
Is Fatherhood Worth While?

The poets of fatherhood are few. Although motherhood is exalted in song and story, in painting and sculpture, in oratory and music and all the arts, there has been less attention paid to fatherhood. The poets seem to take father for granted, just as the tax assessor does, just as the bill collector does, just as children do.

But, although the poets of fatherhood have been fewer, the world has known no greater poets than those who have sung the praises of this exalted state. For the greatest of the poets of fatherhood have been the inspired authors of Holy Scripture.

"You have received the Spirit of adoption of sons, whereby we cry: Abba (Father)." Thus does St. Paul remind the Romans that all fatherhood is from God, and that by grace we receive the fullest benefit of the Redemption, which translates physical relationship into spiritual. And St. John, giving the eternal genealogy of Him whose Sonship was eternal, says: "As many as received Him, He gave them power to be made the sons of God, . . . , who are born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

How kind is this Father? "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing?" said Our Blessed Lord, "and not one of them shall fall on the ground without your Father." (Matt., 10) "Be not solicitous, therefore, saying: What shall we eat, or what shall we drink, or wherewith shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the heathens seek. For your father knoweth that you have need of all these things." (Matt., 6)

What is the response to this kindness? Our Lord gave us the perfect example: "What things soever the Father doth, these the Son also doth in like manner." (John, 5) Our response? "You have wearied the Lord with your words, and you said: Wherein have we wearied Him? In that you say: Everyone that doth evil is good in the sight of the Lord, and such please Him, or surely where is the God of judgment?" (Mal., 2,17) In other words, if God does not strike us dead for our rebellion against His fatherly kindness, but gives us time to repent, we abuse His patience and call it approval.

Happy the father whose son has learned this doctrine: "Son, support the old age of thy father, and grieve him not in this life. And if his understanding fail, have patience with him, and despise him not when thou art in thy strength; for the relieving of the father shall not be forgotten. . . . And in justice thou shalt be built up, and in the day of affliction thou shalt be remembered; and thy sins shall melt away as the ice in the fair warm weather." (Eci., 3)

Wednesday is Father's Day.

To remind you of your obligations to your father - your duty of prayer, of obedience, love, respect, justice, fairness, truthfulness - Notre Dame sets aside the feast of the Solemnity of St. Joseph each year as Father's Day. This feast, which comes during the second week after the Easter Octave, glorifies the Saint who was the head of the Holy Family, the Foster-father of Jesus Christ, the Saint who was himself a perfect example of human obedience, and who received in turn the obedience of the Son of God and His Mother.

Send your father a spiritual bouquet for that day. Send it at once.

PRAYERS: Deceased - Bishop Eilan, of Hartford; the mother of Joe Henger, '25; Patrick McAleer, an old student; the father of Louis A. Smith (Dillon); a friend of a student. Ill - 1 sgr. O'Ryan, of Denver; Jim Osgood (appondeotomy); the mother of a student; relatives of John Ryan (Bedin), Bob and Jim Hamilton. One thanksgiving and 4 sp. ints. ANNIVERSARY MASS (tenth) for the repose of the soul of Wm. Dockman - tomorrow at 6:00 in the Brownson Memorial Chapel.