

## Unconditional Love

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Daily, mothers are challenged with unexpected problems, one of which is to help their children work through crises. Unfortunately, we take mothers for granted by failing to thank them for the many sacrifices. Because of this obvious ungratefulness, it is logical to assume that many mothers in their quiet moments feel lonely and used.

If we really love our mothers, we will never be content with giving them a superficially pragmatic “thank you,” but will always try to put ourselves in their place and feel what they feel. Does your mother feel lonely and used? Believe me, if you have not thought of this before, your mother has felt this loneliness and this “love for being useful” which excludes a true unselfish love for another human being.

Are people today really communicating with one another? Are they really interested in other people as persons? Or are they, like immature adolescents whose personal feelings of worth are dependent on how many persons—*they feel*—love or, at least, are really interested in them? For we know that in today’s culture, too many people, instead of working to become competent, committed and mature, settle for a self-centered adolescent kind of condition that, unfortunately, continues to be prolonged. What does today’s cellphone, Facebook, Twitter, etc., teach us? Has impersonal technology taken the place of personal conversation and authentic interest in others?

And so, really loving and understanding your mother as a person with her own personal feelings and needs, can help you to love others in a mature, unselfish way. So changed, you can begin to love others, not in a saccharine sentimental way, but maturely and, like Christ, sacrificially, thus changing the world. We should, therefore, not hide behind our little electronic screens, but take charge of our lives—especially, of our promises, commitments and responsibilities to that woman who carried us in her womb for nine months and who still carries us in so many ways to Christian adulthood. We should follow through with our promise of thanks to our mothers; she, in turn, will help us in our Christian commitment to father, brother, sister, grandparents, friends and the many other who show us how to love unselfishly.

Why do we spend so much time behind our computers and phones? All of us need to turn them off and think of precious moments we can spend with our mothers. We can start by initiating meaningful chats which, if lovingly entered upon, will turn into conversations of friends.

In the Robert Browning’s famous poem *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* the townspeople do not keep their commitment; they do not keep their promise to pay the flutist for exterminating the filthy rats that ruined their city. As a reprisal for not keeping their promise, the angered Pied Piper took away their children.

*The Pied Piper of Hamelin* is much more than just a tale; it is a lesson we must remember. We should not allow family members to live disconnected one from one another. Let us, then, learn from this story to strengthen our true, stable love—not fleeting sentiment. It is time to move beyond a pragmatic love and develop an unconditional love. Being present and compassionate for our mother can help us develop a deeper relationship not only with our mothers but everyone.

Today, the Oratory students have prepared a short performance which includes *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*. We hope you enjoy this short presentation that they have prepared for you, dear mother, on this very special day.