

## Fathers Day Tribute

I wonder how my dad would have navigated through these days. I am pretty sure that regarding the pandemic and its keeping him off the golf course he would have used his characteristic phrase: This stinks! And as far as the protests and civil unrest we have been seeing following the killing of George Floyd I know he would have had some very strong opinions, not all of which would have aligned with mine. Above all – and this I know as well as my own name which is the junior version of his - my dad would have been digging deep into his faith, putting his hope in the Lord and doing the next loving thing. I could see him now, reading from his Magnificat, joining me for virtual Mass with Nina my stepmom, saying his daily prayer to Saint Joseph for a happy death (a grace that was mercifully granted to him) and asking me about when we were going to get back into church so he could daily receive communion again. I also think that my dad would have shed some tears – tears for those struggling with the virus and tears for those struggling with injustice. You see, a beautiful thing happened in my dad in his later years – his heart became softer and his spirit more vulnerable with age. He seemed to feel more and more deeply as time went on. I would like to say that he more completely took on the heart of Christ. It seems to me that as I am getting older I am becoming my dad. I am mellowing somewhat – okay, just a bit. I like that! I hope he does too. I want him to know what an incredible difference he has made in my life. I imagine that you wonder about that as a dad. I know I do as a different kind of father. Are your efforts at mentoring having any impact? Are the lessons you are trying to teach sinking in at all? Is the wisdom that you are trying to impart really being received? In the end, it comes down to doing your best and letting God do the rest – and be assured that he does not waste any of our efforts! The other thing that I find I must do as a father is to be committed to growing in Christ. For me, that means learning what it means to make life less about myself and more about God. It means learning how to let go of what does not serve my calling and striving to be the best – and wisest – version of myself. It means understanding that I am just one part of a bigger reality and humbly taking my place in that cosmic picture. It means letting the Holy Spirit take the lead in my life and following the Spirit's prompts. It means being perfected by grace in the hands of my heavenly Father.

To all our men in the parish who have accepted the mantle of fathering in any way, I wish a very  
Happy Father's Day!  
God bless you and keep you in the way of His love.