As I gain more perspective in life, I grow in my appreciation of Mother’s Day and the heroes that it celebrates. It seems that a “Mother’s Week” would be more appropriate for the role that a mother plays in the lives of her children.

Through the life experiences with my own mother, my wife’s mothering of our children, and the mothers I have had the honor of meeting through St. Raymond’s Society, I have a deeper appreciation of those that are blessed to carry this most distinguished name of mother.

I’m not sure how to fully express those feelings through words, but I will attempt to in this simple poem, expressed through the eyes of a child. Maybe what I would have said as a youngster if I could, but wasn’t able to until now.

Mom,

Our time together started in a most special way,
Days I don’t remember, yet the bond is here to stay.

Early memories I have were made by your side,
Walking hand in hand, you my trusted guide.

You work in many ways to make sure I am clothed and fed,
You comfort me when sick, and make sure I’m tucked in bed.

When we’re together, you make sure I’m safe and in good care.
Even when we’re apart, your concern for my well being is there.

As time moves on, there will come a day with distance between you and I,
Though space can separate us, our connection cannot be denied.

And just like in the beginning when I was carried by you,
Now I in turn, carry a piece of you and pass on a love so true.

Happy Mother’s Day
IS IT POSSIBLE TO BECOME DEBT FREE ON A LOW INCOME? YOU BET IT IS!

Everybody knows that it doesn’t matter how much money a person makes if they don’t know how to manage it. St. Raymond’s Society believes this so strongly that this is exactly where we begin with each and every mother we work with. And the results are astounding!

After graduating Financial Peace University and in just under two years, Faith and Zuleima are living a DEBT FREE life! These young mothers have managed to pay off a whopping $42,680 in outstanding debt! This debt ranged from credit cards and medical bills to student, auto and personal loans.

These ladies are one HUGE step closer to self-sufficiency. They are excited about their family’s future and the opportunities that debt freedom has opened up for them. They now have a “step up” on their peers - according to national statics the average personal debt in their age group is $35,000.

“The interest rate seemed like a swear word when I was in debt. Now I am using it in my favor and I love it!” – Faith

“Each time I was able to pay off a debt, my stress level decreased significantly!” – Zuleima

EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

We find that most single mothers have inadequate education or lack job skills or experience, and therefore cannot achieve self-sufficiency wages without first addressing education and/or job training.

How is she supposed to go back to school when she is working 40+ hours a week and still not meeting her family’s basic needs – food, housing, transportation and childcare?

This is where St. Raymond’s Society enters the picture. Our first step is to stabilize these fragile families by assisting with their immediate needs; e.g. healthy food, secure housing, dependable transportation and safe childcare. As soon as we introduce the My RIDICUOUSLY AMAZING Life© program into the equation, extraordinary things start to happen!

Working with her Success Coach, she embraces this innovative approach to goal setting and action planning and she begins experiencing success like she never thought possible. And before you know it, she is a college graduate living a ridiculously amazing life!
SPECIAL INVITATION: Roundtable discussion with Vice President Mike Pence

“I went from being a homeless, pregnant, part-time waitress to a breastfeeding mom, a college graduate employed in my field of study with a 401K, a business owner, and most importantly, I am a baptized Christian!” ~ Faith, Banquet for Life, March 2018

But her journey didn’t stop there. Over the past year, Faith has been extremely busy. Here’s a bit of what she has been up to:

- Received a promotion and a professional certification
- Routinely contributes to her 401K
- Attended Financial Peace University © by Dave Ramsey
- Purchased a new vehicle with cash
- Paid off all debts and maintains a debt free lifestyle

Faith confessed to VP Pence that she was feeling a bit star struck, he replied, “I feel the same way, Faith.”

Faith continues to publicly share her story. Most recently she and baby Noah traveled to Washington, DC to meet with our Congressmen to educate them on the importance of organizations like St. Raymond’s Society to mothers who are facing an unplanned pregnancy.

Faith was invited discuss the impact community organizations had on her decision to parent her son, Noah, rather than have an abortion. She eloquently explained to VP Mike Pence, “Without the assistance and guidance I received from my pregnancy center and St. Raymond’s Society, I would not be where I am today. I am a successful business woman and mother. I am twenty-three and debt free! I am living a ridiculously amazing life!”
St Raymond’s Society is more to me than just housing for single moms. They are family. They guided me through the dark tunnels when I lost my babies for 5 months. They helped me get them back. They provided me with the tools I needed to succeed in life. They provided me with housing, food when I couldn’t get my own, a car, and a mentor who helped me get my license. So if you’re in there and you see this, please take it serious. Let them help you. You can do this! If you’re in a dark place just know St Raymond’s is your light!

St. Raymond’s let me know I wasn’t alone. I wouldn’t trade life right now for anything. I’m happier now than what I’ve been in a long time…a long time.

I moved out to my own apartment and I was able to pay two months’ rent, my deposit, and a couple of my first utility bills all with money I saved at St. Raymond’s.

Sheri

Rita

Brooklyn

Our Tax Credits

A Great Return on Your Donation

Any donation to St. Raymond’s Society over $100 qualifies for Missouri State Tax Credits. The chart below demonstrates the power of these tax credits.

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<th>Donation Amount</th>
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HERE’S HOW IT WORKS:
50% State Credit + 6% State Deduction + Federal Deduction

St. Raymond’s Society
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