

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
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Father's Day Tomorrow.

"Honor thy father and thy mother, which is the first Commandment with a promise; that it may be well with thee and thou mayest be long-lived upon earth." - Ephesians, vi., 2,3.

Do you really give your father a break? Is he getting a fair return on his investment?

What an investment he has made in you! It's not a question of money only. Money is a small part of it, no matter how large it may loom in your eyes. It is a question of things of the heart - hopes, ambitions, struggles between affection and duty in the corrections that form character, conflicts between love and business in the time given to his growing boy; it is a panorama of heart tugs - satisfaction at his son's success in school is rudely jolted aside by finding his son untruthful, and the glow of pride is turned to the burning blush of shame; while he is thanking God that his son is not like the rest of boys, a phone call tells him that the lad was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

It is an investment of sleep. Loss of sleep does not end when he ceases to walk the floor with the baby; many a father of a growing boy has wondered at two and three and four o'clock in the morning what can have happened to his son, and has sighed for the nights when that child was safe in his arms.

It is an investment of peace of mind. Visions of broken arms and cracked skulls are the least of his mental tortures; being a man, and living in the world, he knows the dangers that come of bad companionship, and often he feels himself powerless to prevent them. If he holds the reins too tight, he courts rebellion; if too loose, he runs the danger of throwing him into dissipation.

It is an investment of hope - and only because it is does the instinct of fatherhood continue to function. But hope has to be strong to overcome the disappointments that lie along the path of life. He hopes that his son will be industrious - and he turns out to be a lazy lout. He dreams of him as a brilliant barrister, and he turns out to be a Mexican athlete. He brags to his friends that his son will have what he himself was denied, a college education, and the boy flunks out at the semester. He looks forward to the day when the boys will take over the business and relieve him of all his worries - and the silly yap walks in at the end of his sophomore year with a ten-cent store bride on his arm, to live off the folks.

Don't you think your father ought to have some return on his investment. A twenty-year endowment policy is a sure bet if the company is sound: you know what you are going to have at the end of the twenty years; it represents a reasonable return on the sacrifices of those years. But when the investment is in your own flesh and blood, what have you? A sophomore.

"Hours of study" is a very suggestive item of the spiritual bouquet for Father's Day. Face yourself squarely for once, and decide to give your father a break. Fill out that item generously, and stick to your word. And if you can't give him as much as he deserves on the other points, at least give your knees a good workout the next nine days. He may not be able to express his emotions as well as your mother does hers, but he has a heart that has many a hurt; a little show of appreciation on your part will send him into the Seventh Heaven. If he growls, let him growl - that's his precious privilege; and when you are his age, if you have gone through half of what he has gone through, you will also appreciate the privilege of a little growling.

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PRAYERS: Robert Noll is quite ill with pneumonia. Five special intentions. (The request for two of these was accompanied by a donation of \$10 for Bengal; this was added to the \$145.17 of Sunday's collection.)