

## **Mother and Daughter - Synopsis**

Lived religion can be a very personal experience, but it is also one that is cherished through sharing with others that we love. For instance, sharing experiences of religion together can strengthen the bond between a mother and a daughter. The sacred bond between mother and daughter can be enough to create a religious significance for those involved. If love is a strong criterion in living religion, then the love shared by the two can easily be recognized as living one's religion.

Religion and family relations are often strongly interconnected. They are two key social institutions that help shape identity and personality from birth. Often our religious beliefs and behaviours are adopted from traditions adopted by our parents and other generations before them. The intergenerational transmission of religiosity is often based on gender, particular bonds forming between mothers and daughters, sons and fathers, creating a flourishing environment to transmit the expected religious behaviours of the individual in the church and outside of the church walls. Traditions are most often learnt through shared experiences amongst family members – the doing of religion and religious traditions together. Some researchers even term this phenomenon of intergenerational teachings an exchange of 'religious capital'.

Another key component of religion is its influence on individual identities. Despite the communal rituals and traditions, religion also holds a strong influence on personal experiences and knowledge. This particular series features a mother and daughter sharing special moments together that hold both religious and family significance. The mother is sharing knowledge of traditional religious holiday culinary practices and suitable dress for the celebrations. The ritual of preparation for the religious holiday is a special bonding intergenerational bonding moment that is well captured in this series of photographs. Despite the fact that these activities are shared in the home, they are religious in nature and consist of a mother helping a daughter find her religious identity through tradition and lived religion.