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*“For whoever does the will of my Father in Heaven is my Brother and Sister and Mother.”*  
Matthew 12:50

### **Mother’s Day isn’t to be taken for granted**

Dear Friend

Mothering is synonymous with nurturing. Whether it’s a wolf cub or a person, nurturing is paramount in the development of each living being. Lose nurturing and lose a good part of life’s potential. We have tragic examples, because of our former residential schools, that the lack of nurturing for indigenous children has had effects that last for generations.

So, Mother’s Day isn’t to be taken for granted. The modern version only came into existence in 1908 and it could disappear just as easily. Just ask Vladimir Putin or the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Even some segments of seemingly civilized society don’t get nurturing. At the recent Academy Awards Presentations, it was dismaying to see that making fun of someone’s physical condition is a source of laughter. Since that night, the perpetrator of the mockery has been given standing ovations just for coming on stage. That’s the opposite of nurturing. Those segments of society are giving lip service to nurturing. For those segments, Mother’s Day is in trouble.

Those who aren’t into nurturing stand to pay a heavy price. Recently the CBC called out a couple from Huntsville. The pair had bought an apartment building in New Brunswick in order to evict the tenants and renovate the building to increase the rent. These transactions have become known as “renovictions”. Because rent controls, in the New Brunswick community, stood in their way, they decided to turn the apartments into Air B and Bs. Air B and Bs are like bed and breakfasts without the breakfast. Air B and Bs don’t have the same rent controls as do other forms of tenancy. Renovictions, to establish Air B and Bs, are purely designed to legally get around rent controls that protect tenants. In Canada, it’s become greed’s big business, much to the detriment of all for which Mother’s Day stands. What’s impressive is that, while no charges have been laid, the two involved are clearly named. Huntsville isn’t that big. Everyone in Huntsville will almost surely know of the greedy pair. That’s a big price to pay.

Fortunately, some big players do take nurturing very seriously. In an ad you’ve probably seen from Loblaws, Canada’s biggest food chain, their Chairman indicates President’s Choice has developed an app for those experiencing depression; “There to connect you to the care you need.” A and W restaurants are really into nurturing. Grass fed Canadian beef is wonderful, but that round faced chap who hocks the burgers is a gem. His enthusiasm that customers be happy with his product, took me into their restaurant. The burger was delicious and I can tell they care about me because they call it a Teen burger. My favourite is the Canadian Tire Store’s, Jerrad, with the red tie. It’s his relationship with the customers and their dogs and cats. “Pets with clothes, never gets old”.

We have great examples of local groups who are really into nurturing. We look on these as partners of our Huron Shores United Church. There are food banks in Zurich and Ailsa Craig. There's our community's Sunset Foundation, Rotary Club of Grand Bend, Lions Club, and the Legion. At the Health Centre there's the Social Workers' program, "We Can Help". Our Lambton Shores government has stepped up for nurturing in direct co-operation with our Community of Faith to install the rainbow intersection. Though they have no formal relationship to HSUC, these organizations share our emphasis on nurturing.

When Jesus indicates whoever follows him is his family, his Brothers, Sisters and his Mother; this is Jesus talking about a global family that believes in nurturing. That family includes those of the Jewish faith, Muslim faith, Hindu faith, Indigenous faith, of any faith. It could include those of no particular faith. We don't have to use the same spiritual speak. I suggest the primary criteria for being part of this global family, is this concept of nurturing.

Agreed, segments of society pay only lip service to nurturing. That's not being part of this global family. In those segments of society, Mother's Day is in trouble. But for a significant part of the world, for the global family, Mother's Day is strong and healthy. At least, that's my perspective.

Much love to you and your whole family.

Until next time.

Peter

*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.  
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*