

A MOTHER'S AND FATHERS LITANY

To respect my children and in return
To be worthy of their respect --
May love and understanding help me

To praise much and blame little,
To emphasize their successes
And minimize their failures --
May love and understanding teach me.

To make no promises to my children
That I cannot keep --
May love and understanding help me.

To have unbounded faith in my children,
To be loyal to them both at home and abroad --
May love and understanding lead me.

To allow them the dignity of their own personalities,
Not trying to make them over to my own desire --
May love and understanding help me.

To care well for my children's bodies
But not at the expense of their minds and spirit --
May love and understanding help me.

To be cheerful and ready to laugh
Because children love laughter as they love sunshine --
May love and understanding help me.

To have infinite patience with my children,
And to make allowance for them,
Because they have so much to learn
And I myself am not so very wise --
May love and understanding help me.

To protect my children from my own nerves,
Ill temper, personal prejudice, pessimism, and fears --
May love and understanding help me.

To help them choose the life work they are best fitted for
Instead of gratifying through them my personal ambition
May love and understanding lead me

To reserve time and fresh energy for my children,
So that I can be their close and interested friend
May love and understanding help me

To fit my children to meet life and people
Bravely, honestly and independently --
May love and understanding help me.

To give my children freedom, but
To teach them how to use that freedom,