

THOUGHTS FOR MOTHER'S DAY

2018

I got a text message earlier this week from my middle son. It said: "Interested in doing something for Mother's Day?"

He and his family live about an hour drive from us, so we can always get together on a whim.

I texted him back: "Sure! What did you have in mind?.. Hanging out with you guys is all I want, really. Whatever you, Kim and the kids decide is fine with me. Just don't take me skydiving!"

"Ok. We can head to your place Sunday. No skydiving!"

Don't you love modern technology!...

This morning as I walked around my little neighborhood, I replayed in my mind our short text conversation and smiled. I was reminiscing about all the memories we had built over the years as a family of five. These days are long gone... Water under the bridge... But I also thought about my role as a mother now that my sons have a life of their own. Obviously, it changed over the years. I don't mean it in a negative way but as a normal evolution in my life and in their own lives. To invest many years in raising our children the best way we can so they'll fly on their own one day and become productive members of our society isn't the goal all loving parents aim for?

Since I was a little girl, my greatest desire was to have a family of my own. I had already set a limit of three children. I was raised with two siblings and probably thought it was just the right number. I didn't go as far as to wish for their gender though! Well, many years down the road, my wish came true. I got married and we had three boys. I have to say that despite the challenges and struggles I've encountered while raising my family, it has been the most fulfilling and exciting adventure I've ever experienced in my life.

My total dedication to my family and the nurturing of our boys over the years created very tight bonds between us. But as they grew up into adulthood, I knew very well that my role as the most important woman in their lives would come to an end one day. It was a normal process in the lives of my sons, but I always wondered how I would react to it.

As I witnessed the evolution of their love lives, I never felt threatened by the few flings they had but when the "chosen ones" came into the picture, I can honestly say that it struck a chord in my heart. Don't get me wrong... The fact that they had finally found their soul mates to share their lives with was fantastic. But that I had to take a back seat in their lives from thereon was not as easy as I thought it would be.

I had heard many mother-in-law stories and I certainly didn't want to be part of the horror series! I think that what really helped in part to create strong and pleasant relationships with my daughters-in-law was my understanding of the fact that we're all on the same team and not in competition with each other. They also gracefully and lovingly accepted me into their ranks which made my transition so much easier. Over the years, five grandkids were added to our family 'quilt' - as I like to call it - bringing along with them more blessings into my life.

Now, as Mother's Day is fast approaching, I would like to say to my sons how fortunate and how blessed I am to be their mother. My love for them knows no bounds... I'm so proud of them not only for their personal achievements but for the men they have become. They each live their own life, they have their own family to raise. I can now take a back seat and enjoy watching them do their

things. What a terrific feeling that is!... Even if they're not under my care anymore, they're still my children and as such they'll always be in my heart, thoughts and prayers.

To my daughters-in-law, I would like to say how much I appreciate their relentless devotion to their family. I am just a shadow behind them as I witness all the love and care they show toward their children. They invest their time and energy to make sure they're well taken care of physically and emotionally. A mom's job never ends... The tangible rewards may be few but I would tell them that they're raising the next generation of men and women that will make a difference in other people's lives one day. So, hang in there, moms! The years they invest now in the lives of their children are very important and I commend them for being such great moms. I love them with all of my heart and I'll always keep them and their families in my prayers.

Now, to all the women out there who are desperately trying to become pregnant but for some reason are unable to conceive, what can I say to you?.. I have not walked the path you're walking on so how can I understand what you're going through?.. How can my words be of some comfort to you in your moments of discouragement and hopelessness?.. I can only say that my heart goes out to you because I've witnessed one of my daughters-in-law going through the same thing. She was told by her physician that she couldn't conceive. Well, it wasn't meant to be because she finally gave birth to two beautiful children! She and her husband call them their 'miracle babies'! God gave her the joy of becoming a mother after ten years of marriage! So, only God knows what his plans are for you and they're all good; and it is my earnest prayer that you may find peace through these emotional times in your life.

A Prayer for all Mothers

*Thank you, Lord, that you fill a mother's heart with love,
That you have instilled in her very being the need to protect her children if at all possible,
Thank you for giving her the gift of nurturing her children, of teaching them, of comforting them,
for feeding them and making a safe place for them.*

*For guiding them to be all that God has created them to be.
Fill every mother with love, wisdom and endurance,
with strength and patience and joy.
Give them ability to forgive again and again.
Enable her to rely on You and call upon You, because You will give her all she needs.
In Your precious and all powerful name, Amen¹*

<http://thoughts-about-god.com/mothers/sample-mothers-day-prayers>



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