

MOTHERING OTHERS

May 10, 2020 Mother's Day

Easter 5

First Reading

~ from John 19:15b-16, 25-27

Pilate asked, "Do you want me to crucify your king?"
The chief priests replied, "We have no king but Caesar!"
Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, Mary, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple he said, "See, here is your mother." From that time on, the disciple took her into his home.

Second Reading

*~ adapted from Nancy Friday in
My Mother My Self : The Daughter's Search for Identity*

Sometimes I try to imagine a little scene that could have helped us both:

In her kind, warm, shy, and self-deprecating way, my mother calls me into the bedroom where she sleeps alone. She is no more than 25. I am perhaps six. Putting her hands (which her father told her always to keep hidden because they were "large and unattractive") on my shoulders, she looks at me right through my steel rimmed spectacles: "You know I'm not really good at this mothering business," she says. "You're a lovely child, the fault is not with you. But motherhood doesn't come easily to me. So when I don't seem like other people's mothers, try to understand that it isn't because I don't love you. I do. But I'm confused myself. There are some things I know about. I'll teach them to you. The other stuff-- sex and all that -- well, I just can't discuss those things with you because I'm not really sure where they fit into my own life. We'll try to find others who can talk to you and fill the gaps. You can't expect me to be all the mother you need. I feel closer to your age in some ways than I do to my mother's age. I don't feel that serene, divine, earth-mother certainty that she felt. I am unsure how to raise you. But you are intelligent, and so am I. With what I can give you, and with the help of others, we'll see that you get the whole mother package—all the love in the world. It's just that you can't expect to get it all from me."