



Fraternity of Fatherhood

A Spiritual Fraternity for All Men

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Grandfathers—He has a Plan for You Too

From- Carry Your Family In Your Heart

Many of us have experienced in our own lives the importance that Grandfathers play in the life of many children. I remember as a child staying at my Grandparents, walking to church with them, helping setup the nativity set at Christmas, saying nightly prayers (while actually kneeling down at my bedside). It truly had an impact on me. In today's world it is not uncommon to hear fathers say they are "done" when their kids have left the nest. But it 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.

The Bible is clear on the importance of family and a grandfather can use their maturity to help influence their grandchildren for Christ. Children remember the way their role models lived and try to model their own lives after that. As a grandfather, try to be a great Christian role model for your grandchildren. That way when you are gone someday, your grandchildren will remember and smile at the things you said and did, the desire you had to instill goodness in them. Next to their parents, you are quite possibly the greatest influence that they will ever have. Your grandchildren are watching you. What are they learning?

"One generation shall praise Thy works to another, and shall declare Thy mighty acts." Psalm 145:4



Fr. Santan Pinto

"Old Age is the seat of the wisdom of life. Let's donate this to the young, like good wine that gets better with the years. Let's give the young the wisdom of life."

Pope Francis



Saint Teresa of Calcutta — Canonized September 4, 2016

EWTN

Born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu on August 26, 1910, in Skopje, Macedonia, in the former Yugoslavia, she was the youngest of three children. In her teens, Agnes became a member of a youth group in her local parish called Sodality. Through her involvement with their activities guided by a Jesuit priest, Agnes became interested in missionaries. At age 17, she responded to her first call of a vocation as a Catholic missionary nun. She joined an Irish order, the Sisters of Loretto, a community known for their missionary work in India. When she took her vows as a Sister of Loretto, she chose the name Teresa after Saint Thérèse of Lisieux.



I pray that you will understand the words of Jesus, "Love one another as I have loved you." Ask yourself "How has he loved me? Do I really love others in the same way?" Unless this love is among us, we can kill ourselves with work and it will only be work, not love. Work without love is slavery.

St. Teresa of Calcutta

While recovering from tuberculosis, a consecrated missionary who had been teaching geography in a High School in Calcutta heard her vocational calling. Though already a member of the Sisters of Loretto, Sister Teresa had received an unmistakable request from the Lord: live and work among the poorest of the poor. Despite not knowing where or how she would accomplish His order, she obeyed. Four years later, she had her answer. The little nun found herself back in Calcutta, but this time in its slums, not schools.

With several of her former students at her side, she set out to minister to its people, from making house calls to sick residents to gathering those abandoned and suffering in the streets. It wasn't long before her efforts of seeking Christ in those that the world had forgotten, had finally attracted the world's attention. As her mission progressed in an age of material wealth and industrialism, Mother Teresa and her Missionaries of Charity would go on to open up the eyes of the world to the importance of living simply, loving greatly, and the looming threat of spiritual poverty.

The Grandparents

By: Pope Francis

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning,

In today's catechesis we continue our reflection on grandparents, *considering the value and importance of their role in the family*. I do so by placing myself in their shoes, because I too belong to this age group.

When I was in the Philippines, the Filipino people greeted me saying "Lolo Kiko" — meaning Grandpa Francis — "Lolo Kiko", they said! The first important thing to stress: it is true that society tends to discard us, but the Lord definitely does not! The Lord never discards us. He calls us to follow Him in every age of life, and *old age has a grace and a mission* too, a true vocation from the Lord. Old age is a vocation. It is not yet time to "pull in the oars". This period of life is different from those before, there is no doubt; we even have to somewhat "invent it ourselves", because our societies are not ready, spiritually and morally, to appreciate the true value of this stage of life. Indeed, it once was not so normal to have time available; it is much more so today. Christian spirituality has also been caught somewhat by surprise, with regard to outlining a kind of spirituality of the elderly. But thanks be to God there is no shortage of the testimony of elderly saints, both men and women!

"Old age has a grace and mission too, a true vocation from the Lord. Old age is a vocation. It is not yet time to pull in the oars."

I was really moved by the "Day dedicated to the elderly" that we had here in St. Peter's Square last year, the Square was full. I listened to the stories of elderly people who devote themselves to others, and to stories of married couples, who said: "We are celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary, we are celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary". It is important to present this to young people who tire so easily; the testimony of the elderly in fidelity is important. There were so many in this Square that day. It is a reflection to continue, in both the ecclesial and civil spheres. The Gospel comes to meet us with a really moving and encouraging image. It is the image of Simeon and Anna, whom are spoken of in the Gospel of Jesus' childhood, composed by St Luke. There were certainly elderly, the "old man", Simeon, and the "prophetess", Anna, who was 84 years old. This woman did not hide her age. The Gospel says that they awaited the coming of God every day, with great trust, for many years. They truly wanted to see Him that day, to grasp the signs, to understand the origin. By then, they were also perhaps more resigned to die first: that long wait, however, continued to occupy their whole life, having no commitments more important than this: to await the Lord and pray. So, when Mary and Joseph went to the temple to fulfil the provisions of the Law, Simeon and Anna moved quickly, inspired by the Holy Spirit (cf. Lk 2:27). The burden of age and waiting disappeared in an instant. They recognized the Child, and discovered *new strength, for a new task*: to give thanks for and bear witness to this Sign from God. Simeon improvised a beautiful hymn of jubilation (cf. Lk 2:29-32) — in that moment he was a poet — and Anna became the first woman to preach of Jesus: she "spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem" (Lk 2:38).

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Portland, Oregon Men

....Our Fraternity meets every second Saturday of the month 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.

(mcvickerfamily@comcast.net)

Come join us!



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.

The Grandparents

... (continued from page 3)

Dear grandparents, dear elderly, let us follow in the footsteps of these extraordinary elders! Let us too become like poets of prayer: let us develop a taste for finding our own words, let us once again grasp those which teach us the Word of God. *The prayer of grandparents and of the elderly is a great gift for the Church!* The prayer of grandparents and of the elderly is a great gift for the Church, it is a treasure! A great injection of wisdom for the whole of human society: above all for one which is too busy, too taken, too distracted. Someone should also sing, for them too, sing of the signs of God, proclaim the signs of God, pray for them! Let us look to Benedict XVI, who chose to spend the final span of his life in prayer and listening to God! This is beautiful! A great believer of the last century, of the Orthodox tradition, Olivier Clément, said: "A civilization which has no place for prayer is a civilization in which old age has lost all meaning. And this is terrifying. For, above all, we need old people who pray; prayer is the purpose of old age". We need old people who pray because this is the very purpose of old age. The prayer of the elderly is a beautiful thing.

We are able to *thank* the Lord for the benefits received, and fill the emptiness of ingratitude that surrounds us. We are able to *intercede* for the expectations of younger generations and give dignity to the memory and sacrifices of past generations. We are able to remind ambitious young people that a life without love is a barren life. We are able say to young people who are afraid that anxiety about the future can be overcome. We are able to teach the young who are overly self-absorbed that there is more joy in giving than in receiving. Grandfathers and grandmothers form the enduring "chorus" of a great spiritual sanctuary, where prayers of supplication and songs of praise sustain the community which toils and struggles in the field of life.

Last, Prayer *unceasingly purifies the heart*. Praise and supplication to God prevents the heart from becoming hardened by resentment and selfishness. How awful is the cynicism of an elderly person who has lost the meaning of his testimony, who scorns the young and does not communicate the wisdom of life! How beautiful, however, is the encouragement an elderly person manages to pass on to a young person who is

seeking the meaning of faith and of life! It is truly the mission of grandparents, the vocation of the elderly. The words of grandparents have special value for the young. And the young know it. I still carry with me, always, in my breviary, the words my grandmother consigned to me in writing on the day of my priestly ordination. I read them often and they do me good.

How I would like a Church that challenges the throw-away culture with the overflowing joy of a new embrace between young and old! This is what I ask of the Lord today, this embrace!

<h2>Year of Mercy Calendar</h2> <p>Encounter and Extend Mercy during the Year of Jubilee</p>	
<p>Visit LiveMercy.org to sign up for daily Mercy inspiration on your email or <u>iphone message</u>. Each day the theme is different.</p>	

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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Fraternity Sacramento Men ...

Meet every third Wednesday
of the month.

We meet at Denny's in
Orangevale at 7:30 pm.

Please contact Mike Allison
with any questions at
email address...

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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.

PILGRIM

Remember that you are on a journey - a journey to search for eternal happiness. The path to heaven is very narrow, steep and far less traveled.

Why not choose a large wide gate, a clear open road and a lot of people to keep you company along the way. Why wouldn't I want my journey to follow such a path? We will think 'why not such a path' until we take hold of the plow that Jesus ask us to hold firmly with both hands and don't look back. The main point of taking the narrow path on our journey is that we are putting God first in our lives; that we spend our lives on God's will for us. It is hard at times, but God puts His light of hope into our hearts. Hope of a great reward that cannot be found by going on any other path.

We are far from alone on this narrowing path. Slowly you will become aware of the presence of the Holy Spirit seeping slowly into your heart much like a soft mist upon the grass. When this happens along your journey you are open to the true and only path. You die to the world; to self. Peter knew this when He said in John 6: 68, "*Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life*". The Holy Spirit guides us and the prayers of the entire Church, angels and saints are with us. The Holy Spirit is your guide on the narrow path. If we are not led by the Holy Spirit, by what are we led?

The path to heaven is not easy. The "world" constantly urges us by advertising and television to "take care of ourselves" by putting me first. Jesus tells us quite the contrary. Take up your cross daily and lose your life for His sake.

Grandfathers

They will still yield fruit in old age; They shall be full of sap and very green." (Psalm 92:14)

God knows every tear and every sorrow of His children, and He longs to fill in the gaps that earthly fathers may have failed to fill.

A Father's Legacy—The father of one who is right with God will have much joy. He who has a wise son will be glad in him. (Proverbs 23:24)

Faith of a Grandparent — "For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well." (2 Timothy 1:5)

Scripture Reading Gn 13:5-18

Abraham was a pilgrim following the path that the Lord had put before him. The path was not easy but God took care of his needs. Abraham built an altar to the Lord in thanksgiving.

Pilgrim

... (continued from page 7)

Scripture Reading Matt 7:6, 13-20

If you work on growing close the Lord you will find the world will reject you and what you share with the world about the Lord, the world will reject and tear to pieces. When you grow in the Lord you are on the narrow path while the world remains on the path of destruction. We need to be watchful, discern and make sure we are not being lured off the path by some false teaching or group. A good test is the fruit. Is good fruit being produced? Is it in line with the teachings of the Church? Stay on the narrow path at all cost. For what is not on the narrow path will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

Scripture Reading John 6:66

Once on the narrow path and we have both hands on the plow, don't look back. The world will try to get us to go back to our old ways, the ways of selfishness, greed. Many left the narrow path and did not follow Jesus. Surrender yourself to the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit that you remain and grow on the narrow path. Stay strong! You are a citizen of heaven. It is the narrow path that will take you home.

Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ, Send your Holy Spirit to sanctify each one of us with this anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and that we, your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of You, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.



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. 2016
To submit feedback and/or suggestions for future article topics, please email the editors,

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