

4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Father's Day

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

I offer you a short story for the soul.

A young girl was wearing a beautiful orange dress and her hair was tied with a red and gold ribbon. The girl was getting ready to go to school. It was Father's Day, so all the children had to come to school accompanied by their dads. She was the only one walking with her mother. Her mother had persuaded her to stay at home that day, saying that they would probably not understand their actions at school. But the girl wanted to tell everyone about her dad, who was very different from others.

At school, the children met many dads holding their child's hand. They greeted the newcomers, a little embarrassed. The teacher began to call the students one by one. Everyone called their father. Finally, the teacher called the girl's name in the orange dress. Everyone was surprised because her mother was standing next to her.

"And where is your father?" one boy asked. "She doesn't have a dad!" exclaimed the other. And from behind, came a third voice that said, "Or, her father is too busy, so he can't find time to come to school."

In response, the girl just smiled and congratulated everyone on Father's Day. Then she calmly looked around the whole school, despite the fact that the teacher asked her to hurry. Then she joined her hands and spoke loudly and clearly. "My dad is not here. His house is very far away. But I know that he would very much like to be with me now. I want you to know, my dad loved me very much. He fondly told me fairy tales and taught me to ride a bike. For every birthday, he gave me a beautiful red rose. He also taught me to fly a kite into the sky. Together we ate huge portions of ice cream. You don't see him now, and yet I'm not alone. My dad is always with me, even though we are far from each other. I know, because he promised to live forever in my heart."

With that, she raised her hand and put it to her heart. Her mother, the only one in the group of men, looked at her daughter through tears, but with pride.

The girl lowered her hand and finished with words full of tenderness. "I love my dad very much. He is my sun and if he could, he would be here today, but the sky is far away. But sometimes, when I close my eyes, it seems to me as if he never leaves me."

She closed her eyes, and the shocked mother saw that all the dads and their children had closed their eyes. What did they see in their minds? Probably the father standing next to the girl.

"I know you're with me today, Daddy," the girl said, breaking the silence. What happened next stunned everyone. No one could explain how miraculously, because everyone was standing with their eyes closed, but a magnificent, fragrant red rose appeared on the table. The child once again received the blessing of love from her father - the fruit of faith that heaven is not really that far away. (From Bruno Ferrero's book, "365 Short Stories for the Soul, Heaven is not far from man.")

Our parents are the people closest to us all over the world. Dad and mom are the first words that most of us say in childhood. Later, we try to compare them, look at them, and study them. They are for us, at the same time, the greatest mystery, the greatest discovery, and the greatest happiness. It is good when we have them and sad when they leave.

Father's Day, just like Mother's Day, is now celebrated in many countries of the modern world. The date of its celebration, at the international level, in countries where family values are especially respected, was fixed on the third Sunday of June.

The holiday of parents, of course, appeared as an expression of gratitude and love. According to tradition, the symbol of Father's Day are the flowers of the Rose, which is worn near the heart, pinned to the clothes on this day. A Red rose is worn if the father is alive, and a white rose if he has left our world.

The proposal to introduce this day in Ukraine was made by representatives of the International Center for Fatherhood, launching the Father's Day Public Initiative in October 2006. At the forums, participants discussed the ideological component of such a holiday. It was recognized that in the Ukrainian society, the model of a good father is that he:

- is responsible for saving the child's life from conception;
- together, with the child's mother, takes an active part in their education;
- provides for the family financially, but in such a way that there is time for the development of healthy relationships in the family; and
- teaches his children the basis of high morals by setting a personal example.

Dear believers! On this day, we wish our parents good health and to be with us as long as possible, so that we can make them happy and care for them, love them, and communicate with them, because we do not always have this opportunity!