

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In her spiritual memoir, the late Dorothy Hurley said, “To be a Mother is to be a person whose heart is walking around outside her body.” There are few people with more troubled hearts than Mothers. The trouble in their hearts has nothing to do with a lack of faith in God the Father or Jesus His Son. Rather it has everything to do with the love for those whom they bore in their wombs. I have little doubt that their troubled hearts indeed strengthen their faith in God because they are ceaselessly praying for those to whom they gave birth.

Not so long ago I stopped at my sister Louise’s home and found her standing at her kitchen sink with tears streaming down her face. Alarmed, I asked, “What’s wrong?” She wiped her tears and she said, “Nothing’s wrong. Today is Edward’s birthday.”

Edward, you see, was the fourth of her seven children. He was born with a hole in his heart. After getting just a brief glimpse of him, he was rushed from her arms to Children’s Hospital for surgery. After just fourteen hours of life, Edward died. And more than forty years later, his Mother still mourned his loss. Yes, there are few people with more troubled hearts than Mothers with hearts that overflow with love for the children of their wombs.

We are blessed to gather and worship under the patronage of a Mother whose heart was deeply troubled with the grief of watching her Son die on a Cross. We honor her with the title of Our Lady of Consolation and She, in turn, honors us with consolation for our own troubled hearts because no one can console us like our Mothers.

Thank You, Mothers! Thank you for your troubled hearts so full of love that are always ready to console us. Have a happy day!