

JOHNNY'S AND MOTHER'S MEMO

From: Stories, Parables and Fables of life of P. Ribes, s.j.

Published by Gujarat Sahitya Prakash

Intent of the Story

- ✓ *To realize that Mother's love is a free gift.*
- ✓ *To grow in love and appreciation for our Parents*
- ✓ *To love our parents is not for profits but out of gratitude.*
- ✓ *To be sensitive to our Parents' feelings.*

Target audience

Parents and children.

The Story

Johnny's twelfth birthday was around the corner. Being a very friendly and outgoing boy, he had lots of friends both in school and neighborhood.

To celebrate his birthday, he wanted to throw a large party for all his dear friends. But, he had no money.

He racked his brains to find out means and ways to raise funds for his dream party, then all of sudden he found a way: He would bill his mum for services done for her in the house during the entire year.

Carefully, he his wrote his bill and placed it on the dining table under his mum's plate. The bill read thus:

JONNY'S MEMO FOR THE ERRANDS DONE FOR MUM DURING THE ENTIRE YEAR.

<i>For bringing the milk every morning</i>	<i>2 X 365 = Rs: 730</i>
<i>For taking Baby to the Nursery school</i>	<i>2 x 200 = Rs: 400</i>
<i>For washing the cutlery and crockery</i>	<i>2 x 365 = Rs: 730</i>
<i>For clearing the dining table</i>	<i>2 x 365 = Rs; 730</i>
<i>For mopping the kitchen floor</i>	<i>2 x 365 = Rs: 730</i>
<i>For many other errands done without grumbling</i>	<i>Rs; 1000</i>

Total: Rupees: Rs; 4320

From your loving and faithful son

Johnny.

At lunch time, mum found Johnny's bill. She read the bill. Her face turned sad, two tears rolled down her cheeks. She said nothing.

At suppertime, when Johnny sat at table, he found an envelope under his plate. Eagerly, thinking of getting his money, he opened it. But, instead of the expected money, he found a memo from his mum. The memo read like that:

MUM'S MEMO TO JONNNHY FOR 'TWELF YEARS' OF UNSELFISH LOVE AND SERVICE.'

For carrying you in my womb for nine months with love and Joy: Rs; 00

For giving you birth with much suffering and gladness: Rs; 00

For feeding you with love, from your birth till today. Rs: 00

For keeping awake so many nights during your sicknesses. Rs: 00

For getting you to school and seeing to your lessons.. Rs: 00

For sending you for tuitions that you may do well in your lessons Rs; 00

For the best doctors and best medicines when sick. Rs: 00

For depriving myself of luxuries to give you best clothing & toys. Rs: 00

For my great love and endless worries about your happiness. Rs; 00

Total amount: Rs; 00

With never ending love, Your loving Mum

Johnny slowly read his Mum's bill. His face was changed, tears rolled down his cheeks, He got up from the table. He went to his Mum, he embraced her and I sobs said: Thank you Mum, sorry Mum!

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND SHARING.

1. What did mum feel while reading Johnny's bill? Describe.
2. What Johnny must have felt reading his mum's memo? Describe.
3. Compare what Mum did for you in your life, and what you did for her. Who has done more?
4. Get into your mum's heart and guess her feelings when you demand things from her.
5. Have you done enough for her? Can you do more? What will you do from now on? Write down.
6. Was Johnny insensitive to mum's feelings, or rather thoughtless? What are you?
7. Have you ever thought of what goes on in your mother's heart about you? Think It now. Write it down.
8. If we look for returns from loving and helping mum and dad, can we truly say that we love them? Why?
9. Kindly, explain the following sentences?
 - True love is unconditional.

- Love does not demand, nor expect returns.
- Love is not for profit..
- Only God and good mothers and fathers know how to love.
- We, humans, are slow learners in the art of loving.
- Love is an on-going process. There is never an end of growing in love.
- Love means death to selfishness.
- Love frees us from the prison of our self-centeredness.
- Love is an escape from our puny egos to the hearts of others
- The measure to love God and our Parents is to love them without measure.
- Love is centrifugal, selfishness centripetal
- Loving is divine, liking human.
- The problem with us that we love things and use persons.
- God only loves. Liking and disliking is not God's way