

June 20, 2021

My dear parishioners and friends,

On this Sunday June 20, we celebrate Fathers' Day 2021. I wish each and every father, grandfather and all who love with a paternal heart a joyful day on this special day dedicated to you. We remember as well with great love and in prayer all our fathers living and deceased on this day, a day that is an integral part of our American culture and spirit.

As we celebrate Fathers' Day 2021, I invite you as well to ponder importantly the love of our heavenly Father for each of us. He is a Father who liberated and formed a people of His own and continues to do precisely that in and through the church. He is a Father who out of incredible love sent His only Son Jesus Christ to make us His friends for life and life eternal. And He is a Father who, through His Son, commissions us--each of us without exception--to share that mission of love in our world and to every person we meet, especially our families.

As I wish our fathers a Happy Father's Day, I realize that that greeting applies to a subset of those who follow the Lord--an important subset at that. But when I refer to God the Father, and salute Him on this day, that greeting comes from all of us for He is the Father of each and every one of us. In the words of the psalmist: "We are his people, the sheep of His flock." How blessed we are!

During this special year dedicated to St. Joseph by Pope Francis, we also prayerfully invoke his memory. After all, St. Joseph was father and guardian of the Redeemer. We pray that he shows himself a fatherly love to us as he guides us on our paths of life. St. Joseph, pray for us in this special year.

Fraternally in the Lord,

Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi
Pastor