

Notes from Fr. Craig on the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time Father's Day, June 19, 2016

To all of our fathers and grandfathers I wish you a blessed and happy Father's Day. May God protect all of our fathers and lead them in authentic holiness. I am calling on all fathers to be recommitted to their faith and to be strong faith leaders in their families. A father's love of his family should be second only to his love of God. Fathers, you lead your families by prayerfully trusting in the Lord. Your children and grandchildren will indeed grow in their faith when they see their father committed to his. May the Lord bless all fathers and give them an abundance of grace to be good, honorable and holy men always striving to love the Lord by keeping His commandments.

For our fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers that have died, we remember you, too, on this very special day. You live on in our memories forever. We will never forget you. We pray for the souls of all the faithful departed fathers as we also ask them to pray for us and our families as we continue our earthly pilgrimage.

A wonderful way fathers can lead by example is by honoring their Mass obligation on Sundays and Holy Days. With summer upon us, we too, need to keep the Lord first in our lives by keeping the Sabbath day holy. Even when on vacation fathers should encourage their family to attend holy Mass. A father has an awesome vocation, like St. Joseph, to lead with authentic holiness and humility.

School is now out for the summer and I wish everyone a wonderful, safe and fun-filled summer wherever your vacation plans take you and your families. Summer indeed is a great time to share in family gatherings, barbecues, and reunions. Remember, the family that prays together, stays together. I strongly encourage all families to set time aside time to pray together, especially the Rosary.

Our wonderful bishop, Paul Bradley, has asked us to be a people of prayer for religious liberty in our great country that cherishes freedom of religion. I ask that you include in your prayer life the following prayer.

Prayer for Religious Liberty

Almighty God, Father of all nations,

For freedom you have set us free in Christ Jesus (Gal 5:1)

*We praise and bless you for the gift of religious liberty,
the foundation of human rights, justice, and the common good.*

Grant to our leaders the wisdom to protect and promote our liberties;

*By your grace may we have the courage to defend them, for ourselves and for all
those who live in this blessed land.*

We ask this through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, our patroness,

And in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

With whom you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



*In His love,
Fr. Craig*

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