

HOW DO I SIGN UP TO BE A SPIRITUAL MOTHER?

Any woman can be a Spiritual Mother without formally "signing up" to be one. By prayers and sacrifices, many women have chosen to practice spiritual maternity and support priests in their vocation. The Spiritual Motherhood Sodality is formally offering to assist women in becoming Spiritual Mothers and would like to help with their ongoing formation according to the Magisterial teachings of the Church.

If you would like more information to become a Spiritual Mother, please visit us on the internet: www.spiritualmaternity.org, call us at (800) 818-0584, or fill out the form below. Also, if you would like to start a woman's group of Spiritual Mothers (a *Cenacle*), or if you would like to incorporate Spiritual Maternity within your already formed woman's group, we have the resources to assist you in that endeavor.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____

PHONE _____

Please return completed form to:

Spiritual Motherhood Sodality
7375 Day Creek Blvd., Ste. 103-223
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739

WHAT DO SPIRITUAL MOTHERS 'DO'?

It is important to note, Spiritual Motherhood is not a vocation in itself. It does not replace the married state, the consecrated life, or celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom. Rather, Spiritual Motherhood is a type of maternity experienced "within a vocation" for women who desire to help the people of God, especially of priests. The first and foremost duty for any Christian is to answer the universal call to holiness within their particular vocation and state of life.⁹

The practice of Spiritual Maternity is lived out in many different ways, such as: teaching students in a classroom, walking children to the bus, cooking a meal for a priest, washing the sacred linens for Mass, cleaning the Church, etc. And although the good works of Spiritual Mothers can be expressed in many different ministries, prayer, especially within the celebration of the Eucharist, is one of the greatest ways Spiritual Maternity can bear fruit and be effective.

Some prayerful recommendations for Spiritual Mothers are:

- Full and Active Participation at Mass and the offering up of Holy Communion
- Eucharistic Adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament
- Praying the Liturgy of the Hours, especially Morning Prayer (Lauds) and Evening Prayer (Vespers)
- Praying the Holy Rosary
- Making Spiritual Communions (throughout the day)

9) cf. Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*, 40.



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SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD

*"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart
of God is the heart of a mother."*

—St. Therese of Lisieux





*"Motherhood concerns the whole person,
not just the body..."*

—POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II, *MULIERIS DIGNITATEM*

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD?

Being a Spiritual Mother is a supernatural way to care for souls, especially priests. It is a type of maternity that nurtures divine life in others by doing God's will.

Theologically speaking, Spiritual Motherhood is a type of maternity women experience by grace, within their call to holiness, in imitation of Mary, Mother of Priests.¹ This type of motherhood "according to the Spirit" is made possible by participating in Mary's universal Spiritual Motherhood.²

WHEN WAS SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD ESTABLISHED?

The Blessed Virgin Mary's Spiritual Motherhood (that women can participate in) started with our Lady's Fiat (her "yes" to God's will) at the Annunciation, continued even at the Foot of the Cross when Christ entrusted Mary, Mother of the Church to St. John the Apostle, and will reach its culmination at the end of time.³

WHY SPIRITUAL MOTHERHOOD?

*"For whoever does the will of God is my brother,
sister and mother."—Matthew 12:50*

What lies at the heart of Spiritual Motherhood is faithfulness to the Gospel, that is, doing the will of God. After a woman on the streets of Palestine praised the Mother of Christ with the words, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!"⁴, Jesus exclaimed in response, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"⁵. Thus, in referring to His Mother, our Lord not only confirmed the importance of physical motherhood⁶, but in essence, pointed to a greater reality, fidelity to the plan of God⁷, which may be categorized as "Spiritual Motherhood."

Thus, in imitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was the greatest disciple of our Lord, the emphasis of Spiritual Motherhood for women is important because it draws attention to:

- Authentic Marian Femininity and Maternity: "The Feminine Genius"
- Devotion and Love for the Holy Eucharist
- Spiritually Adopting a Priest as *Alter Christus* ("Another Christ")

WHO CAN BECOME A SPIRITUAL MOTHER?

Any woman can become a Spiritual Mother regardless of her age, state of life and vocation. "This type of motherhood is not only for mothers of families, but is just as possible for an unmarried girl, a widow, or for someone who is ill."⁸

1) cf. Pope St. John Paul II, *Mulieris Dignitatem*, 19

2) cf. Pope St. John Paul II, *Mary has universal Spiritual Motherhood*, 2; Congregation for the Clergy, *Eucharistic Adoration for the Sanctification of Priests and Spiritual Maternity* (2nd Edition), Page 13

3) cf. Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*, 62

4) Holy Bible, Luke 11:27 (Revised Standard Version)

5) Holy Bible, Luke 11:28 (Revised Standard Version)

6) cf. Pope St. John Paul II, *Mulieris Dignitatem*, 19

7) cf. Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium*, 58

8) Congregation for the Clergy, *Eucharistic Adoration for the Sanctification of Priests and Spiritual Maternity*, (1st Edition), page 11

*"If the desired renewal of the Church depends for the most part on its priests, then it
will also depend to a large degree on the families, and in particular women and mothers."*

—POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II, MAY 4, 1987