

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

DAD

**He has
Arms to lift you up,
A heart to share love,
Shoulders for support,
A smile to reassure,
A blessing to send
you out into the world
And a warm embrace
to welome you
back home.**

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

In 1910, while listening to a Mother's day sermon in Spokane, Washington, Mrs. John Bruce Dodd felt the need to give similar recognition to the fathers of our nation. Mrs. Dodd's mother had died at an early age placing the responsibility of rasing six children solely upon the broad shoulders of her father.

As she grew up, Mrs. Dodd fondly remembered the efforts and sacrifices made by her father so that she and her brothers would have a better life. In later years, she would have this to say about the person who was both father and mother to her: "Of all of the multitude of things Dad did for us, I'm most grateful for the FAITH IN GOD he instilled within us. HE TAUGH us the golden Rule by LIVING the Golden Rule."

Mrs. Dodd's campaign for a "Father's Day" was a succesful one. It did not take long for her idea to receive widespread acceptance, eventually leading to the establishment of the third Sunday of June as this day of honor.

Today we pray that everyone remembers Mrs. Dodd's touching tribute. Fathers are called upon to be examples of Christian virtue for their children. How humbling it is to note that we refer to God as 'OUR FATHER!' What an awesome task it is, to live up to the lofty standards that the word "Father" carries with it! Yes, a father is a gift from God, from whom we shold learn to be *patient, strong, loving and filled with integrity.*

