

Reflection for the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time

This Sunday we as a people of faith celebrate the 12th Sunday of Ordinary Time and as a Nation, we celebrate Father's Day. It is hard to believe that Mother's Day was declared a National Holiday in the United States in 1914 and Father's Day was not declared a National Holiday in the United States until 1972. It is wonderful to see that our Nation has for over 100 years has set aside a day to honor our mothers. I am not sure what it says about our nation that it took us another 58 years to set aside a day to honor our fathers. It might be that going back as far as the Middle Ages we can find societies having an event to honor mothers and motherhood, but that is not the case with fathers. It seems civilization has always valued the importance and the contributions that mothers make to a society and to a culture. Men seem to have been valued for other things more than their role as fathers in society. But things started to change at least in the United States on June 19, 1910, when Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane, Washington. It was Sonora Smart Dodd who promoted this first celebration of Father's Day. Sonora was born in Arkansas and was one of 6 Children raised by a single parent and Civil War veteran, William Jackson Smart.

We can also turn to Scriptures and see St. Joseph as an amazing example of the importance of the role a father has in the life of a family. St. Joseph as the foster father of Jesus is a perfect role model for any father to follow. Job, a model of faithfulness in suffering is also another father found in scriptures that can also inspire us. Job had a total of 20 children, 10 before his suffering and 10 after his suffering. Job shows all of us how to be faithful to God even in times of great loss and suffering, his first 10 children passed away before he was blessed with another 10 children. St. Joseph and the Prophet Job both are men of God that trust in our Creator and are faithful servants. Both of them had challenges and both stayed true to being God's servant, but both had moments of doubt. But with God's grace they overcome their doubts and today they are both a great example of the type of person and follower of God we should all be.

Today as we celebrate Father's Day in our nation it is fitting in the year of St. Joseph to pray for his intercession and guidance for all the Fathers of our community. May St. Joseph give them wisdom and patience as they guide their children in ways of holiness as followers of the one true God. Being that our First Reading this Sunday, is from the Book of the Prophet Job, it is fitting to turn to this model of faithfulness in suffering. May the Prophet Job, a father of 20 children, share with the Fathers of our community the faith and strength that is needed to stay true to God in one's walk of life no matter what challenges or joys one encounters. The Prophet Job presents us all with an example to follow. May the fathers of our community, inspired by Job, present an example of faith for their children to follow.

In closing let us all keep the Fathers of our Community in our prayers today on the Father's Day. May the one true God, look out for the Fathers and Mothers of our Community as they guide and protect their children.