

THE CHURCH OUR MOTHER



#1 BIRTH

- **John 3:3** Jesus answered and said to him, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”
- “Today, your children have received the pledge of life and have become rooted in the True and Orthodox Faith. The day on which they were born, they were slaves and not free. But today, they have become conquerors over the plots of the wicked.” (Holy Baptism)
- **1 Pet 1:22-23** Love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been **born** again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible



#2 NOURISHES

- Through liturgies, praises, Bible studies, sermons, readings, conferences, retreats, camps, trips to monasteries & convents to spend time with the monks & nuns . . .
- She nourishes us not just spiritually, but also emotionally, socially, intellectually
- She nourishes us with a balanced diet of the various seasons
- Our Mother the Church, tailors the diet to each of her children individually. – And She starts us off with spiritual milk – and as we grow, she adds in some solid food.
- From pre-K → Sunday School → Youth → camps & retreats → premarital → marriage & parenting → seniors → until the last breath, She is feeding us a nice balance diet custom-designed for us for our best benefit!



#3 PROTECTS

- Ever heard of the term “Mama Bear”
- Watchmen, warnings of danger from afar
- Clergy and servants having seminaries, retreats, camps & conferences to teach, to warn and to correct wrong ideologies.
- Martyrs fighting to keep the faith for us even if it means losing their lives for it.
- Church Fathers fighting and resisting, and holding councils, and writing letters. Also, at the risk of their lives too, just to protect their spiritual children



#4 THE WARM BOSOM

- Mama – Ouch!
- Not just through providing us with our beloved self-sacrificing fathers of confession who are always there for us when we need them
- Believe me, when you're hurting, you can just come in her "NAVE" her arms, and sit here in one of the pews quietly and rest in Her bosom and let Her do Her work
- The Bosom of the Father is a most appropriate name



#5 ANAM WE TESHARY

- “أنام و تسهري و تباتي تفكري” = “I sleep while You stay up & think of me”
- The Church is never satisfied with my state And always wanting me to grow and to improve
- She’s always planning something else, some new service, some new meeting, . . .etc. to do for me to help make me better and better.
- She’s always thinking of potential dangers approaching me . . .
- Your Mother the Church is just consumed with your best eternal welfare



#6 SHE NEVER RESTS WHEN I'M SICK

- Watchful
- Fasting & Praying
- Prostrating
- [Acts 20:31](#) for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears
- [2 Cor 2:4](#) For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears
- She keeps seeking for me the remedies that lead to life! “[You have bound me with all the remedies that lead to life](#)” (Liturgy of St. Gregory)



#7 UNCONDITIONALLY KEEPS LOVING ME EVEN WHEN I'M BAD

- Even when I make a mess of things and cover myself in filth
- Always hopeful and waiting for me when I stray
- Even when I'm busy with life and my own responsibilities or just ignoring her and "living life & having fun" . . . She never gives up!
- And keeps calling, checking on me to see if I need anything, keeps coming to visit me



#8 DELIGHTS IN NOTHING MORE TO SEE ME GROW UP MORE & MORE LIKE MY FATHER

- The Bride is One with her Bridegroom
- “He who does not have the Church as his Mother, does not have God as his Father”
St. Cyprian and St. Augustine
- The best gift I can give her in return, is to be good. To grow up to be like my Father. That’s all she wants for me!
- The better I get, the happier She gets!



HER BEAUTY AND STRENGTH IS EVER RENEWED NO MATTER HOW OLD SHE GETS

- But if she ever needs anything
- To what extent will I go to try to repay a fraction of a fraction of all that she has done and keeps doing for me and for my kids her grandchildren
- Yes, She is the One Only Holy // the Pillar and Foundation of the Truth // the House of God// the House of the angels. . . and much more.
- But I think it would behoove us to look at her as “Mama Elkeneessa” and so much will naturally organically fall into place









**AS THE WORLD
DARKENS, THE POWER
AND EFFECT OF YOUR
LIGHT INCREASES!**

For Christ to abide
in me

Psalm 133:1

Behold, how good and how
pleasant it is for brethren to
dwell together in unity!

