

Homily based on the readings from September 15, 2025 (1 Timothy 2.1-8; John 19.25-27)

Without taking anything away from any other human relationships, I think we can all agree that there is a *uniquely* powerful bond between a mother and her child. Nothing else in the human experience can *possibly* compare to the unceasing closeness between a mother and an infant in the womb, or to the *intensity* of a mother's devotion to a newborn baby. That is precisely why the *only* word that can adequately describe the horror of abortion is *diabolical*. Such an atrocity goes *far* beyond simple murder or infanticide. For whatever combination of reasons, a mother is convinced – or coerced – into *defiling* this *supremely* sacred and life-giving covenant.

On a more positive note, our own experience with motherhood – either as a participant or an observer – provides us with an *incomparable* window into the love that animates the universe. Although we properly speak of God as *Father*, the love he has for his children is reflected

equally in *all* parental relationships. Furthermore, as mothers and children, we can all appreciate the *unparalleled* connection between Christ and *his* Blessed Mother. The love Mary had for Jesus was not only the love of a mother for her child, but of a faithful servant for her God. The joys she experienced were indescribably passionate, but so were the sorrows. Mary physically carried the fullness of God in her womb for nine months; she nursed him, cradled him, and bathed him; she watched him progress from infancy to adolescence to adulthood; in time, she even witnessed his Resurrection and his Ascension. On the other hand, she also lived for decades under the shadow of his inevitable humiliation, torture, and execution – before having to *experience* it all firsthand.

Although today is the occasion on which we particularly commemorate Mary's sorrows, we must also remember that – even as Jesus was enduring the agonies of the Cross – he never faltered in his love for his Blessed Mother. As we just heard, he took the time to entrust Mary and the Apostle John to each other's care – at the same time, establishing her

as the mother for all his faithful disciples. In due course, Christ's boundless love and gratitude compelled him to bear his Blessed Mother "body and soul into heavenly glory."

As *our* Blessed Mother, Mary's deepest desire is for each of us to share in the joys and sorrows of her relationship with Jesus Christ. This humble and grace-filled woman – whose body provided the gateway for God to come to earth – now dwells with him eternally in the undying radiance of heaven. Seated before the throne of her son, she implores all her children to imitate her immaculate example – to join with her in experiencing the all-giving, all-powerful, and all-embracing love of our Risen Lord and Savior.