

Now on the

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Photo by Greg Francis

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It Makes Me Feel To Know He's There

Tony and Jeff Green's father, Michael, is often out of town working as a salesman for a glass company.

However, Tony and Jeff don't recall their dad missing many of their sporting events over the years.

"He's made just about every one," said Jeff, 15. "It makes me feel good just to know he's always there."

Tony, 17, said that their father coached them from an early age in youth basketball and football leagues. Now he's a faithful member of the sports booster club at Aquinas Institute, as well as a volunteer on the sidelines for AQ football games.

"A few times I'd make a good (football) play, and he'd be cheering or yelling. It just shows that he cares, and wants to

support me," said Tony, whose family belongs to St. John the Evangelist Church in Greece.

With Father's Day approaching on June 21, this is the time of year teens show that they care about their dads. The appreciation can come in a number of ways — from gift-giving and cards, to spending all day together on Father's Day.

The Greens said that their Father's Day celebration usually turns into a big family gathering with their cousins and grandparents. "We normally get together at somebody's house. We have dinner and then sit down and watch TV," Tony said.

Father's Day is also a big family event in Heidi Utter's clan. "We all go out to eat. Sometimes we go to church," said Heidi, 18, from the Catholic Communities of St. Anne and St. Gregory in Palmyra and

Marion.

Meanwhile, Michelle Riviello said she usually goes to her grandmother's house ... but what does that have to do with Father's Day?

"The guys all go golfing," explained Michelle, 18, from St. John the Evangelist Church in Clyde.

Although Father's Day might be reserved for male bonding in her family, Michelle spends much of the rest of the year with her dad, Rod. They're both rabid New York Yankees baseball fans who willingly travel hundreds of miles to support their Bronx Bombers.

"We've left Clyde at 1 a.m. to be at Yankee Stadium (in New York City) by 6 a.m. so we can get autographs before a game," said Michelle. She added that she and Rod have even gone to Columbus,

The idea for an official Father's Day was originated by Mrs. John Bruce Dodd in 1909. She eventually persuaded the Ministerial Society of Spokane, Wash., to honor fathers with special church services, and the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane on June 19, 1910.

Mrs. Dodd's father, William Smart, was a Civil War veteran who had raised his family mostly as a single parent; His wife had died while giving birth to their sixth child.

Recognition of Father's Day reached a national level in 1916 when President Woodrow Wilson approved the idea. And in 1924, President Calvin Coolidge recommended a national observance of Father's Day. It is celebrated on the third Sunday of each June.

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