



# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

This Sunday we celebrate Fathers. This has been a long standing tradition in the Catholic Church. In Europe Father's Day was celebrated on March 19th (the feast of St. Joseph). This dates back to the last of the 14th century and the beginning of the 15 century and was promoted by the Franciscans but history tells us that it dates back to the fifth century in the Coptic church. It migrated to the new world with the Spanish and Portuguese to Latin and South America where it is still celebrated on that date. In the US it was started by Sonora Dodd in 1909, who wanted to pay honor to her father William Smart, a widowed farmer, who was left to raise his six children. The idea caught on. The date was adopted as the third Sunday in June.

Take a moment to say thank your Father, Grandfather or even Step-father. They have played an important part in your life weather you realize it or not. Fathers are there to more completely shape the character of the child. God created Man and Woman to be together to nurture children. Each has a special gift from God to help them accomplish this. Fathers are the protectors of the family. They watch over them; guide them; provide for them and to instill in them the Faith and the life it unlocks. The family has always been the basic unit of society with the father at the head. In early days it was the father who passed on the family business to the sons and sought their education, approved marriages for the daughters and passed down the Christian principals, Today their role is slightly different. Women need to be as well educated as the men to make their way in this world and to be the best they can be. Fathers have sacrificed much for the good of the family. It is his duty and on this day we thank him for all he has done, and ask God to bless them and guide him.

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