



Fraternity of Fatherhood

A Spiritual Fraternity for All Men

Volume I

Issue 4

December 3, 2012

Fr. Santan Pinto SOLT — “Find Within Our Hearts A Spark”

Father Pinto SOLT Christmas Greeting 2011.

Dear Disciples of Jesus and Mary, Missionaries of Mercy and Friends:

I am sending this Christmas email out early because I am not sure if I will be able to send an email to you for Christmas in time.

The Lord chooses to hide His greatest blessings. These are seen or noticed by

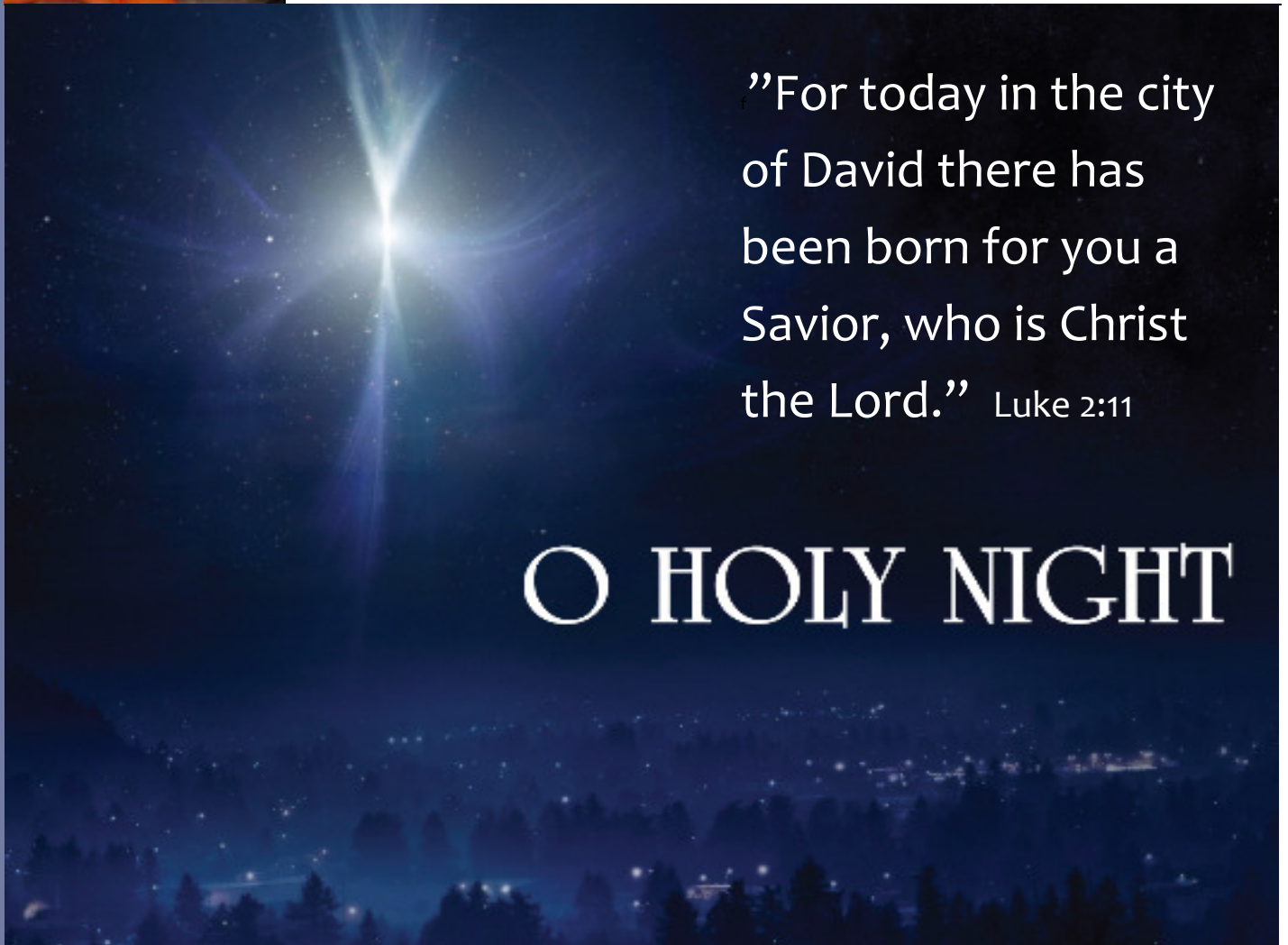
those who seek them. The wise men sought the Lord and were directed by means of a star. Simeon and the prophetess Anna sought the Lord and the Holy Spirit directed them to come to the temple at the very hour that Joseph and Mary were bringing Jesus to the temple. Zaccheus sought to see Jesus and Jesus went and stayed with Him.

In the Resurrection the women were seeking Jesus. *(continued on page 5)*



”For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

○ HOLY NIGHT



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: SERVANT

God is the servant of all. One of our Holy Father's title is *Servus servorum Dei* - "Servant of the Servants of God". We must become servants as fathers. The greatest is the one who serves. Just as in the parable of the talents (Matt 25:14) "when a man who was going on a long journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them" God has entrusted us as fathers/servants with his possessions. We are merely caretakers of his children. As servants we are accountable to the responsibilities that God has given us. The secret to fathering is gaining loving authority, by serving, sacrifice and loyal commitment.

Being a servant requires courage. We must become small, humble and our focus, our energy, is totally on our wife, our child, and our neighbor. We must see Christ in all we serve. We must look through the eyes of Christ. This requires being attentive. We must anticipate the needs of our wife and children. And we have to show this attentiveness. A morning coffee brought to your wife or occasionally having her bath ready to go for her when she comes home from a late night of work. Towel out, favorite cookies and glass of wine. Maybe a candle or two. To our children we should be enablers to growth and not inhibitors by controlling every move. Gain their trust. Be there for your children. Become a positive enabler by showing good example and promote positive healthy growth. Let your children see your love for them. Let them see the love and honor you have for your wife.

On the surface, a daily cup of coffee or occasional glass of wine ready to go at the bathtub doesn't seem like much, but remember the little things, anticipating them, counts for so much.

Within this guideline we must also ask for the intercession of the saints. Pray through the saints for help with the individual needs of with those of your children. Pray now for the person who may someday marry your son or daughter. Pray for their family that God may bless them and watch over them.

Be obedient. As head of our family, obedience to the church will measure out as protection. If we are not obedient, then we place ourselves, we place our heart outside the church, outside our circle of grace and then we are lost.

- Scripture Reading Luke 22: 24-30

The greatest is the one who serves. Jesus was the example to us of the one who serves. When you see a dirty in the sink from yesterday, or a room that needs to be cleaned don't say anything but just clean it. Be the servant. When your son needs to go to the ball park for the fifth time this week, don't say not again in your heart or under your breath. Be the servant. In your prayer life, set time aside to pray. Take time away maybe from a newspaper or TV show and pray. Start slowly. Be a servant. Do something unexpected for your wife. A surprise card or dessert. (Continued on page 3)

- Scripture Reading Matt 25:14-30

God has entrusted His possessions to us....His children entrusted in our care. Do we help them grow in the church, in their faith or do we not do anything? Are we examples to them in the sacraments or do we rarely attend confession or for that matter, holy mass. Do we bury the gifts of our fatherhood vocation in the ground just as the servant who had received one talent. Or, will we be able to say that we spent ourselves on being a servant to our families both spiritually and for all their needs. Then God will say to us, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come and share your master's joy'.

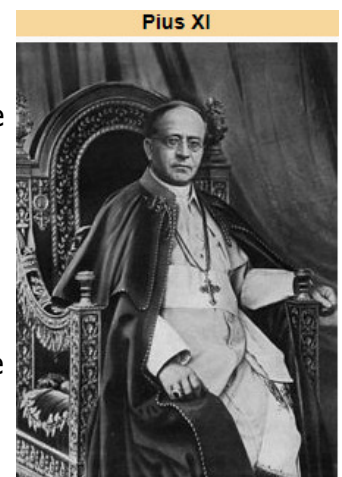
A Gift From My Father's Father

by Michael Hummer

God's providence never ceases to surprise me. In His infinite wisdom He moves His creatures to holiness. Out of grief and sorrow came one of the greatest treasures of all, but I'm getting ahead of myself. My story starts a few years ago at the time of my mother's death.

I come from a large family of twelve children. As my mother's health declined she insisted that we all ask for what household items we wanted after she died. She sorted out the list and with a little discussion we all settled on a fair division of the household possessions. After her death we all picked up what we had asked for and what she had given us. There were some things left behind that no one wanted.

It took about a year to settle the estate and sell the home. The time had come for the items left behind to be cleaned out which fell on those in our family who lived nearby. My son was one of those who helped. He found a large framed picture of a pope with an inscription on the bottom to my grandparents. Knowing that we like religious pictures and recognizing that this may be an important document he brought it home to my wife and me.



When my wife and I received it we immediately saw that this picture was something special. The inscription below the picture of the pope was dated January 1925 and has the seal of the Vatican. It is a declaration of Apostolic Benediction from Pope Pius XI to my grandparents and the whole Hummer family granting a plenary indulgence on the condition that at the moment of death we say with our mouth or in our heart the name of Jesus.



I thank Father Pinto and the DJM formation that I understand what this Apostolic Benediction and the plenary indulgence actually mean. None of my family remembers seeing this picture displayed in our house while we grew up. Our guess is that my grandmother gave it to her youngest child, my father where it was kept probably in a closet. That no one else in my family took it or wanted it and it ended up in my hands is truly the providence of God. This Christmas I will mail a copy to all my brothers and sisters and also to my cousins. The least of possessions left behind turns out to be the greatest treasure of all.

Merry Christmas,

Michael Hummer
Fraternity of Men in Sacramento, CA

Who Invented the Nativity Scene?

Source—*US Catholic*

If you missed the feast of Francis of Assisi in October, the Christmas season offers another opportunity to commemorate the saint. Anyone who has erected a nativity scene is following Francis' 13th-century example.

On Christmas Eve 1223, the saint created the first nativity in the Italian city of Greccio. With the help of a local nobleman, Francis celebrated the birth of Jesus in a cave outside the town. The liturgy featured a hay-filled manger in front of the temporary altar, and as Francis preached, the nobleman arranged to have an ox and a donkey stand at the altar as well.

The Franciscans quickly spread the practice of creating nativity scenes with live animals and actors. Living scenes remained popular, but static nativities also developed, allowing the scene to remain on display for longer periods for meditation.



As the tradition was introduced to new regions throughout the world, nativity scenes adapted to local tastes and customs. Incorporating local elements was especially popular in Francis' native Italy, where the participants in the scene looked less like biblical figures and more like characters from the local village.

A few years ago, however, there were complaints that this localism had gone too far when a figurine of former Italian prime minister, the scandal-plagued Silvio Berlusconi, appeared in a nativity scene in Naples.

By the 19th century Protestant churches, which initially rejected nativity scenes as a form of idolatrous Catholic superstition, slackened their opposition to the scenes, and their popularity spread through the wider Christian world. Last Christmas, a church in Southampton, England gathered shepherds, angels, and wise men of all sizes in an attempt to break the record for the largest living nativity. At 298 participants, however, they fell well short of the record of 567 people.

Francis' original nativity was inspired by his trip in 1221 to the Holy Land and Jesus' traditional birthplace. He was deeply moved visiting the site where God became fully human. Hoping others could enjoy the same profoundly spiritual experience, Francis encouraged believers to make pilgrimages to Bethlehem. By 1223, however, conflict among the powers vying for control of the Holy Land made the trip too dangerous for pilgrims. Francis decided to do the next best thing—bring Bethlehem to the pilgrims.

Accounts of Francis' original nativity do not include much information about the congregation that gathered. We do not know if the Italian villagers standing in the cold on Christmas Eve nearly eight centuries ago were as moved as Francis was by the idea of an omnipotent God so capable of love and humility that he took the form of a vulnerable infant and was born outdoors among the animals.

The popularity of nativity scenes, however, indicates that over the centuries people were drawn to the possibility of building their own Bethlehem. Setting up a nativity scene not only allows us to remember and celebrate the drama of Jesus' birth but also the saint so enraptured with that drama that he brought it to life.

Fr. Pinto SOLT - Christmas Message 2011 (continued from page 1)

They were told, "Why are you the living among the dead. He is risen as He said." Even today we will never find Him in the world with all its glamour, power and greatness. He will always be found by the little ones in a place that is hidden, poor and simple.

What is important for us this Christmas is to find within our hearts a spark that we should keep working at. Each of us can desire to seek the Lord in our little ways. Let us try to be creative. Try to spend much time with Mary and Joseph asking them to form your heart so it may grow in this desire to seek the Lord.

Remind yourself that everyone who desired to see Jesus found Him. Learn this Christmas to keep this little candle of devotion burning in your heart!

The patriarchs, the prophets and His leaders were all little and simple men. God chose that His Son be born as a man—in humility and poverty and silence.

Let us use this Christmas season to grow in these three virtues and graces, so that Jesus will reveal His presence to us. We will know this year that Jesus was truly born in our lives by the joy and peace that will accompany us constantly. It is His light of grace that dispels the darkness of sin in us. It is His grace that enables us like Mother Mary to wonder and praise God, and ponder all these words in our hearts.

Even today He hides Himself in the Most Holy Eucharist. It should be our constant desire to come to seek His glory and majesty in these sacramental signs.

In our hearts let us bring our family members, friends, co-workers, enemies and those we dislike to the Living Manger as we receive Jesus and honor Him in the Blessed Eucharist. Let us ask the Lord that they too share this great desire that fills our hearts to see the Lord and worship Him in the tabernacles of our hearts!

Please share this Christmas letter with your family and friends. Thanks.

Blessings to you, your family and friends for this great and grace-filled season of Christmas! And may the blessings of Christmas continue to guide and protect you throughout the coming year.

With my priestly blessings,

Fr. Santan Pinto SOLT

**“REMINDE YOUR-
SELF THAT EVERY-
ONE WHO DESIRED
TO SEE JESUS
FOUND HIM”**



December 16th, 2012 marks the 1 year anniversary of Fr. Santan Pinto returning home to our Heavenly Father. We ask for your special prayers for Fr. Pinto in thanksgiving for all that he taught and shared with us and for his continued intercession.

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, as well as, 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.

Arkansas

Steve Osborn (501) 664-5379 (501) 529-5615 SteveO@oca-actuaries.com Little Rock

California

Ray Emnace (661) 513-4216 (213) 531-1999 Raceman502@aol.com Los Angeles
Mike Allison (916) 436-4049 (916) 834-6226 meallison5@gmail.com Fair Oaks

Mississippi

Don Brewer (662) 253-5146 (901) 299-1989 don@memphis2u.com Olive Branch

Nevada

Stacey Hill (775) 787-6275 (775) 762-5217 cerrosamor@sbcglobal.net Reno

Oregon

Brendan McVicker (503) 657-0484 (503) 358-4963 mcvickerfamily@comcast.net West Linn

Texas

Donald Lange (210) 404-1330 (210) 875-7869 LangeDP@BV.com San Antonio

MEN



Our Portland, Oregon Fatherhood Fraternity Group meets the second Saturday of each month. You are invited.

We meet at St. Mary's Cathedral in downtown Portland for Mass at 7:30AM followed by breakfast at the nearby Kingston Grill (3 blocks away) and discussion of the months Fatherhood Guideline from "Carry Your Family in Your Heart" Booklet. We will finish with a prayer from "Steps In Littleness". We wrap-up at 9:30AM. Come join the guys!

For more information call Brendan McVicker at (503) 657-0484 or email mcvickerfamily@comcast.net



Fraternity Sacramento Menmeet every third Wednesday of the month.

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

We have been reviewing and discussing the Catechism for the year of faith. Please contact Mike Allison with any questions at email address...

(meallison5@gmail.com)

Hope you can join!

(left to right—Michael, Miguel, Mike and Jack)

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.



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

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Brendan McVicker | mcvickerfamily@comcast.net |
| Mike Allison | meallison5@gmail.com |
| Ray Emnace | raceman502@aol.com |
| Stacey Hill | cerrosamor@sbcglobal.net |