



A Mother's Love

A Tribute to Eleanor Chavez



Tammy Cook's Monthly Update

May 2017

This month I want to celebrate the gift of motherhood. It is Justice For All's (JFA) hope that by making abortion unthinkable, more women will choose life for their children and experience the gift of motherhood. I consider the gift of motherhood one of the greatest gifts that God has ever given to me.



My Mother, Eleanor Chavez, was another one of the greatest gifts that God has given to me. She was also one of the most influential people in my life. She passed away two weeks ago on May 15, the day after Mother's Day, after a short illness. Even though she no longer lives on this earth, she has left an indelible mark on me. She will forever be a part of this world through our memories of her. But most of all, her memory will live on through the impact that she made on countless lives.

Together, she and my Dad (Pete Chavez, d. 2008), raised ten children. Not only did my Mom perform all of the ordinary tasks of raising children, she did them with extraordinary love. She showed us how to love by her faithful submission to God.

From the moment she met someone, she greeted him or her with a big smile. Her joy for life was evident in everything that she did. She didn't waste time complaining, but instead she focused on doing whatever needed to be done to solve a problem or situation. And she cared deeply for the most vulnerable and worked tirelessly to help them. She and my Dad also traveled to Venezuela twice to assist with mission work.

Mom rarely sat still. She was often cooking or caring for the needs of others, or enjoying one of her many hobbies. She loved gardening and canning. She was a very good cook and her recipes are still being used by our families. I have fond memories of my childhood spending time with her in the kitchen and learning how to cook at a young age. I am thankful that even in the midst of raising children (seven, at the time), she took time to teach me how to play piano at age five. And she taught me how to sew when I was ten. I made many of my own clothes in high school, and later made clothes for my children. She taught me to crochet, to do macrame, and to needlepoint. In her retirement years, she taught herself how to make jewelry and marketed it. She also learned to make pottery (she even had her own kiln) and made many gifts for our family, including a beautiful 16-piece nativity set that I will always cherish.



During my childhood, our family spent a lot of time outdoors. We all helped with the planting, weeding and harvesting of our enormous garden. You could frequently find all of us in the backyard playing six-on-six basketball with "set-shot Eleanor" in the middle of the action, or she might be swinging a bat in an impromptu game of softball.

She was a doting grandmother who relished not only spending time with her grandchildren, but also taking them on many adventures, including picking peaches at the orchard, exploring new water

parks, and taking trips to Colorado to visit family every summer. Every year on Easter, she organized an Easter egg hunt for most of her 25 grandchildren. As we look at photos from her life, we are reminded of so many fond memories of her. We have enjoyed the reminders of the numerous matching outfits that she sewed for her children and grandchildren.

Most importantly, it was abundantly clear in our home how much she loved God and desired to serve Him. She volunteered her gift of self to so many people and organizations and exemplified what God has called each of us to do — to lay down one's life for another. She volunteered countless hours in her church for over 50 years. She served as president of the Altar Society, and as Chairman of her guild several times. She helped with cleaning the church, serving dinners at funerals, and assisting at wedding receptions. She made hundreds of cinnamon rolls and homemade donuts over the years for church fundraisers. She was always dependable and didn't shy away from leadership.

What a gift this world was given! And I am deeply touched that God chose Eleanor Chavez to be my Mom. She was an AMAZING mother who graced my life and everyone around her. She lived a life that was bursting with love. The legacy she left behind is not treasure of this world, but treasure of family ... a family who will grieve her loss, but also go out and continue working to make this world a better place, just as she has done.



Mom and her girls

Mom made a difference in this world by the impact that she had on each of her ten children. Many of her children chose service-oriented professions and are making their own positive impact on the lives of others. Many of you have been impacted by JFA's work and, in a way, your life has been touched by my Mom because of the impact that she had on me. She had a tireless dedication to saving the unborn from peril, and she

volunteered many hours with JFA and other pro-life organizations in Wichita.

It is difficult to lose a loved one, but I take great comfort knowing Mom is no longer suffering from Alzheimer's or pain. But most of all, I am comforted by the promises that Jesus made to us about Heaven, and I am thrilled that she is enjoying her heavenly reward. I would, however, appreciate your prayers as I grieve this loss. And if you knew my Mom, it would give me great joy to hear what she meant to you or anything about her.

I will never be able to repay my Mom for the hundreds of things she did for me over the course of her life, nor the countless sacrifices that she made for me and my siblings. Her giving nature has always been an inspiration to me and I strive to emulate her love for others.

A memorial fund has been established with JFA (Eleanor L. Chavez Memorial). My Mom would love that JFA can reach even more people with a message of love and truth about abortion through this fund. If you would like to donate to it, you can mail a check to our office with a note, or go online and donate at www.jfaweb.org/donate. Just indicate in the "More Information About Your Gift" field that it's for this memorial fund. Thank you for helping celebrate the gift of motherhood. May God bless you.

In Christ,

Ways to Honor Eleanor:

- ◇ Memorial Gift
- ◇ Prayers for Tammy
- ◇ Share what Eleanor meant to you