

Extracted from St John Vianney June 19, 2011 Bulletin

Rambling XIII by Carl Beyer and Friends

As I write this column, www.weatherforyou.com is forecasting smoke. "SMOKE?" What kind of a weather prediction is "smoke?" I guess they want to clarify that, no, there are NOT clouds that will drop much needed rain, but instead there is smoke which serves no useful purpose. The first night, I thought my house was on fire! No fire, so I looked out to see whose house in the neighborhood was on fire. Nope, it is Arizona that is on fire. Incredible! I was watching the news the other night when they shared the illuminating news that the fires in AZ will be under control once the monsoon season starts. Pardon me, but, yeah, once it rains significantly, the fires will be put out. So now we need to pray for an early monsoon season.

This Sunday is a special day for me. Fathers' Day. Fathers' Day was only recently recognized by Congress in 1966, while Mothers' Day was formally adopted by Congress in 1914; what was THAT all about? So, Crystal, Falcity and Arkulas, be sure to remember your father this Sunday (hint, hint)!

Unfortunately, my father died when I was nine months old, and my stepfather was a less-than-shining example of fatherhood. But I give thanks to those other father-figures who were shining influences in my life. Fatherhood, like motherhood, is not measured simply by biology but by participating and providing.

Participating and providing. That is the tough balancing act all fathers face. Too much participating and not enough providing leads to a family of happy but starving people. Too much providing combined with too little participation, and you have a wealthy, dysfunctional family. By the way, if any fathers have actually worked out this balance, may I ask them to share their wisdom? I hope my kids remember my participation, as my providing consisted in simply keeping a roof over their heads and food in their stomachs.

Currently we have two father/son teams at SJV who serve as ushers. Bravo for them! We certainly have a number of fathers who volunteer, serving the parish in various ways, and whose kids serve as altar servers. To them all, Thank You for the fine examples that you set! Presently we have one family that serves together as snackers. By the way, we welcome more families to serve the Lord in this unique ministry which brings our parish family together by being snacker-volunteers. Also, no small part is played by the fathers who lead their families to Mass each week. Thank you.

It is the time of year to wonder: Where are our parishioners? I know, people are on vacation, traveling. I would like to see the migration path of Roman Catholics during the summer months. I want to go to those churches with standing-room-only due to the many travelers visiting them. Does no one travel to Sunny New Mexico? Remember, our relationship with Our Lord and his Church is like our marriage vows, "for better or for worse." When life is "better" (as when we are on vacation), we are still obligated to attend Mass, and what better time to celebrate God's bountiful gifts which we enjoy? Realistically, guys and gals, there is a Roman Catholic Church within a reasonable distance no matter where we travel (check out www.masstimes.org). When our family takes leave of St. John Vianney for travel, our church home-away-from-home is usually Our Lady

of the Assumption Parish in Jemez Springs. I find visiting other parishes not a chore, but a treat! It is nice to see how other parishes' celebration of the Mass varies from that to which we are accustomed at SJV.

In closing, let me offer a final Thank You to all the fathers out there....and an extra Thank You for those who fulfill fatherly roles outside their immediate families.

Go forth and lead a blessed life. Our Father in Heaven, may we fathers always try to imitate your Godly example. God Bless You All, and Happy Fathers' Day.