

## Novena for Mother Selma's Love

### Reflection:

#### Isaiah

Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb?  
Even should she forget, I will never forget you.

Hear me, O house of Jacob, all who remain of the house of Israel, My burden since your birth, whom I have carried from your infancy. Even to your old age I am the same, even when your hair is gray I will bear you; It is I who have done this, I who will continue, and I who will carry you to safety. Whom would you compare me with, as an equal, or match me against, as though we were alike?

#### Romans

What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate.  
Now if I do what I do not want, I concur that the law is good... The willing is ready at hand, but doing the good is not. For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want.  
Now if (I) do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

So, then, *I discover the principle* that *when I want to do right, evil is at hand.*

#### Luke

Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also.

#### Zephaniah

He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, He will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

### Contemplation

The extreme condition of “forgetting one’s child” is directed to the Canaanite practice of child sacrifice to the god Molech. It is a stark example of how deep our contradiction runs. Saint Paul later describes it in another way ‘*For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate*’.

Yet at the same time, Mother having *carried from your infancy, I who will continue, and I who will carry you to safety*. Mother, she does not forget and will not stop trying to help her child even when pain and disorientation get in the way.

- In what ways can we retranslate Mother’s action as attempts to help, poorly executed?
- In what ways can we see Mother.... remembering the good?

### Novena:

Almighty God and Father, I yearn for the sight of Your face, the touch of your hand and the caress of your love. I want to hear your voice, singing to my soul and comforting me. Father, I want this for my Mother Selma, too. That she too can know your love and presence. And, Almighty God, may Mother be your face for me, touch for you, voice for you within me... and may I be Your voice for Mother.

I pray in confidence with the whole Church, Mother Mary, the Angels and Saints in the Name and Power of Our Lord, Your Son, Jesus Christ in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

### References:

Isaiah 49:15; 46:3-5

Romans 7:7:15 and following

Like 2:35

Zephaniah 3:17