

From Your Pastor

God Bless Our Fathers ~ Happy Father's Day

When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years. – Mark Twain "Old Times on the Mississippi" in the Atlantic Monthly, 1874

That oft-repeated saying of Mark Twain is a poignant reminder of how a little age and experience can help us to appreciate and cherish the gift of another, especially a good father. The love of a father, so often shown in quiet and unassuming ways, is perhaps best expressed in the sacrifices Dad made for each of us – some little, some great – which only later (or perhaps never) we came to know. I have always been touched – and humored – by the great variety of tributes to and insights into fatherhood. These are some of my favorites.

He didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it. – Clarence Budington Kelland, American author (1881-1964)

My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, "You're tearing up the grass." "We're not raising grass," Dad would reply. "We're raising boys." – Harmon Killebrew

One father is more than a hundred Schoolemasters. – George Herbert, poet (1593-1633)

Fatherhood is pretending the present you love most is soap-on-a-rope. – Bill Cosby

"Father!" – to God himself we cannot give a holier name. – William Wordsworth, poet (1770-1850)

A father is always making his baby into a little woman. And when she is a woman he turns her back again. – Enid Algerine Bagnold, author of *National Velvet* (1889-1981)

It is not flesh and blood but the heart which makes us fathers and sons. – Johann Schiller, philosopher and poet (1759-1805)

Dad, your guiding hand on my shoulder will remain with me forever. – Author Unknown

The greatest insight into fatherhood was given to us by the Lord Jesus. When he spoke of God as "Abba" ("Father"), Jesus revealed that the essence of fatherhood is love. God is love (1Jn 4:16). A father, then, is most truly a father when he loves after the example of God's love; when his heart and God's heart are one in the love of his children. Let us keep all of our fathers, living and deceased, in our prayers today.

God our Father, in your wisdom and love
you made all things.
Bless these men, that they may be
strengthened as Christian fathers.
Let the example of their faith
and love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,
may honor them always
with a spirit of profound respect.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



God bless each of you.

Mrs. Fay