



***11<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME***  
***YEAR B – June 17, 2018 – FATHER’S DAY***

Today we celebrate Father's Day. It's a special time to recall all the wonderful things that are part of our lives, not only because of the Father who gave us life here on earth, but because of our Father in heaven, who reminds us that we belong to his family too by virtue of our baptism, and that we have new life because of Jesus, who continues to love us in spite of the cross.

Our Father in heaven is the model of what a Father on earth should be. God challenges all Fathers to be perfect as he is perfect. That having been said, what does it all mean. It means that Fathers on earth should love their children the way that God loves us. That is not always easy, but it is possible with God's help.

The prophet Ezechiel in the first reading today reminds us that God keeps his promises. He raises up the lowly and brings low the high tree. A good father does the same thing in raising his family. He teaches the value of our Lord's way of life. Not just by what he says, but more importantly by what he does.

Paul's letter to the Corinthians, reminds us that we must give an accounting of our stewardship to God himself when we die. We will appear before the judgement seat of Christ and we will receive recompense for what we did here on earth, whether good or evil.

In St. Marks Gospel, reminds us that the kingdom of God grows, just like a family does - from parents to children to grandchildren to great grandchildren and on and on - until the tiny seed is one of the largest plants on earth.

In all of this, a good father and a good mother play an important role. This weekend, we celebrate Father's Day, so let me focus on the Father. What is the difference between a "SO SO" Father and a really good Father.

Allow me to use the words of God as revealed in Scripture to describe a really good father.

A good father is patient  
A good father is kind  
A good father is never jealous  
A good father is not a phony  
A good father is not snobbish  
A good father is never rude

A good father is never self-seeking  
A good father can handle anger  
A good father never holds grudges  
A good father does not ridicule others  
A good father is always willing to trust,  
to hope and to endure whatever comes.

You will recognize those words as the description of love in I Corinthian 13. I in a word, a really good father is a man who knows how to love as Jesus did. When all is said and done, those words apply not only to good fathers but to all of us.

For a few moments reflect on how you measure up to the remarkable qualities of good fathers. Reflect on how you measure up to the love of Jesus.

