's Love

To all grandmothers who read this reflection, may Our Lord bless you and keep you for many years yet to come. May you be granted a special blessing from His mother, the Virgin Mary during this 2011 Advent season.

Today, after 40 years of married life, I am a mother and a grandmother of two young active, adorable, and precious boys. As a grandmother, I find myself older and wiser. Somewhere along the way during my career as an educator, I decided to exchange the corporate ladder for Jacob's ladder. Daily, I struggle, as we all do, to climb up its rungs, hoping some day to make it to the top reaching Heaven. On this journey, I discovered I can love children even more as a grandmother. I have concluded it must be one of God's miracles: the more one loves, the more one is capable of loving.

Wanting to share this 'love' with my family and others, I volunteered to teach a youth catechism class at my church. During a student activity in class, I came to realize how one boy perceived his grandmother's love. On the first day, I asked the students to complete a poem entitled "I Am ...". One sentence read: "I feel ...". He wrote, "I feel sad when I remember my grandma died". Even more telling was his response to the next sentence, "I hear ...". For this phrase he wrote, "I hear my grandma say, 'I'll be waiting for you in heaven'". Upon reading his responses, my eyes filled with tears. In death his grandmother's love reached out to her grandson calling him to join her in heaven. Could a grandmother's heart give a greater gift?

I invite you to never underestimate the influence of our kind words, example, and care for our family, and others less fortunate. At this glorious time in our life, God has freed us to love others with even greater tenderness, abandon, and boundless joy. Join me in teaching all children, and especially our grandchildren, the abundant love of a merciful and forgiving God. Together with the saints and His blessed Mother, He waits for us in heaven. Let this Advent season be a very special one for mothers and grandmothers everywhere as we wait to receive the Infant Jesus in our homes and hearts.

Advent

