

This past week was national nurses week; or noticed teacher and staff appreciation week. It was also national corrections officers week and public servants recognition week. This coming week is Police appreciation week, EMS week, and not to be forgotten nursing home workers week. Last month you may have missed tele-communication workers week; volunteer week, library week, administrative professionals week; and laboratory professionals week. There's a week or day for everyone. To be thanked, to be appreciated; I think it could be summed up, people desire to be loved, or rather realize how often people don't care, so you need to have a week or day. But we all want to be appreciated, be thanked. Of course you know what today is.

You have something far greater working for you than a special day or week of appreciation, to be loved and noticed, for your appreciation and in thanks for you. Just this: **The Lord is praying for you, keeps you in His name, oneness with Him and the Father, sanctify them, holy them.**

What more could you desire? That's everything. **This living Word praying for you; keeping you in His name; prays you dwell in the living Word, oneness with the Lord, making you holy, forgiven.**

One of the great mysteries of the world is the survival of the church. Pretty amazing if you study history. The church has survived the rise and fall of kingdoms, tyranny, rise of heresies, false religions. Persecutions, the rise of Islam, communism, every attempt to wipe it out. The church survives false teachers, false teachings, reformation, wars within, wars against it, plagues, 2000 years of our mismanagement; but the Church keeps going. A mystery.

Let me let you in on this mystery. How has the church survived? Just this: Jesus prays for His Church. That's it, that's enough. The bridegroom prays for His bride, your mother the Church. **He prays, you dwell in the living Word, His truth, kept in His name, oneness with the Lord, sanctify them, forgiven.**

The Church isn't something we do. It's a miracle. The work of God building, sustaining His Church. God bringing the message of the cross and Christ to those who do not know Him, uniting them to Himself. And while God uses people like the apostles and folks like us – it's really His work.

This high priestly prayer of John 17, Jesus is praying for you. You are the answer to Jesus prayer. You are living proof that Jesus prayer was answered. Jesus continues to pray for you in His church.

**I have given them Your word and the world has hated them.** The world hates us for His name that we bear, His truth we confess. The world and evil one are relentless.

I am convinced we should, we ought to, look at one another with a great deal more pity than we do. There are women here who secretly grieve miscarriages or regarding children. They don't air it publically, but they're hurting. Men here struggling with addictions and haven't told anyone. People with mental illness; people dealing with abuse they've suffered; some who have terrible regrets and nightmares; some lonely; some depressed, who are afraid. Broken homes or

struggling to keep it together. You see: we're all the same; have regrets and shame; especially this day we think, when we do not/did not honor our mothers as we should; we've all buried a mother, grandmother. As kept in His name, we're all hated, been attacked.

You not worse than other people, more screwed up, less worthy, but also, you aren't better; the sympathy, compassion you would have from others, is what you owe to them. We all behave badly and fail in our duty. We would all like a little understanding, sympathy.

I am not saying that struggles, sorrow or pain justifies bad behavior. It doesn't. Yet we would all have the world be a little gentler to our mothers. We could start with ourselves, instead of being annoyed, frustrated, or becoming angry because someone is rude, doesn't thank or appreciate us, or cuts us off in traffic, or whatever, we might allow ourselves to moved to pity and kindness. May God have mercy on us all.

**I have given them Your word and the world has hated them.** Perhaps you've said this, "God won't give me more than I can handle?" It's not true. I know what you mean -God will take care of things, but the concept God will not give you more than you can handle is not in the Bible. Yes, 2 Corinthians God will not test you beyond your means and gives you a way out when faced with temptations. But God does give you more than you can handle. That's why He prays for you. It's why those without Christ will never be satisfied. You are not in control, not independent. anything you think you control, is an illusion.

Because you have more than you can handle in this world, **He prays for you, that you dwell in the living Word, kept in His name, oneness with the Lord, making you holy.**

The only reason you are here, have breath; He is praying for you and protecting and providing everything. Everything, working everything for your good.

Because you have more than you can handle in this world. He prays you have a faithful pastor, be in a faithful church; prays you remain in His gifts poured out here.

**Sanctify them in the truth. Your Word is truth.** the only reason why the Church has survived. His living Word. This living Word praying for us.

Also how you have survived. Why you have life. This living Word, poured over your head, His name upon you; this living Word placed upon your lips; ringing in your ears, dwells in you, joined to Him.

See, O child what truly matters is not the praise of this world and fortune, but you treasure the things of His kingdom. What really matters is not that you make a name for yourself here, but He keeps you in His name that you bear. What matters is not whether your mother was difficult or you praise God everyday for mom, what matters is you are one with Him in your eternal mother, the Church. What really matters is not how healthy you are, but that you are forgiven, holy and heir of life eternal in the One who gave His life for you. The inheritance is yours. It and your mother will never be taken away.