

Mary ,Blessed Mother, be with us today as we await another celebration of Christmas.

We wait in joyful hope as you did so long ago for the birth of your child.

How did you feel on that day and the days of waiting?

How did you feel when you raised your child in those turbulent times?

Did you have expectations of your son?

Did you imagine how his life would take shape? What kind of person he would be?

How did you feel in the days of his youth? His adulthood, and the years that followed?

Did you get caught up in the daily trials life focusing whole heartily on nurturing your child and family.

How different your life must have been that ours today. Yet as a woman and mother so much the same.

Did you dream and wonder about how your child's life would unfold as I do with my children today?

I speak to you today as a mother of 2 young men. As a mother for 24 years I am now at a new horizon,

I have fulfilled my role as guide and teacher, as healer and disciplinarian and I am now ready to step back and let my children find their way.

How did you manage that transition and learn to mother in a different way ?

Your son must have, as mine do, plainly demand the opportunity to become who they are destined to be.

While spending the last 24 years together we all grew, adjusted to the obstacles life placed before us,

And as those years progressed I begun to realize, as you to must have Mary, that despite my own expectations my children would follow their own path. They would find their own way in the world.

I realized that my personal desires and plans must be put aside, for they are to follow God's plan and not mine.

That as a mother I am only a link in the chain of God's plan.

Your visit with Elizabeth described to us today reminds me of the value of relationships in our lives.

My family was my support so many times during the raising of my sons.

Friends added to that support system to balance my guidance and nurture my spirit as I dealt with motherhood in a world where personal time is just about non existent.

Community activities, school and church became an outstretched family that reinforced the values that I hold so dear and became a treasured part of the formation of my children.

The impact that every person has on a child's development cannot be understated as it is the manifestation of God's will in us.

Still, these years later, I gaze upon the many pictures of my sons as babies and recall with great joy the wonder of the transformation of my child into Gods hands and feet on earth.

I wish that I was able to make time stand still and that I could personally care for their every need.

But as I have watched God's plan unfurl I know that I was the mother who needed to be there for my children.

I was guided by the hand of God to nurture them during the joys and pains of youth, the setbacks, defeats and the ever so many choices a young adult is confronted with today.

That even though my child belongs to God, I am the one who was chosen as their guide to enable them to live out Gods ways.

I know now that in the eyes of every child lies the hope for all humanity. The hope for peace, the hope for justice and the fulfillment of the spirit.

I pray that the love, you Mary, had for your son Jesus transcends to us here today that with your grace we can learn to love and accept each other despite the limitations of our earthly existence.

Blessed Mary, I thank you now as my children walk to adulthood, for granting me the wisdom to let my children live out their own lives.

I will rest assured that they will be come a part of God's great design as unknown to me today as at the time of their birth.

And I will have faith in the love that God will grant them despite their tribulations.

I pray to, for my children and for yours that they will be open to hear the will of God in their hearts just as your son Jesus did so long ago.

Amen