

BEATITUDES OF A DAD

FATHER'S DAY 2007

**Written by Fr. Richard J. Bartoszek
IN HONOR OF MY DAD, STEP-DAD AND GRANDDADS**

Blessed be the man who God choose to be a parent, a teacher, a protector, a provider, a role model and a motivator, He shall be called Dad.

Blessed be DAD as he holds each of his children for the first time and realizes the gift that God has entrusted to him.

Blessed be DAD as he changes his first diaper which leaks, is home for the first time with a baby and is scarred but with all his pride never shows it. Instead he prays someone comes home soon.

Blessed be DAD as he checks the babies in the night, checks on them before leaving for work and can't wait to get home from work to hold the gift of life he would do anything for.

Blessed be DAD for the bad dreams he woke us up from, the boogie men and monsters he chased away and the many times he told us, "Don't worry, I'm here and will always be."

Blessed be DAD for the Christmas Eves he stayed up all night putting toys together, the Halloweens he took us trick or treating, and the parades he let us sit on his shoulders so we could see.

Blessed be DAD for ice cream cones on hot summer days, hugs on cold winter nights kisses at bedtime and a shoulder to cry on when his child's heart was broken.

Blessed be DAD for the puppies and kitties he let us have as long as we took care of them and then as they grew up from being cute and cuddly they became his pets.

Blessed be DAD for the trips to the circus, the Tiger games, the Lions games, the Red Wings and Piston games whether we went to the game or watched it on TV.

Blessed be DAD for the ice- capades, not the Disney version but his own when he would tie his scarf to us and pull us around the rink giving us the ride of our life and a lifetime of memories.

Blessed be DAD who held us on his lap, bounced us on his knee, carried us when we were too tired to walk and now needs new knees and hips.

Blessed be DAD for the coaching he did whether or not he was the coach and all the post game talks he held at home, which goes to show he was always the president of his kids cheering section.

Blessed be DAD as he served our country in World Wars I and II, in Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm or in Iraq. May our own Patriotism and pride in our country follow that of the courage of our Fathers.

Blessed be DAD after a long days work for the times he took us tobogganing, helped us ride our first bike without training wheels and played catch or basketball when he really wanted to sit down.

Blessed be DAD as he let us drive on his lap when were six, take the car at sixteen and helped buy our first car.

Blessed be DAD for all the rides to school, moving us to boarding school, to college and into our own homes, and Thank God for all the extra twenties he handed us and the extras he always did during those needy times in our lives.

Blessed be DAD for hunting trips which were always successful because of the time spent together.

Blessed be DAD for fishing trips whether deep sea or off the pier, we always caught the big one as the story goes, BUT we threw it back.

Blessed be DAD for vacations near or out of the country, for barbeques and camping trips for all the memories we wish we had to do one more time.

Blessed be DAD for the faith he handed on to us, the prayers he taught us, and the many ways he taught us the Gospel through his actions without words.

Blessed be DAD as he walks his little girl down the aisle as a Bride or sits on the right side of the church as the Father of the Groom, holding back tears and wondering how they grew up so fast.

Blessed be DAD the salesman, the factory worker, the mailman, the fireman, the policeman, the CEO, the Executive, the stockbroker, the nurse, the Doctor for all he did and has done to work one job or two to provide the blessings we have.

Blessed be DADS who have struggled in life with illness, handicaps or addictions may their children one day have empathetic hearts for the struggles they faced.

Blessed be DAD as he now becomes a Grandpa, Poppy or Jaja (Polish Grandpa) as he waits to spoil his grandchildren and stop at the ice cream store or candy store just before taking them home to MOM and DAD and laughing as he drives away.

Blessed be DAD for his stubbornness may we look in the mirror and realize which side of the family that gene came from.

Blessed be DADS who have loved from a distance, who weren't always able to be there, who were the focus of judgment; may time heal the wounds left by those occurrences. May they know their children's love or forgiveness one day.

Blessed be DADS who have suffered the loss of a child. May they know they have a special angel in heaven waiting for them when they get there.

Blessed are those men who wanted to be a DAD but never were. May they realize the many ways God has called them to love in other ways.

Blessed be DADS who died when their children were very young, may they realize they have two FATHERS watching over them from Heaven.

Blessed be STEP-DADS who as St. Joseph accepted and loved what was entrusted to him, may they be blessed for their abundance of LOVE they share.

Blessed be DADS who never let divorce get in the way of being the teacher they promised to be at their child's baptism. May their children always recognize the commitment their dads teach them.

Blessed be DADS who are single parents and struggle to be everything to everyone from cook to coach and handyman to housekeeper. May they be recognized for their giftedness.

Blessed be DAD who loves his children unconditionally, whether they are athletic or computer geeks, musical or physically challenged, straight or gay, may his children always see HIM as the Good Shepherd who is always there.

Blessed be DAD as he slows up in the golden years and watches the babies he once held, now holding their own children and grandchildren. What a feeling of accomplishment he can feel in his heart.

Blessed be DAD as he has gone home to GOD and this year we'll celebrate Father's Day here and he'll celebrate it in heaven.

So wherever you are DAD, here beside us, across town, across the country, at work, or in heaven, BLESSED may you be for the ways you have blessed our lives, which goes to show anyone can Father a child but it takes someone special and committed to be a DAD who creates such memories.