

## LIVING WITH CHRIST THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 20: Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) - green  
Monday 21: St. Aloysius Gonzaga, religious - white  
Tuesday, June 22: Ferial - green  
Wednesday 23: Ferial - green  
Thursday 24: Nativity of St. John the Baptist - white  
Friday 25: Ferial - green  
Saturday 26 : Ferial - green  
Sunday 27: Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) - green

# *Love you Dad!*

Georges Brassens, a famous French wordsmith and singer wrote:

*Father, Father, I have only  
experienced your tenderness  
and heard kind words from you.  
We have loved each other  
More than we could ever say ...  
(free translation)*



I believe it is easier to say: *I love you* to our mothers than to our fathers.

I also think that mothers more often than fathers say: *I love you* to their children.

Fathers speak less. That was the norm for fathers of my era ...

Did that mean that they loved us less? No, not at all.

We understand that education and culture, whether our own or others, have often *decreed* that expressions like *I love you* were feminine.

The effect has been to silence men's voices, stem their tears, and restrain their embraces.

And this is why I have often observed:

Affectionate words have not been spoken or at best, whispered very softly,

Stifled sobs or tears have fallen in silence and solitude,

There has been little physical contact from arms that never hugged anyone...

But that seems to be past practice ...

Another generation of men has taken up the challenge simply because our society and culture have changed.

It has allowed the *stronger* sex to display some tenderness, to be sensitive and close to those whom they love ...

Men have learned new skills and so much the better!

On this special day, Dad, I want to tell you, however old you may be, that *I love you*.

And I would love also to hear you say to me, however old I may be: *I love you too*.

*Dad,  
Thank you for being who you are.  
Thank you for encouraging me to grow.  
Thank you for the security of your love.  
Whether you are still with me or are  
enjoying eternity, I feel your presence ...*

***Ghislaine Salvail, s.j.s.h.***

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli