

Small Talk – May 7 2021
MN Required Facial Covering
When In Public and Closed Spaces – Day 287
By Michael Small

Typically, in early May, there are two epic events that collide or merge for those who reside in Minnesota – the fishing season opener for walleye, bass, trout in lakes, and northern pike, and of course Mother's Day. From the most recent publication of *Northland Outdoors* the headline reads **FISHING OPENER IS MAY 15, NOT MOTHER'S DAY**. "This year the May 15th MN Fishing Opener takes the prize for the latest possible opener under Minnesota statute." Thus, "this year's *Take a Mom Fishing Weekend* — when Minnesota-resident moms can fish without purchasing a license — is Saturday, May 8, to Sunday, May 9. Though the walleye season won't be open, fishing is open for other species including crappie, sunfish, or even under-appreciated fish like buffalo, sucker, bullhead, or sheepshead".

Frankly, I think "*Take a Mom Fishing Weekend*" loses it bit of its punch, not being able to fish for the coveted Walleye of the north. Will the tension, balance, marriage of Mother's Day and the fishing opener (but separation this year) throw off traditions that are well grounded in Northern Minnesota? Some mothers and fathers will be called to share this weekend in a different and creative way.

The silver lining in all of this is that the focus for this weekend can be on the nature of motherhood, mothers, those who have been as mothers to each of us and to many others, the importance and power of the feminine, birth, and all the stages and spirit of mothering. Please hear me, with the limitations of being a male, with caution – I also note that Mother's day is not always an idyllic, warm, fuzzy, and loving weekend with smiles all around. Mother's Day harshly reminds some of their loss and/or separation from their children. It is terribly difficult for those who have tried and tried to have children but have failed. Mother's Day can be a weekend shaped by memories and experiences of struggle and pain. Also, this holiday too often raises unrealistic expectations and takes mothers to a place of guilt and a sense of failure for not doing more or being a better mother. This weekend can be over-shadowed by regrets.

Thus, I would say to each of us, be find ways to be caring and gentle this weekend. Genuinely thank your mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers for all the many ways they have been "mother". Shower them with love and your presence as best as you are able. (It's not just chocolate and flowers – but much more) For those whose mothers have died, ponder who they were with a sense of thanksgiving and gratitude. As they birthed you upon this earth, as they walked with you - know that they still are present and shape and impact your life. Whether you are female or male think about the ways you can with love and positively "mother" others with tenderness, love, clarity, gentleness, firmness, and by simply being present.

I would even argue that in our images of God there are no less than five critical “mothering” traits of how we perceive/experience God – “nurturing, caring, protecting, loving, and guiding”. For all humans there exist feminine and the masculine traits that shape and drive who we are and who we are to become. And that is a good thing. It brings balance and wellness to life. Too often power and decisions throughout our history and has been driven by only the masculine – to our peril! There is a hunger for good, profound, and noteworthy feminine (and masculine) leadership.

And after all that I have said and done with the above words, the bottom line for this weekend – **Happy Mother’s Day.**

In the spirit and agape love of Jesus, Michael

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