



# Fraternity of Fatherhood

## A Spiritual Fraternity for All Men

Volume 6

Issue 4



Dec 10, 2017

Letter to Men

By: Fr. Santan Pinto, SOLT

I pray that this journey on the path of holiness will be exciting for you. You have a great desire to be formed after the heart of God, who is our heavenly Father! The world and much more the evil one, does not want you to become a father.

Being a father means understanding that it is a call. When you see fatherhood as a gift you will accept it in humility and gratitude. Humility comes from the fact that you 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 your Shepherd and He is with you always. With Him all things are possible. As you allow Him to guide your steps in holiness you will witness His wonders. In this vocation there are certain demands, challenges, struggles, and responsibilities. It is the grace that counts. All we have to do is open our hearts to the graces God gives us.

This training program is a journey. You discover your identity and recognize your dignity. In understanding your vocation you grow in holiness. You learn to serve as St. Joseph did and realize that God has entrusted His children to your fatherly care!

With my priestly blessings,

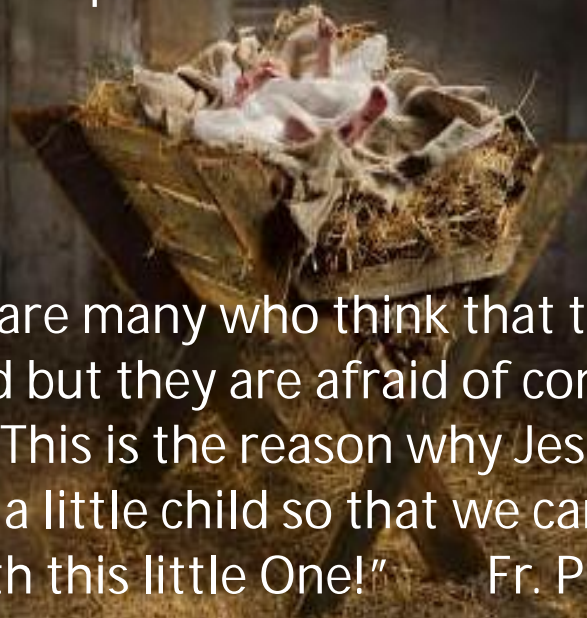
Fr. Santan Pinto, SOLT

*Advent*



"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." Fr. Pinto 2011

"There are many who think that they know the Lord but they are afraid of coming close to Him. This is the reason why Jesus comes to us as a little child so that we can fall in love with this little One!" Fr. Pinto 2009



## Holy is His Name

By Mike Allison

A Call to action for the love of God and neighbor.

In the prayer our Lord taught His disciples when they asked, "Lord, teach us to pray." He said, "This is how you are to pray: our Father in heaven hallowed be your name..." Jesus begins His prayer by teaching us that God is our Father and His Father. He teaches us that His Name is holy. We are truly sons and daughters of the Almighty God of all creation. Serving His Holy Name. We are His Family. Wow! Who told us this? Jesus, the Son of God revealed to us the Father.... "our Father."

As members of His Family, we are called to bring honor to the name of our Father and to help our brothers and sisters to honor His Holy Name. In fact, in this prayer, our Lord emphasizes the second commandment. Do not take the Lord's Name in vain, when He teaches us that hallowed is the Name of our Father. Many of our brothers and sisters do not realize the great offense committed when they curse God's Name and take His Holy Name in vain. As men under the fatherhood of God the Father, we must take courage and speak up to assist those who suffer this sin.

It happens so very often that we hear a coworker, relative or friend offend the Lord so greatly using profane and blasphemous language. I too often heard this take place at work. God made the ground of my workplace fertile to plant the seed of truth and speak up. I felt so much hurt when I heard our Father's Name abused. Out of love for God and love for neighbor, I knew I must speak out in charity and love.

Honestly, it did make me a bit nervous to do so but I prayed and realized I had the grace to do this. So, I prayed for the right time and the right words; and it wasn't immediately after hearing the cursing, but when I could be alone privately with that person and approach them as a friend who sincerely wanted to help them. I told them that they probably didn't realize what they were doing and certainly didn't do it intentionally, but it's become very common for them to curse God's name. I told him that God is our Father and we need to bless His Holy Name, not curse it. I told him that he and I were both Catholics and if we can't set a good example for others who will?

He explained to me that he loves God and he didn't mean to do it. I told him that I was pointing it out as a friend and I care about his soul. At the time all he said was "Okay". It was a brief but very direct conversation and I'm so grateful that we had it. It's amazing when God gives you the grace to do something and we put our fears aside and just do it, He makes it very fruitful.

I have not heard this person use the Lord's Name in vain again since we had that conversation that was over two weeks ago. In fact the night before I wrote this article I received a text from this person thanking me for helping him to watch his language. He also explained something very personal about his relationship with God and I think we both gained much more respect for one another. He signed off, "Brothers in Christ".

I thank you Lord for this great gift of your Holy Name. Help us to always speak truth in love.

What can we do when we hear the Lord's name spoken in vain?

1. When you hear His Name used in vain, bow your head and bless His Name.
2. Pray for that person and ask the Lord to forgive him for he knows not what he does.
3. Ask God to tell you how, when, and where, to help this person honor our Father.

Take courage brothers. God is your Father!  
Your brother in Christ, Mike

## 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.

## Time Management

By: Fr. Santan Pinto SOLT

- Time is a gift the Lord gives you. If you use every moment profitably he will give you more. God gives us sufficient graces every moment.
- Sanctify your day and night and offer every moment and every breath for the glory of God and salvation of souls.
- Start your time management in simplicity. Do not try to do everything all at once. It requires humility to be simple and also to continue making efforts even if you fail.
- List daily duties. Prioritize them. Realistically put them in order.
- Manage yourself well and be consistent.
- To manage yourself you must seek the Lord at all times and know His Word in your heart, mind and soul.
- Reading and reflecting on the Word of God must begin your day.
- Reading and reflecting on the Word of God must end each day.
- All things must begin and end with Jesus.
- Set up times. For example: 6:00 a.m. - wake up, rise from your bed, spend time with the Lord. Read Scripture, pray and listen to Him as He speaks to you.
- Spend a few moments planning your day. Try to keep a balance for work and for fun. If you have a full time job, during your break, refresh yourself; walk outside or sit down in a quiet place and listen to the Lord speak to you.
- Work on your plan of life, pray a rosary.
- Set time for exercise, a walk, a run or some kind of physical activity. Remember to ask the Lord to accompany you.
- Schedule time to relax, have some fun, laugh at something.
- Always plan your day to include a smile. A disciple who does not smile but only grumbles and complains will only disturb and turn away those who are lost and are seeking the Lord. They do not know how to ask for help, they do not know what they are searching for. If you welcome all with a smile, a kind look, a compassionate heart, then God will welcome you with a smile, a kind look and a compassionate heart. Whenever you did this for the least of My brethren, you did this for Me, says the Lord.
- Be humble and accept all who come to you. Never turn anyone away.
- Time management consists of a detailed itinerary; a schedule where you put into practice those things God has taught you and wants to continue teaching you. Remember, you must seek His will in all things. So that time is not wasted.
- Look to St. Joseph, to Our Lady, to the Lord and His Apostles. Seek their care and protection and ask for the divine grace of time management to come forth and to bestow upon you healing, order and purpose. All for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.
- Be respectful in all things and ask God for help.
- Remind yourself to live in eternity. If you need time for anything ask the Lord who created time and he will give you time in abundance!



## 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.

### Arkansas

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### California

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### Fraternity Sacramento Men

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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)

Hope you can join!



## 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.

### DEVOTED TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER

In our growth and development as fathers, we need a lot of help. Mary is our help. Without her protection and guidance, we will be lost. Mary is the surest, safest and simplest way to her Son. At the foot of the cross, our Lord, in giving Mary to beloved St. John, Jesus gave us His mother as well. We cannot go wrong under her guidance and protection.

Our Lady said "Yes." She said yes for all of us, for the entire human race. As fathers, we need to echo that yes for our own lives. In saying yes, we are saying that we will surrender what we are, our humanity, our fatherhood to the Holy Spirit and allow Christ to shape us, fill us, teach us. This surrender requires absolute trust just like Our Lady's surrender. It was without condition and without reservation.

Mary has given us two great gifts and both are great weapons against Satan - the Rosary and the Brown Scapular - a powerful devotion and sacramental endorsed by our Church. While holding the rosary in our hand, it is the same as holding our Blessed Mother's hand. Our Lady says to wear the scapular devoutly and perseveringly. "It is my garment. To be clothed in it means you are continually thinking of me, and I in turn, am always thinking of you and helping you secure eternal life."

Mary's devotion is to lead us to her Son. She leads us to her Son in the Eucharist. Every second of the day, somewhere in the world a priest is lifting the host. In the same way that the Word of God nourishes, so does the Eucharist. In the Eucharist we witness heaven and earth come together.

As fathers we should offer our families protection and guidance to Mary. As St. John Damascene says, "To be devoted to Mary is an arm of salvation which God gives to those whom He wishes to save."

#### Grandfathers

Most Blessed Woman of all time

Luke 1:48: for he has regarded the low estate of his hand-maiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed;

Mary's role in intercession with Jesus

John 2:3-5: When the wine failed, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "O woman, what have you to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."



An Advent Project 2017

By: Vatican Radio

Life messages: An Advent project of being alert and watchful in the spirit of today's Gospel. Every morning when we get up, let us pray, "Lord, show me someone today with whom I may share your love, mercy and forgiveness." Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, "Whatever you do in your family, for your children, for your husband, for your wife, you do for Jesus." Every night when we go to bed, let us ask ourselves, "Where have I found Christ today?" The answer will be God's Advent gift to us that day. By being alert and watchful we will receive an extra gift: Christ himself. Let us remember the saying of St. Thomas Aquinas: "Without God, I can't. Without me, He won't."

## Advent I Sunday - Dec 3, 2017



Men, Give yourself a gift  
this Christmas!

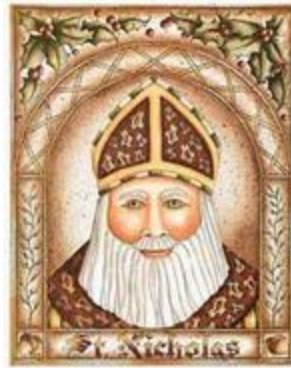
Receive the  
gift of

**RECONCILIATION**

## Saints Corner

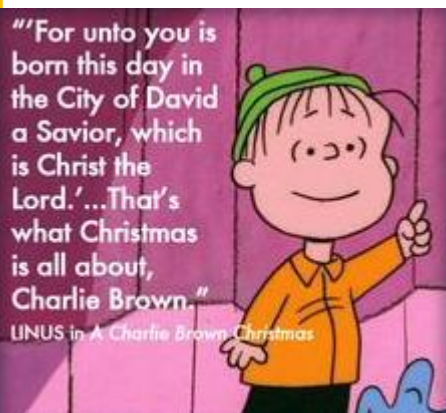
### St. Nicholas: An Advent Saint

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.



ADVENT is the time when Christians prepare to greet Christ—who came as a babe in a manger, who comes into our lives each day, and who will come again at the end of time. Advent is the time when people of faith are most at odds with the culture. The church calls people to focus on getting ready to receive Christ—preparing hearts and lives to make room for Jesus, to live as he would have us live. It is a time of longing, not fulfillment. Quiet reflection, not celebration. The culture, however, is already in a time of festivity, unable or unwilling, to wait and contemplate and prepare for the real festival. It is not easy to observe Advent without being pulled prematurely into Christmas.

How does St. Nicholas fit into all of this? He is an Advent saint because his December 6th feast day always falls in early Advent (Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas between November 27 and December 3). However, Nicholas is a good Advent saint for more important reasons than the date of his special day. Whatever he did, and it is said that he did many kinds of amazing things, may not be as important as the way he did it. Nicholas became so popular because he was a faithful follower of Jesus Christ. His life clearly reflected the way each one of us is called to show God's love to others, especially those in need.



"For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. ...That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown."

LINUS in A Charlie Brown Christmas

Celebrating St. Nicholas on his day in Advent brings a bit of fun and festivity into homes, churches, and schools. His small treats and surprises help keep the spirit of good St. Nicholas, especially when stories of his goodness and kind deeds are told and ways to express his care for those in need are sought. Saint Nicholas helps us remember Christmas is a feast of love, hope, kindness and generosity. Yes, Nicholas is a good Advent saint.

The St. Nicholas Center



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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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