

**Mother's Day Mass
Bexar County Jail
May 10, 2018**

Sometimes the readings of a Mass match very well with the occasion we are celebrating, sometimes they do not. Today is one of those weird days where they don't seem to match. We are here to say "Happy Mother's Day," and our readings talk about rejection, mourning, and weeping! Lucky Archbishop who gets to preach on these readings.

All joking aside, though, you dear ladies know about mourning and weeping don't you. You know how difficult life can be. You know what it is to make mistakes, to be rejected, to hurt, to cry. You know the pain that can exist in this world. You also know what Jesus means when he talks about that "little while." We can be happy for a little while, and then the joy goes away. This is the difficult truth of this world. But my dear sisters in Christ, this is not the message of the Gospel today. Our Lord is not just telling how life is not easy. No, our Lord is making us a promise that mourning and weeping are not the story of our lives. Our Lord tells us: "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy." Jesus does not deny the sadness of life, but he promises us that his grace brings our grief into joy.

This is the work of a loving mother isn't it? Good moms walk with their children through the difficult times in life. As Pope Francis has said: A mother "does not always take the child along the safe road, because in that way the child cannot develop, but neither does she leave the child only on the risky path, because that is

dangerous.” Many of you are mothers, and you know how hard this balance can be. You know what it takes to be a mother who walks with your child through painful times and work to change their grief into joy. Many of you have mothers who have walked with you in your lives. Your current situation, being here in this place, must certainly be a painful separation from your mothers, from your families, from those who love you. But this pain is something we can go through – united as sisters and brothers in Christ – and come out the other side stronger and closer to God and each other.

Also remember that the Church is our Mother, too. She loves you and is here for you. Through her ministers, she wants to help you and stay close to you during these times of grief and pain. Stay close to her by staying close to each other. Lastly, during a Mother’s Day celebration, we cannot forget our Blessed Mother, Mary. She is our caring mother who never forgets her love for us. Once again we can learn from Pope Francis who reminds us that Mary “saw many difficult moments, [and] like a good mother she is close to us, so that we may never lose courage before the adversities of life.”

My dear sisters, we are united in the Lord Jesus Christ. The pain of life does not steal our joy. We have joy in the Lord, and the love of the Church. Please know that you are in my prayers, my friends. May we be united in prayer for each other. Happy Mother’s Day. Trust in the promise of our God: “I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will rejoice.”