

What a year 2025 has been already. A Jubilee year, the death of a Pope a day after he blessed the world with his "urbi et orbi" on Easter Sunday, and now the election of an American born Pope, something that was thought to be improbable. Early background on Pope Leo XIV included interviews with his brothers and classmates, pictures of him at the World Series game, and stories of his service as a missionary in Peru. But what struck me most was an anecdote written about his mom. According to The Pillar article entitled "The American Pope," when Robert Francis Prevost was growing up in Chicago in the 1960's, a steady stream of priests passed through his family home, drawn by the irresistible dishes prepared by his mother, Mildred Martinez Prevost. Mrs. Prevost had a graduate degree from DePaul University, a master's degree in education, she had two sisters who became nuns, she was a contralto soloist in college, and took part in a forum called "Catholic Woman in the Professional World." Yet, despite an amazing resume, it might have been her role as a homemaker that helped to form her son, the future Pope.

According to Lumen Gentium #11, a document from the Second Vatican Council, "The family, so to speak, is the domestic church." This means that it is in the context of the family that we first learn who God is and to prayerfully seek His will for us. We, as mothers and homemakers, in addition to our professional roles, are so important in the formation of our families and the lives of our children. Cooking meals, welcoming guests to our home, volunteering and serving in our community, we never know what it might be that inspires our children to turn to faith in God, but this story about Mildred Prevost tells me that it might be those "little" things that matter the most.

So, as we head into the summer, as we gather with family and friends for picnics and parades and vacations, it might be a good time to prepare that favorite dish, invite over the neighbors or the parish priest for a meal, and make some happy memories that will help lead our families to Eternal Happiness.

And, June is packed with some pretty special liturgical celebrations:

June 8 - Pentecost

June 15 - The Solemnity of the Holy Trinity

June 22 - The Solemnity of Corpus Christi

June 24 - The Solemnity of the Nativity of John the Baptist

June 28 - The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

June 29 - The Solemnity of Peter and Paul