



Dear Friends,

Today in our country, we celebrate Father's Day. A day for us to thank our fathers for the gift of life, for the care they've given us, and for the love they've shared with us. No doubt we will invite them to lunch or dinner, and give them some gifts. But, I think the best thing we can do for our fathers on this Father's Day is to meditate a little bit on the meaning of fatherhood and to grow in our love for the way that our dads have lived theirs out.

I can think of no better way to do this than to reflect on the meaning and significance of the fact that Jesus calls upon God the Father and tells us to call Him – our Father. Throughout the ancient world, and indeed in every non-Christian religion the idea of calling God "father" is completely ridiculous. He is almighty; He is holy; He is eternal; He is creator; He is all-powerful and all-knowing; He is all of this and so much more - but father? We can attribute many things to God but Jesus reveals to us that above all else, God is Father.

Fathers are great. They possess the power and the ability to generate new life. They carry on the family name. They provide food, shelter and protection. They pick us up when we fall down. They offer us wisdom and advice. They encourage

us to grow up and to do great things. They show us how to love and to be loved in a way that speaks right to our hearts. Our earthly fathers, though human and imperfect, play an important role in helping us understand that God loves us, not as some far-off Supreme Being, but as Father. He has high standards for us, wants the best for us, and calls us to greatness. He can be tough with us sometimes as our earthly fathers are, but this is because of the love that God the Father and our earthly fathers have for us.

As we celebrate Father's Day, today's Scripture Readings talk about courage in the face of fear and the call to place our trust in God. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples, "Do not be afraid." Even in the midst of trials, rejection, or uncertainty, they are to trust in God's providence. This message resonates with the celebration of Father's Day. Fathers are often called to be steady and courageous in uncertain times—to protect and to guide. Like the prophet Jeremiah in the first reading, who faced opposition and fear, yet continued to trust in the Lord, fathers too are called to persevere with strength and hope, even when times are difficult.

Today, we give thanks for all fathers, we ask God to bless them and we remember the fathers who passed away, may God grant them eternal life in heaven.

Happy Father's Day to all our fathers.

Fr. Krzysztof Kardzis