

Memories of My Husband on Father's Day
From Claudia Agoglia
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Today is June 18, 2005. It is 23 months ago that I last saw my dearest husband, Joseph. How magnificent it must be beyond my comprehension that he now resides in heaven with his heavenly Father and his son, Jesus, his dad, mother, grandmother, and other family members, and all the apostles, saints, and the many others that have gone before him.

What a tremendous loving, giving, and caring person he was – a gift from God to our family. My memories of my beloved husband, Joe, will always be a reminder of God's endearing love for me and our three sons.

Everyday Joe was there for his family in some way. His thoughts and concern for us was always there. We all miss his handsome and warm and joyful smile. He was always energetic and faithful to call me each day from work and some days even twice to help me in any way possible. He was always there to encourage me, to give a special word for the day. I remember Joe's outstanding qualities of making me a priority in his life. It was so nice how he would share in the simplest of chores with me, especially in our kitchen and he made the simple things become fun. I enjoyed the times we spent together. I truly miss having my husband by my side.

Joe had a zeal to accomplish so much in each day. He was motivated by his love for God, his hunger for scriptures, and by the gifts and talents God had given him. He had left a legacy for me, our sons as well as the many people who knew Joe. His life was and still remains a gift to us all. I praise God with a thankful heart for the years that He blessed us with Joe's presence.

Tomorrow is "Father's Day," June 19, 2005. It will be an extremely sad day because I know how much Justin, Kristian, and Tad, my three sons, will be missing their loving father. Father's Day was a special day for our family. I remember we would always start the day going to Smithtown Tabernacle Church. Joe always loved spending his Sunday morning in church, worshipping the Lord. He always kept God first in his life and each Sunday he felt it was important to be in the house of the Lord to thank him for all the help he was given by God each week. Attending the morning service at Smithtown and experiencing the presence of the Lord gave us a feeling of peace, contentment, happiness, and joy that we took with us for the rest of the week.

After service, we would return home. On the way, Dad would often stop by the Italian food store to pick up a loaf of Italian bread and some Italian sausages. He even purchased Italian sesame cookies, his favorite.

Before dinner, sometimes Joe would have a slice of Italian bread, served with Parmesan cheese, and a small glass of Merlot...that was

always a special time for Joe and I as we just sat down, talked, and relaxed as a couple. I would always prepare homemade Italian sauce to compliment ravioli or lasagna. He enjoyed helping me prepare a homemade salad. He enjoyed cutting up fresh onions, peppers, and tomatoes. To add to the salad, we loved his energetic and joyful presence.

Something very meaningful to Joe was receiving four individual cards from his three sons and myself. We all added a special message inside each card to express how much he meant to each of us. He would go to his special chair in the den or sit outside on the deck and take time to read each word from his family which he deeply appreciated the love expressed to him. The words in the cards often brought tears to his eyes. Joe was so appreciative of little things.

It is not just on Father's Day that we celebrate the life of Joe, but everyday. I feel grateful that our three sons had such a wonderful, giving, caring, and spiritual father in their lives. Joe brought forth a faithful, endearing, love and kindness to our home and to our hearts that we could never say enough about my dearest husband. He prayed for me and our boys each morning and evening for the last 25 years.

I have been so blessed and honored to have Joe in my life. I love him with all my being. My heart still aches everyday for my life, loving partner of 35 years. I'm grateful to God for giving me Joe for as many years as he did. His life was a gift from God to us and especially to me. I

look forward to re-uniting with him in eternity and to learn of all the valuable things he did for God on the other side of life.

“In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2)

“I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall go in and out, and find pasture.” (John 10:9)

“For the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. (Isaiah 60:20)