



Fraternity of Fatherhood

A Spiritual Fraternity for All Men

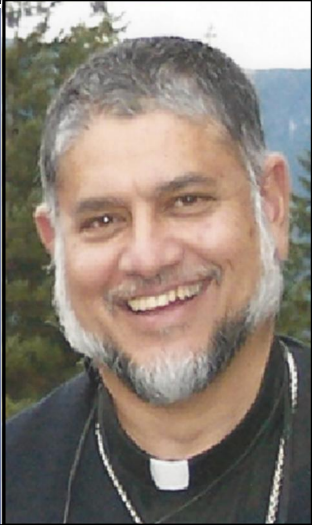
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Act On Your Vocation

By: Brendan McVicker



Dear Men:

One of the last prophecies in the Old Testament (Malachi 3:23-24) "Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and terrible day. To return the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with doom." Although the Church tells us this prophecy was fulfilled by St. John the Baptist, every time I hear it I can't help but think how close this applies to our time as well. Fatherhood and male spirituality is under attack in so many ways in our world today. I remember times when Fr. Pinto would teach us and he would shake his head at how much damage has been done in the world. But he encouraged us even more to fight the battle. He told us that many men are being helped through the Fraternity of Fatherhood. He told us so much good is being done for the men. Father Pinto taught, "The great witness of John (the Baptist), was ...*(continued page 5)*

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Malachi 3:23-24





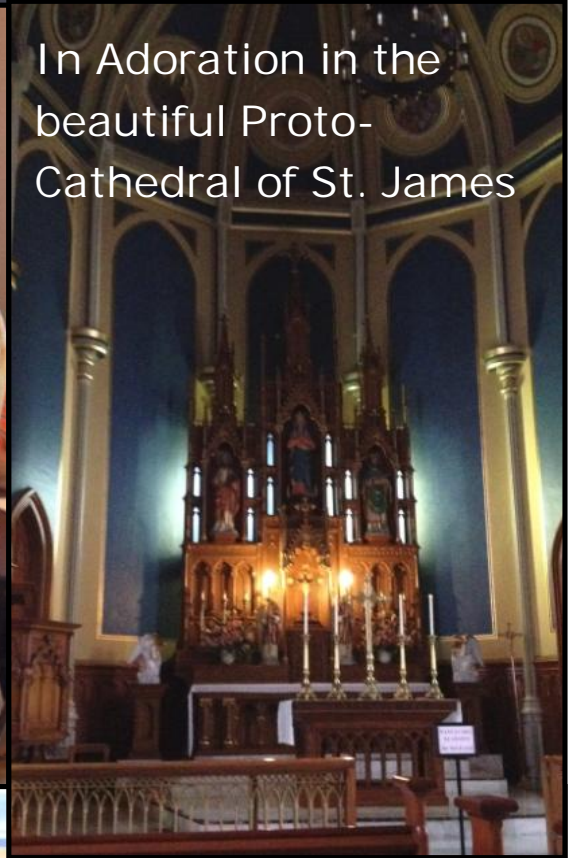
For the past eight years the Real Catholic Men's Conference here in Portland/Vancouver has brought men together to grow in their understanding of their faith and grow spiritually. Men from our Fraternity attended again this year. The topic for the conference was "Let Us Set The World Ablaze". It was amazing this year how the speakers talks fell directly in line with many of the guidelines in our "Carry Your Family In Your Heart" book. A primary point from the conference that I took away is that "Loving Authority" of real fatherhood is central to our world and necessary for the survival of the family. Loving Authority is central to peace, order, truth and love in our world. Everything rises and falls on the strength of the family. Keys messages were take action as a Catholic man, bless your Children, bring order to your family, give up your desire to control but love with authority and lastly, surrender to God and he will give order to you. The strength of fatherhood is not to take but to give totally and protect.



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Visiting with Fr. Brian Mullady, OP



In Adoration in the beautiful Proto-Cathedral of St. James



Men listening to talk by Fr. Brian Mullady, OP



Breakfast Together



A great lunch & much thanks to the Knights of Columbus

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.

Act On Your Vocation—(continued from page 1)

to always place Christ before him, always. He must increase and I must decrease." Fr. Pinto has encouraged us to grow and expand the Fraternity of Fatherhood all over the world to include both married men and single. He has granted us his permission and his blessing. How can you help? Ask yourself that? Make a decision to invite a friend to come to a Fraternity of Fatherhood session. Can you start a new group? For some of us we might tend to foster a feeling of discouragement if we never worked on our spiritual growth as a father until now. We may feel it is too late. It is never too late, never! All of us Catholic men need to stand up and act on our vocation.

We need to imitate John the Baptist and be a witness for Christ. We must decrease, He must increase. As St. Paul (Roman 12:1-2) tells us we have a decision to make. There is a fork in the road. We can either conform to the world or be transformed in Jesus Christ.

It is your choice. Take your pick. But no choice is a choice for the world because you don't have to do anything. But to be transformed in Christ requires action every day. And the help of our Lord and Lady is there with us everyday.

For my work, I am a Project Manager and when you manage a project you are daily and weekly constantly striving to stay on course and many times on the critical path you have to continuously check your objectives and remove obstacles to reach your goal, stay on course. It is the same way with our spiritual lives as Fathers. We need to constantly check our objective.. that we give glory to God, we grow in holiness and that we do all we can so that our families reach heaven.

Being transformed in Christ is a daily exercise, not just something that we think about in Church for an hour on Sunday. Many men hear it, but how many apply it? As Catholic men it is time to apply it, to act on the strength and spirituality of your vocation.

We need to see that spirituality has so much to do with being a father and protecting our vocation. As fathers we are called to be holy. Holiness is our destiny. Many of us fail to realize that. It is our vocation. Father tells us, "That is where our strength comes from.. from the grace of our vocation. We need to examine our desires. Many did not accept our Lord because he questioned their desires...He challenged them." We need to understand that God challenges us as Fathers. We also need to be confident and know that God gives us all the graces we need to grow our Catholic male spirituality and the strength to take action, to be a "John the Baptist" in our world today. God the Father knows that answering this call requires courage and strength.

Help growth the Fraternity of Fatherhood. Invite a friend to your next meeting. Look into starting a Fraternity of Fatherhood in your city or parish. It is with confidence that we now move forward with humility and docile hearts. For information on joining a Fraternity of Fatherhood group or if you would like to start a group in your parish or city contact Ray Emnace, Mike Allison, Stacey Hill or Brendan McVicker. Contact information is on the following page.

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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...
(meallison5@gmail.com)



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.

ONE WHO TRUSTS

The greatest of our world, Mother Theresa, Gandhi, the great saints, all of them had one trait in common, "They trusted in God".

As men who trust, we place everything - our heart, our soul, our mind, our fears, our joys in God. A man, who walks in faith, is a soul that trusts.

Those who trust will never be put to shame.

The message of trust in God is not the message we hear at all in our society. We are urged to trust in ourselves, our own abilities, our money, our possessions, our insurance policies, the state lottery to take care of our needs. The world looks to these for the promise of security, peace of mind and to cover us from loss. But even the people you know that have all the money and worldly goods they need and more don't have peace of mind, don't seem secure, and only seem to worry the more.

Why trust in the things of this world when God has so much more to offer us. We need to take it to heart when Jesus says to "seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be given you besides" Matt 6:33.

We need to trust in God's will for us and not our own will. True security, happiness, peace of mind only comes from trust in God's plans for us. Learning to trust one day at a time and all that it may bring without the need to control what happens. God does not ask that we control; He asks that we trust, even though we may not understand.

"Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself" Matt 6:34

Grandfathers

"I have been young, and now I am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Or his descendants begging bread."

Psalms 37:25

"This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: 'In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength.'"

Isaiah 30:15, NIV

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."

Psalms 91:1

ONE WHO TRUSTS (continued from page 7)

Scripture Reading Psalm 34

If you take refuge in the Lord,
He will answer you.
Deliver you from your fears.
You will be radiant with joy.
Your face will not blush with shame.
From all distress He saves.
The Lord delivers them.
You will be happy.
You want for no good thing.
He has eyes for you and hears you.
Many good reasons here to work on trusting in the Lord.

Scripture Reading Matt 6:24-34

You cannot serve God and money. You cannot follow both. If you think you can serve both you are fooling yourself. Jesus tells us to remember that, are we not more important or precious than the birds of the sky or wild flowers that grow. You don't see them stressing or worrying about tomorrow but yet they still exist when the sun rises the next day. Jesus tells us that if that is the case won't He even more provide for us. We need to trust! We need to keep telling ourselves that God knows what we need and that we just need to trust. Make a decision to trust God. Jesus says seek first the kingdom and everything else will be given to you besides.

Scripture Reading Matt 14:22-33

Jesus tells us to come to Him during the storms in our lives. When everything seems lost and we are afraid we need to keep faith and trust in God. Allow God to come into our boats when things get rough. It is God that will calm the storm and make the wind die down. We must trust in His promises.

Scripture Reading Luke 18:1-8

Jesus teaches us through this parable to trust and not give up. God will watch over the ones that call on Him day and night. But Jesus asks a question at the end that really we can spend time pondering, "But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?". Will Jesus find faith on Earth when he comes again. We need to pray daily for the strength to trust God in particular when all seems lost.

Scripture Reading 2Cor 12:1-10

"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness. I will rather boast most gladly of my weakness, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong."

Scripture Reading Heb 13:5

"Let your life be free from love of money but be content with what you have, for He has said, I will never forsake you or abandon you".



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 article topics, please email the editors,

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