

**Deacon Tony's June 18, 2023 Homily
for the
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Father's Day**

**GOD IS THE GIVER OF ALL LIFE, HUMAN AND DIVINE.
MAY HE BLESS THE FATHER OF THIS CHILD, WHO WILL BE
THE FIRST TEACHER OF HIS CHILD IN THE WAYS OF FAITH.
MAY HE ALSO BE THE BEST OF TEACHERS, BEARING WITNESS
TO THE FAITH BY WHAT HE SAYS AND WHAT HE DOES. IN
THE NAME OF JESUS OUR LORD.**

Fathers are called to bear witness to the faith. They will bear witness to their child whether it be to the faith in Jesus or their faith in the things of this world. We are brought up to see that our children have the finest educational opportunities.

In order to obtain the most that our society has to offer. What do you witness to?

I always believed if I raised my children to be independent, that they would have enough to get through life. But in reality, I just didn't want to be bothered with their lives. So different then what God has promised.

In the reading from Exodus when He told Moses to remind the people how He was always there for them when they escaped the slavery in Egypt and how they would always be GOD'S SPECIAL POSSESSIONS.

In Paul's letter to the Romans, he reminds his followers, (and us) that while we were still sinners Jesus willingly died for us, so that we would KNOW God's love.

What a beautiful message! A message that all God's creation must hear.

Jesus knows that even though His Apostles are human that they could be able to that the message could be shared down through the centuries if we stayed true to our witness.

When Moses was getting ready to leave this world, he instructed his people to remember that the command of God's word was not to remote or far off, but it was very near and already.

In their mouths. Yes, this message must be passed down from father to child in order that we become witnesses to the truth. Paul talks about the righteousness that comes with faith: He quotes Moses in Deuteronomy 30 about the nearness of this faith that we believe.

When I read about these two passages, I realized that I was searching for God's love in some far-off place rather than look into my own heart where God had planted it at my baptism.

Jesus showed me that message should be shared with my children if I would make myself PRESENT AND NOT ABSENT.

I have five grandchildren today and there is no greater feeling of completeness then to see your children take the faith message that you shared and pass it on to their children.

Indeed, this life is good.