

Fraternity of Fatherhood

A Spiritual Fraternity for All Men

Volume 2

Issue 3

Sept 10, 2013

“One Bucket” in the Ocean of God’s Mercy by Brendan McVicker



Dear Brothers:

Lately I have been thinking a lot about and pondering God’s mercy. So many times I have spoken to men who question their own worthiness of the gift of God’s mercy. Often times, I find myself doing the same thing. The fact is, is that none of us are worthy, none of us deserve God’s mercy, none of us earned God’s mercy. It is a GIFT given to us. And the only way to properly accept a

gift is with gratitude. But still, how often do we still catch ourselves thinking back to what we have done in our past and we build this monster of sin. We catch ourselves questioning whether we will receive God’s mercy.

One of Father Pinto’s, SOLT, teachings that I think of often and really is one of my most favorite has to do with this exact topic. Perhaps it is my favorite because I struggle in this area.

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“Carry Your Family In Your Heart” Booklet Update—Grandfathers

Grandfathers:

Over the last year, we have been working to update the “Carry Your Family In Your Heart” book with scripture references for Grandfathers for each of the Fraternity guidelines. When Fr. Pinto was with us, he asked that this update for grandfathers be added. We expect the book update to be completed by January. This book has been the framework of the Fraternity of Fatherhood. It is a real gift that is packed with teachings for us to learn and ponder.

In today’s world it is not uncommon to hear fathers of older children or grandfathers say they are “done”....my kids are out of the nest now and I am done. But that just isn’t so! God has plans for fathers of older children and grandfathers. He has plans for all of us until the day He calls us home.

Next to their parents, you as a grandparent are quite possibly the greatest influence that your grandchildren will ever have. “How important grandparents are for family life, for passing on the human and religious heritage which is so essential for each and every society.” Pope Francis I (July 26, 2013)



“Even to your old age, I shall be the same, And even to your graying years I shall bear you! I have done it, and I shall carry you; And I shall bear you, and I shall deliver you.”

- Isaiah 46:4

CARRY YOUR FAMILY IN YOUR HEART - A CALL TO HOLINESS

A husband/father's guide to his vocation and spiritual direction. Each Newsletter focuses on one of the Guidelines or Areas of Growth from the "Carry Your Family In Your Heart" book. These guidelines to our Fatherhood Vocation & Spiritual Formation have been formatted based on the Fatherhood Retreat Guideline Teachings & under Spiritual Direction of Fr. Santan Pinto, S.O.L.T.

Guideline: HEARTS SET ON CHILDREN

As fathers, we must let our children know that we love them. We must carry our entire family in our hearts. Not only do we need to demonstrate this love to them, but we must also SAY IT. Say, "I Love You!". Then be quiet. Nothing more needs to be said. To often we say too much and soon find ourselves criticizing.

Our children need to hear that they are loved. They need to hear it, see it, and feel it. How did you feel when your child without any prompting, comes to you, hugs you and tells you that they love you, daddy. Any father will tell you that no money on earth can buy it.

We must also demonstrate our love to our children. Children see how we walk, what is important to us. If your faith is important to you, they notice. Be a teacher through example. Your children will not become men of God unless they see and witness a man of God. Don't nag thus they become hard-hearted.

Spend time with your children. Time is the great treasure because it is the gift of our self. Children have a right to expect their fathers to be involved in their lives. Discuss their joys, sorrows, experiences. Raising your children just doesn't mean existing as a father, it means to participate in their life. It means to Listen to them. Make sure they know how important they are; how special they are. Have fun! Relax! But it is also important that we instill discipline and high morals more than money and expensive toys. As a father our heart is set on our children, we carry our family in our heart.

As a father, if your heart is not set on your children, then they will be lost. And, you will be lost. Your greatest hope and prayer as a father is the salvation of your children, the souls that God has put in your care.

Scripture Reading Ps 127:3-5

Your children are a gift from God. If your quiver is filled with your children, if your children are carried in your heart, then you are not lost. You are focused. The strength of your vocation is open to you to ward off the enemy.

Scripture Reading Eph 5 & 6:1-4

Be an imitator of God. If your children do not see an imitator they will not be an imitator. If you harbor immoral, impurity, greed, then you are not an imitator but an idolater and you have no inheritance in the kingdom of God. Live as children of the light. Try and work toward knowing what the will of the Lord is for you. Love your wife as Christ loves the church and Father's do not provoke or hound your children. Bring them up and teach them daily in the instruction of the Lord. Remember you are their best example.

Scripture Reading Matt 18:10-14

Do not despise one of your children. Their angels have direct access to the face of the Father in heaven. So, how powerful their prayers must be and so how really important it is that we do train them and instruct them in the ways of Lord. And if they stray, we seek them out and pray for them and rejoice on their return.

Scripture Reading Luke 18:15-17

Bring your children to God and let Him bless them. Lead them to Christ. Christ will teach you through them for the kingdom belongs to those such as your children. You must learn to accept the kingdom of God as they do in order to enter God's kingdom. Learn from your children.

"One Bucket" in the Ocean of God's Mercy *(continued from page 1)*

It all came back to me when I was on vacation at the beach two weeks ago with my kids at the Oregon coast. My kids, time after time, would fill their buckets with sand and time after time the ocean would wash their castle away. As I looked at the power of the Pacific Ocean and how vast it was, it boggled my mind. Suddenly, Father's teaching came back to me and it was like he started teaching me all over again as I watched the kids play. In my heart again I heard,Don't carry the misery of sin around with you. Go to reconciliation and once, and for all be done with it. Sin is nothing compared to God's mercy. Sin compared to God's mercy is one bucket of sand compared to the entire ocean of God's mercy. Put your sin in the bucket and throw it into the ocean and look, it is gone. The Lord's ocean of mercy immediately wipes it out into nothing.

God's mercy is so vast. We don't deserve it, we don't earn it. Yes, our sin is ugly. But still the gift of His mercy is there for us. I can't help but think of the scripture story, Matthew 19:16-26, where the Rich man asks what he must do to have eternal life. In verse 25, after the disciples heard the Lord's response, they were very surprised, and said, "How can anyone be saved?" And the Lord says, "There are some things that people cannot do, but God can do anything." You see we all need God's mercy to reach heaven. We all do. Maybe some more than others, but we all do. What a gift His mercy is! Trust in His mercy. Accept it with gratitude.



Fraternity of Fatherhood—Group locations & Area Coordinators

Fr. Pinto has encouraged us to grow and expand the Fraternity of Fatherhood all over the world. He has granted us his permission, his blessing and he guides us spiritually. It is with this confidence that we now move forward with humility, obedience and docile hearts. If you are interested in joining a Fraternity of Fatherhood group or if you would like to start a group in your city contact Ray Emnace, Mike Allison, Stacey Hill or Brendan McVicker.

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**“How precious is
the family as the
privileged place
for transmitting
the faith”
Pope Francis I**





Fraternity Portland, Oregon Menmeet every second Saturday of the month.

We meet at St. Mary's Cathedral for 7:30AM Mass followed by our breakfast meeting at the Kingston Grill. We conclude at 9:30AM.

Our group consists of single and married men. Right now we are studying the "Carry Your Family In Your Heart" Fatherhood Guidelines. Contact Brendan 503-358-4963.

Hope you can join!

A Fraternity for All Men

The Fraternity of Fatherhood is for men of all ages. Our desire is to serve the Lord in all areas of our lives and to especially model our gift and responsibilities as fathers after the example of God the Father and His goodness. We support men; meeting them where they are. We engage in one-on-one friendships and provide opportunities for group activity, support and formation.

We entrust the Fatherhood Fraternity to the patronage of Saint Joseph.

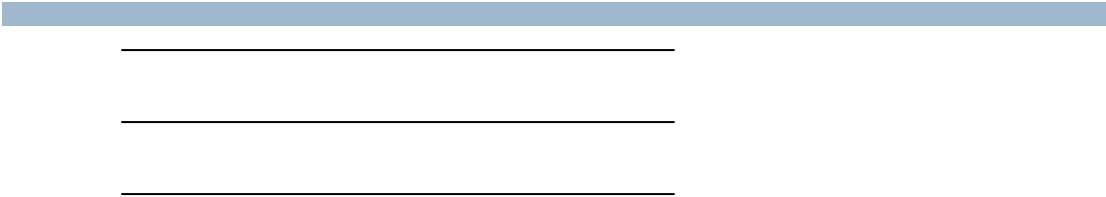
Our Mission

To serve as men dedicated to the Lord in all aspects of our lives. To encourage and support men / fathers throughout the world in their gift and responsibilities as fathers. To encourage and support fathers "to respond" to their vocation, to protect and remain strong carrying their families in their hearts. Our desire is to be united to The Lord and fulfill our holy mission as fathers.

What is it we hope to do?

Bring men / fathers, closer to God by inviting them to learn their faith, challenging them to live their faith and encouraging them to love and share their faith. In addition, we invite those not married as this is a time to discern their vocation and calling in the Church.

As Fraternity of Fatherhood members, we are committed to grow and be formed spirituality, to support each other, to be active and supportive in our parishes. We are committed to learn who we are as Catholic men, to be discovered through our life experiences, prayer, studying Scripture and the documents of the Holy Roman Catholic Church, obedience to the Holy Roman Pontiff, our Roman Catholic Bishops and our parish Pastors. The formation of "Fatherhood" takes place in our hearts. Being a father means understanding that it is a call. When Fatherhood is received as a gift, it is accepted in humility and gratitude. Humility comes from the fact that we are weak. The pressures of the world are strong and flesh seems to have its way. Gratitude comes from the fact that the Lord is our Shepherd and He is with us always. With Him all things are possible.



POSTAGE

Fraternity of Fatherhood

**We entrust the Fatherhood Fraternity to the patronage
of St. Joseph.**



St. Joseph ...Pray For Us.



This Fraternity of Fatherhood Newsletter is published every 90 days. Next edition: Dec. 2013

To submit feedback and/or suggestions for future articles, please email the editors,

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