



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Church Connection May 2016

*Strengthening,
Preserving
& Promoting
Marriage,
Family, Life &
Liberty*

*Her children arise up,
and call her blessed;
her husband also, and
he praiseth her.*
Proverbs 31:28

*Thou therefore endure
hardness, as a good
soldier of Jesus Christ.*
II Timothy 2:3

Mark Your Calendar

WFC Presents:
"2016: It's All About You"
(Your impact in 2016)

Thurs., May 12, 6-8 p.m.
Fond du Lac Pizza Ranch

For more information or
to register for an event, call
888-378-7395

*"I remember my
mother's prayers and
they have always
followed me. They
have clung to me all
my life."*
Abraham Lincoln

Uncommon, Unselfish Character

Some things are worth remembering and honoring. We set aside two days in May to do just that for two special groups of people—mothers and fallen military personnel. These two May celebrations share a common thread: sacrifice.

On Mothers' Day we honor and recognize moms for their ongoing sacrifices. From conception to adulthood mothers sacrifice for the good of their children.

Mothers who are worthy of the name give sacrificially of their time, their physical well being, their money, their comfort, their emotions, their energy, their plans, their own wants and often their own needs. They do this to meet the needs and often the wants of those they cherish.

When mothers don't sacrifice, children and families suffer in ways too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say that motherhood is definitely not for the selfish or self-centered. It requires an "it's all about you" attitude rather than the "it's all about me" attitude so prevalent today. Motherhood done well is a thing of rare beauty and exemplifies the true sacrificial spirit Scripture exhorts us to cultivate. It may be hard for some moms and easier for others, but for all of them, the real sacrifice is hiding from their loved ones those times when they would like to do anything other than make yet one more sacrifice—and they do it anyway. That takes character and that is why we honor moms on Mothers' Day.



Military service requires the same selfless attitude. The best military personnel are men and women who understand sacrifice.

Every military engagement demands sacrifice. Today, when we have a volunteer army rather than a compulsory draft, that's especially evident. Young men and women who enlist today in one of our armed services know that they will be asked to sacrifice.

continued on back

Pray...

- For the mothers in your church to have wisdom, determination and humility to be effective and godly mothers.
- For our military personnel who are in harm's way and for their families.
- For the salvation of friends and family and of our elected officials at all levels.
- For the people of God to be actively engaged in Great Commission living and to be salt and light.

Consider...

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a brave German theologian who resisted the evils of Hitler's Nazism. He said: *"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."* May God grant His people grace to speak truth boldly and winsomely that we might be difference-makers. Only action changes the world!

They'll sacrifice their families and the comfort of home for danger and discomfort in some foreign country. They'll sacrifice their will to do the will of their superiors. They'll sacrifice their physical comfort, pushing themselves to the limit time and again. They may likely sacrifice their future, or at least the timing of their future plans, and yield to the time schedules of the military, which can be instantaneous or indefinitely protracted. They'll sacrifice their safety and put themselves, willingly, in harm's way.

And they may, as have many before them, be asked to make the ultimate sacrifice. For some who made that sacrifice, it was to save a fellow soldier. For others, it was because they simply made the decision to join the military to defend this country and their fellow citizens.

On Memorial Day, we remember and honor those who made the sacrifices required to serve our nation—to serve us. Some died in battle and some died long after they had served. But they all sacrificed.



Mothers and military personnel sacrifice because they believe in who and what they are sacrificing for. They realize there's something bigger than themselves. They know achieving their goal demands sacrifice, whether it is God-honoring children or a secure and free nation. They show by their choices uncommon, unselfish character. We rightly remember and honor them.

Sacrifice is a lesson we all need to learn. These are challenging days in many ways. It may be that great and unusual sacrifice will be required of many. It may be that those who have had mothers who modeled sacrifice and those who have given a loved one to the military are among those who will sacrifice most readily for the good of this great country as we try to find our way in an uncertain time. Surely such a demand for sacrifice will test the fiber of this nation. Will we have the uncommon, unselfish character required for such a test?

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986. We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening and preserving marriage, family, life and liberty in our state.

"Church Connection" is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.

PO Box 14440 | Madison WI 53708 | 888-378-7395 (toll free)
info@wifamilycouncil.org | wifamilycouncil.org