

# Mother gave us the most sacred gifts of life

AS WE approach Mother's Day, I recall the comment of a modern writer, "In America, one day each year is devoted to mother, and an entire week to pickles."

Henry Youngman offered his perspective. "There's nothing like the joy of motherhood, especially when all the kids are in bed."

It is unfortunate that Mother's Day has been so commercialized by florists and candy makers. It could and should be a day of true tribute to the one who is responsible for all of us.

To tell the truth, mother is black and blue. She was placed on a pedestal where her hold was insecure — a little scotch tape and some old li-

brary paste were all that kept her from falling off.

SLINGSHOTS AND harsh words quickly knocked her down; a few well-placed kicks added to the bruises. Old behaviorists and new ones, psychologists and novelists all have had their say. Mom is found wanting. Some would like to dispense with her altogether.

Still, mother is both tender and tough. She can take it with a smile after she catches her breath and eyes her critics and adversaries. And nobody seems to have found an adequate substitute for her.

Mother has her supporters, too. Thank God for father and the chil-



moral  
perspectives  
**Rabbi Irwin  
Groner**

dren who express their love less vocally perhaps, but very wonderfully and in ways so tender they cannot be told. There are many different words and actions that say, "We love you."

MOTHERHOOD is more than a matter of bearing children. That is a biological experience. Motherhood is

nurturing the growth of children, their approach to life, their values and their ability to cope with the world. Talent, achievement and a fulfilling outlook on life itself are directly affected by the quality of the mothering process.

Psychologists have pointed to the dilemma of mother love. Love usually seeks to hold tight, to embrace closely. The mother loves her child selfishly and intensely. Without this love, the helpless human infant cannot grow and develop.

Yet this love is doomed from the outset, because the mother cannot expect to grow constantly closer to her child as time goes on. As the years pass, she must encourage in

her child his/her independence, so that he/she can become a self-reliant adult.

Mother's love, which holds tight, must then let go, must help the child grow away in order to grow up. It is extremely difficult to love and to leave, to hold tight and to let go, but this is precisely the artistry and discipline we expect of the mother.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, a well-known actress accepted an Academy Award and declared, "Thank you, mother, for whatever you did." Mom likes that kind of thanks. She tried her best. She is not so

sure what she did either. But the devoted mother knows one thing — her motherhood never stopped with her own family.

Her concern and devotion for her family was expressed in her sense of responsibility for the welfare of the wider community.

We recognize that mother provides us with the most valuable and sacred of gifts — love, encouragement, faith and commitment.

Our appreciation of these gifts is expressed in bestowing them reciprocally to Mother. In this way do we come to understand the meaning and value of life itself.

## volunteers

The following organizations need volunteer help:

**HELP WITH HANDICAPPED** — Far Conservatory of Therapeutic and Performing Arts, 1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham, provides creative programming for physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped individuals. Volunteers, 15 and older, are needed to assist instructors in classroom activities. Time commitment is one semester. For more information, call Nancy Joseph, 646-3347, weekdays.

**HELP CANCER PATIENTS** — The American Cancer Society, 6227 N. Inkster Road, Garden City, needs Recreation Aides to greet patients, help them fill out forms and hand out educational pamphlets. Volunteers should have experience working with the public and be a high school graduate. The time commitment is very flexible on weekdays. For more information, call Patricia Neagle, 425-6830, weekdays.

**ROLE MODELS** — Family Focus, 1800 Maple, Birmingham, needs volunteer Family/Parent Helpers to serve as role models for mothers with limited family life skills. Women, 21 and older, experienced in home management and child rearing, non-judgmental, and able to make two-four hour weekly commitment for one year should call Rita Gray, 642-3055, weekdays. Training provided.

For information on other opportunities or if your organization needs volunteers, call the Volunteer Action Center, United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit at 833-0622 between 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., or write 51 W. Warren, Detroit, MI 48201.

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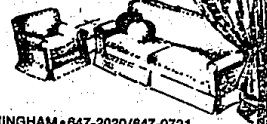
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