

Dear KCC Community,

I hope you enjoyed Lent and Easter at KCC this spring. I watched as children, youth and adults nurtured spirits with ease and full of love.

Mother:
(muth'er) *n.*
1 A female parent 2 A woman who loves unconditionally
3 one who teaches, motivates, and encourages 4 one person who does the work of twenty ... for free
-See Also: Saint



Traditionally, this is the time of year when we take a special moment to thank our mothers. For those of us whose mothers have passed away, who have a mother who is living but is not herself due to an illness such as dementia, and who do not feel connected to our mothers, this can be an especially painful time of year.

Check out the definition in pink. This is the traditional definition of a mother. Within this stereotype, we think of only women, even

young women and girls when we think of the definition of a mother. They mother children, pets, and their stuffed animals and dolls. Using this definition can feel isolating to those who are in pain. Having lost my mother four years ago, I experienced the shock of my first Mother's Day as a new mom whose own mother was no longer in this world. For all of us in pain, this definition doesn't give us a way to heal. For people who are blessed to feel connected to their mothers may miss an opportunity to show gratitude to someone who doesn't fit the stereotype of a mother.

Why must we box ourselves into a limited idea of the people—and the animals—that care for us and bring us joy? In this special month, let's redefine who is capable of mothering us; let's redefine who we can mother.

If we toss out gender, we are given this definition and this gift:

Mothering

('məTHər) *v.*

1 A person or creature who parents 2 A person or creature who loves unconditionally 3 One who teaches, motivates and encourages 4 one person or creature who does the work of twenty...for free

-No need to be a Saint. In fact, non-Saints and people who strive for healthy life balance is preferred.



This definition gives us much more freedom when we wish to honor people who mother others. This month, I'm using this opportunity to acknowledge our teachers, teacher assistants, nursery staff member, the Youth Group, and the youth and children in Sunday School who helped make April [SPECTACULAR!](#)



Youth Group Teachers and Event Leaders

Part of mothering is sharing and teaching patiently. In Youth Group, Quest taught an art class and showcased his spray-painting skills to create an image of outer space.

In this class, youth group members learned:

- Blotting techniques to achieve specific effects including the shading on a moon
- To use negative and positive shapes to define planets, planet rings, and paint the background
- Methods to direct the spray to form stars and shooting stars



Each member experimented with the techniques and went home with they/her/his very own outer space artwork on a wood canvas. Special thanks to Quest and Enrique for sharing your talents and supplies with the group and for ensuring that safety was a top priority

when using spray paint as a creative medium.

When the Youth Group members are not making art, they contribute to KCC by running the Easter Egg Hunt, or the concession stand at the Memorial Day Race and Parade. This year, my first year working on the hunt, was an incredible experience because the youth showed strong leadership, enormous patience and a genuine understanding of teamwork. The hunt was a big success due to their diligence and kindness. Check out photos of their own egg hunt on the KCC Facebook link in the May Chimes.

Easter Sunday School Shenanigans

It takes the KCC village to give the children and youth a super-fun Easter in Sunday School.

- Thank you to the congregants who donated supplies for the egg dyeing and resurrection rolls. Because of you, each child had the option to dye three eggs and take them home in little baskets. And, each child and youth ate they/her/his weight in resurrection rolls. There were smiles all around!
- The 4th graders through 11th graders mentored individual Pre-Kindergarteners through 3rd graders by escorting them to each station and assisting with egg dyeing and craft-making. (This year the craft was a bunny eating a carrot.) The teachers were impressed by the children and youth's ability to see beyond their own needs, to make the children feel safe and to contribute a calm and grounding energy to the classes.
- Lastly, I so appreciate the teachers and teaching assistants for their positive and patient presence on Easter and every Sunday. They are a wealth of knowledge and love for the children and youth. For me, they are models of commitment to family and community.



Bonds of Love



Over the past few months, Lexi worked on her relationship with some of her little ones who were hesitant to join the nursery. This comes naturally to her and is reassuring for parents and caregivers who wish to spend time in worship. Lexi gently reassures, coos, smiles, and gives love and hugs to our youngest congregants. The results are heartening. She finds a way to the hearts of our little ones and eventually they bond. This magic, this bond, gives parents the time to take care of their own spirits while feeling that their children are safe and happy. Thank you, Lexi for ensuring that our young children feel loved and safe.

Happy Mother's Day!

On a personal note, I wish to thank all of those people and pets who mothered me in my life. Since high school, I "collected" mother figures. However, after the loss of my mother four years ago, I am more aware and in need of their advice, love and listening ears. Thank you to all of my mothering peeps for holding me up and seeing my heart. Because of you and my own hard work, I am whole and renewed.

Wishing you and those who mother you a wonderful Mother's Day. I am thankful for you. Your investment in mothering others is an invaluable contribution to the KCC Community and the Greater San Diego Community.

Blessings to you,
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