

Twelfth Sunday in ordinary Time and Father's day

Four women were sitting discussing their sons. The first proudly stated that her son was a bishop, so when he enters a room, people address him as *"Your Excellency."* The second, not to be outdone, said that her son is an archbishop, so when he enters the room, people address him as *"Your Grace."* The third quietly stated that her son was a cardinal, so when he enters the room, the people say: *"Your Eminence."* The fourth woman said: "Well my son is 7 feet 2 inches tall and weighs 430 pounds, and when he walks into a room people say: *"My God!"*

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate and remember Father's day. Happy Father's Day to fathers, grandfathers, and stepfathers. These holidays of our culture are not exactly high holy days of the Church, but they do give us reason to pause, to pray for, and to reflect on our fathers whom we honor. Five weeks ago, we offered Mass for our moms. Today, on this Father's Day, we are doing the same – offering our dads, living or dead, on the altar of God during this Holy Mass and invoking our Heavenly Father's blessings on them. Fathers are a blessing, and we thank them for blessing us with lives of dedication, endurance, and love.

Though Father's day was observed for those deceased fathers, today it is celebrated for living and deceased fathers of our family. Some recent studies have demonstrated how important a father is to his child's development. Children raised with fathers present, have lower rates of delinquency, drug, and alcohol use, teen pregnancy, and so on, than those with absent fathers. The father's presence is also a significant positive factor in children's getting a college education, finding a satisfying job, and making a lasting marriage. Psychotherapists today are saying that both parents are vitally important for the stable development of their children; the mother's input is invaluable in the formative pre-adolescent years, but the father's most important influence is at adolescence. Single mothers tell us that it is terribly difficult to teach their children about the meaning of God the Father Who seems so impersonal because their children have been abandoned by their natural fathers.

I would like to share two of the examples that I reflected on the readings this week. First I want to share about my Dad and how I got strengthened in my life. I have already shared to you that I always look my father as my friend since I became teen. I never celebrated his birthday or father's day. I never hugged him. He has been an instrument in my life. I really saw how much he suffered for me and for my siblings. He was not much educated.

But he taught me two things through his life. Honesty and hard work, innocence. Each father has a unique quality which sometimes not expressed in words but by life.

This year has been honored to St. Joseph, the loving Father. Jesus in the Gospel today gave them courage by calming storm. In the first reading, God talked to Job how cared him and safeguarded him out of storm. All of this suffering teaches us a lesson that God is still in charge. Jesus showed himself as their father when he questioned why are you so afraid?

During our retreat, I happened to talk to one of the priest's from the Philippines who works in our diocese. He shared his life with me and other priests in the table how God saved him and gave him another life. He was a missionary in Solomon Islands from 2010-2013. He had 10 churches to take care in the islands. Once when he was visiting the parishes with 10 more people, their boat was capsized because of the heavy wind. They were thrown into the sea. 5 died and five were saved. He was saved after three days by the local fisherman. He shared that he prayed the rosary and prayed to God if he would die he would be buried in one of the islands. God gave him another life. It was a miracle.

God is our father who cares and loves and guides us in the direction. Our fathers all have Godly nature in them to play their role to the family and to the society.