

Reflection October 2024



My Dear Friends, what does family mean to you? Lately I have been giving this a lot of thought. As I get older [I had a birthday at the end of last month] family in all its forms becomes uppermost in my mind. My immediate family is made up of three children and their spouses, and three adult grandchildren, all of whom are at university this academic year, and apart from my youngest daughter, who lives nearby, are spread around the UK. But I have other people who live closer who are like family to me. I have close friends, church friends and MU friends all who look out for me, spend time with me and work alongside me. If we read our bible, we will discover lots of instances when family is at the forefront of daily life. We could start with the Holy Family; one we are familiar with particularly at Christmas. We read about the family of Mary, Martha and Lazarus and the part they played in the life of Jesus and his disciples, another 'family'. On the 28th of this month we remember St Simon & St Jude two of the disciples, who we are told, travelled to Persia and wider afield to preach the Gospel, not only as disciples but brothers, working together in love for each other and those they met. As members of the MU, we are members of a huge worldwide family looking out for one another and walking beside members of our community. We can do this easily even if we are not very mobile and don't get out much. We can continue to support the work of our dioceses as they in turn support families whose life has met with adversity, by providing AFIA holidays or days out, toiletries and knitted items for those in hospital, maybe some of you are busy sharing in the knitting, providing items for our local food banks or refugees, as well as being part of the worthwhile campaigns organised by the staff at MSH. These raise awareness of the difficulties which among other things face our sisters wherever education is a challenge.

At this time, we are being asked to support the latest campaign by helping to 'Empower HER Literacy' Most of us take literacy for granted but 480 million women around the world can't read or write, making it difficult for them to register the birth of a child, read a medicine bottle, open a bank account and gain independence. **EMPOWER HER LITERACY**



This campaign asks that we sign up by visiting the MU website. I understand that for some that may not be possible but I know you are very good at chatting with your 'family' which ever form that takes, and I know that members of your family will be able to log in. To help you the address you need is

www.mothersunion.org/empowerher where you will be able to join in this important campaign to change the lives of women enabling them to be on an even footing with those of us who take reading and writing for granted.

If our sisters around the world are able to become literate this will change their lives. It will enable them to be on a level footing with other members of their family, their friends both personal, friends from church and friends in the MU. It will mean they will not only be able to improve their lives in every day things they will be able to read their bibles and learn first hand about the Prophets, the Disciples and of course the work which Jesus did, making us all members of His family. At the end of last month Rob Dawes, one member of our MU family, who had worked tirelessly for the MU for 15 years left to take up new challenges. We will miss Rob but we look forward to welcoming his successor as we welcome other joiners to our worldwide family. We look forward also to welcoming all those who, in January will take on new roles in our family. We look forward to saying hello to Kathleen Snow as our Worldwide President together with the members of the new Trustee Board. Each of us will look forward to working with new family members who will take on different roles in our dioceses. I think all this is exciting, because all families change and grow and need our help in different ways. So, lets open wide our arms to welcome new members into our own families, whether that be personal, more close friends, church friends or friends from other walks of life.

Let us also remember that we all belong to the best and most loving family of all. THE FAMILY OF GOD.

Love & Prayers

Jenny

Let us pray

Father, we thank you that you have created us into families, so that we may live, play, work, rejoice and grieve together. Above all, we thank you that we are able to be members of your family and mothers in your church. We thank you for our Christian family throughout the world. We pray that our hearts may be united in prayer so that we are able to share one another's burdens, rejoice in one another's blessings and strengthen one another in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen

Doris Decker, Diocese of Ghana. From prayers we breathe

Saints Simon and Jude, you were privileged to learn from Jesus Himself. After His Ascension, you were among the first to receive the Holy Spirit and Ordination as Bishops. God used you to go forth and fulfil His command to share the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Please pray that I will more fully understand my mission within the Body of Christ and will fulfil my duties with diligence and love.

Saints Simon and Jude, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Father God, we ask your blessing on our Empower Her Literacy Campaign. Touch the hearts and minds of those you would call to sign up to this campaign, so that the word is spread and those who need may be able to get help which will enable them to grow in confidence, courage and stature and be able to take their place in a world of equality. In Jesus name, Amen

The Lord's Prayer