

Shrine of

# Saint Jude Thaddeus



Dominican Friars

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## Mother's Day and Father's Day 2017

### *"My father taught me how to talk to God"*

Dear Friend of St. Jude,

April 25, 2017

One of my first memories of my dad was when he would kneel at my bedside and teach me to pray. The process was never extraordinary or mystical. First we said rote prayers – the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be – then we just started talking to God, asking for his blessing on our family members and on our work. It was completely natural. We would talk to him as any man speaks with another man.

One of the earliest disciplines instilled in me by my parents was to go to Mass every Sunday. This was never optional in our house; we went to Mass even when we were traveling or on vacation. My father was always the most excited about Mass. Every Sunday he was the first up, the first to get us up, then he would often sing hymns that we would later sing at church, or play sacred music on the radio to get us ready for church.

When we were very little, our mom sat with us in the pews. However, once we were old enough to serve Mass, we became altar boys and later joined the choir. Mom and dad were always involved in the sacred liturgy as well. When it was time for my first confession I was nervous. However, once I realized that both my mom and dad went to confession, I knew I could too.

If we have Christian parents, they are most often the first and strongest teachers of the faith in our lives. I try to carry this example over into my own vocation as a priest, where I am called to be "Father" to all whom I meet. That role means first and foremost loving the other person. But this act of love is telling them about the most important thing ever: God and his love for us.

One of the greatest acts of love that we can render on Mother's Day and Father's Day is to pray for our parents living and deceased. We must pray that they know God more fully. We must pray that we can pass on the faith to others as our parents did to us, no matter what our vocation.

At the St. Jude Shrine, you can honor your parents by joining your prayers for them with numerous others during our **Mother's Day Novena (May 6 – 14)** and **Father's Day Novena (June 10 – 18)**. Also, don't forget to include the younger mothers and fathers in your life. Enroll your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews who now bear the great and exciting responsibility of parenthood. It is a fantastic gift to give them – knowing that they will be prayed for by hundreds of people and many Dominican priests and brothers.

WE NEED PARENTS WHO WANT TO BE SAINTS – and want their children to be too!

In Christ and St. Jude,

Very Rev. James Junipero Moore, O.P.  
Director