

+JMJ+

St. John the Evangelist
Catholic Church



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*"I lift my eyes to the mountains. From where shall come my strength?
My strength comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth."
Psalm 121:1-2*

Immaculate Conception
Catholic Mission



Canton, NC

Sunday, May 12, 2019

Dear Mothers of St. John the Evangelist and Immaculate Conception:

Happy Mother's Day! Each of you will be remembered in a very special way at the Altar of Our Risen Lord throughout this weekend. May your day be full of the joy only Jesus Christ can give! (John 15:11-12).

As you well know, St. Pope John Paul II's mother passed away when he was a teen prior to World War II. His Father took him before a popular image of Mary in Poland to introduce him to his Mother Mary. When St. Pope John Paul II was shot in St. Peter's Square he looked for an image of Mary and found none. Upon recovering his health, crediting Our Lady of Fatima with saving his life, he put the image of Mary, Mother of the Church, pictured below in St. Peter's Square enclosing a window not far from where he was shot.

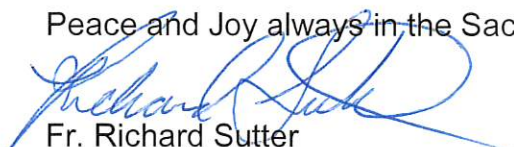
I invite every woman in our parish to read the *June 29, 1995 Letter to Women from St. Pope John Paul II*. You can find the letter at www.vatican.va. Below I make a few of his words of gratitude my own for the gift of each one of you. Thank dear women of St. John the Evangelist and Immaculate Conception for sharing your feminine genius with us all!

"Thank you, women who are mothers! You have sheltered human beings within yourselves in a unique experience of joy and travail. This experience makes you become God's own smile upon the newborn child, the one who guides your child's first steps, who helps it to grow, and who is the anchor as the child makes its way along the journey of life..."

Thank you, consecrated women! Following the example of the greatest of women, the Mother of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word, you open yourselves with obedience and fidelity to the gift of God's love. You help the Church and all mankind to experience a "spousal" relationship to God, one which magnificently expresses the fellowship which God wishes to establish with his creatures..."

Thank you, every woman, for the simple fact of being a woman! Through the insight which is so much a part of your womanhood you enrich the world's understanding and help to make human relations more honest and authentic..."

Peace and Joy always in the Sacred Heart of Jesus,


Fr. Richard Sutter
Parochial Administrator

