**Happy Birthday Papa**

**As I am getting ready**

 **to greet the new year,**

**I stopped to remember my**

**father who is no longer here.**

**I remember that papa's birthday was**

 **the last one celebrated by the family.**

**And I know he is spiritually here,**

 **as I celebrate with him, quietly.**

**Birthdays were important to my**

**papa and he loved celebrating.**

**He loved the fuss people made, although**

 **he was constantly complaining.**

**Complaining that getting old**

**limited him from what he likes to do.**

**With the aches and pains he accumalated, I**

**knew he would gladly trade places with you.**

**Papa measured the quality of life**

**with what one was able to do physically.**

**He valued his work ethics and passed it**

**on to all of us. And he envied our abilities.**

**He may have not been the father I**

**wanted but he was the only father I had.**

**Happy birthday papa. I look at my**

 **life without you and I am indeed sad.**

**Written By Frances Berumen 12/29/13<><**

**Published 5/5/20**