

Reflection for the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time

This Sunday, June 21, 2020 we celebrate the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time, and Father's Day. In Catholic countries of Europe since the Middle Ages, Father's Day has been celebrated on March 19th, the Feast of Joseph. Here in the United States Father's Day was started by Sonora Smart Dodd, and it has always been celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of June since 1910. Father's Day is an opportunity to honor fatherhood and paternal bonds. It is interesting to note that Father's Day is observed by over 111 countries throughout the world and it is celebrated on various days.

Father's Day can and should be an opportunity to not only honor the Fathers in our Community but to embrace the bonds that bind us together. It seems that on Mother's Day many people make an effort to attend Mass together, which is a wonderful statement of the family or home Church. On Father's Day it seems like the focus is more of going outdoors for a picnic or for a hike. Of course how wonderful it is that on Father's Day many people focus on spending in God's creation. Whatever we do this Father's Day may we take the time to be thankful for our Fathers and may we prayer for all Fathers in the world that God will always provide them with grace and peace.

This Sunday as we honor the Fathers of our Community we also celebrate the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time. The last time we celebrated a Sunday in Ordinary time was on February 23, 2020 when we celebrated the 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time. Before Vatican II the Liturgical Calendar did not have a Season called Ordinary Time, rather there was the Sundays after Epiphany and the Sundays after Pentecost. It was with the new Liturgical Calendar after Vatican II that the Season of Ordinary Time was created.

For us today Ordinary Time refers to all of the parts of the Liturgical year that are not included in the major Seasons; Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. The Season of Ordinary Time includes two different periods of the Church Calendar; the time between Christmas and Lent, and also the time between Easter and Advent. In any given year Ordinary Time is either 33 or 34 Sundays. This is due to the fact that Easter is a moveable Feast, and thus the Lent and Easter Seasons float from year to year.

Knowing that the Season of Ordinary Time is the longest Season of the Liturgical year it does make sense to take some time to reflect on this Season and what it should mean to us as people of faith. The word "ordinary" is translated from the Latin word "ordinals" which refers to the numbers in a series, comes from the Latin word "ordo" from which we get the English word "order." So as we embrace and celebrate the Ordinary Time we are entering into the ordered life of the Church. The period in which we live our lives neither in feasting (Christmas and Easter) or in a time of fasting (Advent and Lent) but in a time of watchfulness and expectation of the second coming of Christ.

In this Season of living out our daily lives with Christ the color that is associated with this Season is green. The vestments that the Priests and Deacons wear in this Season are the color of green for traditionally this color has been associated with the time after Pentecost. It is this time after the coming of the Holy Spirit that the Church began to grow and to spread the Gospel to all the nations.