



# Fraternity of Fatherhood

## A Spiritual Fraternity for All Men

Volume 11

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June 10, 2022

### Where Did Fathering Come From? Fr. Santan Pinto SOLT

*The following are excerpts taken from points on fatherhood shared by Fr. Santan Pinto with the Fraternity of Fatherhood Core Team for men learning about fatherhood and sharing in our groups:*



**Fr. Santan Pinto  
SOLT**

Most men expect someday to be fathers. How many, however, are prepared for this? How many understand the awesome gift and responsibility of fatherhood? What are the values we have and what are the role models we have to make us good fathers? Looking around us we see divorce rates of 50%. Pornography is becoming more and more pervasive in books and magazines as well as on TV and in the movies. Abuse of wives and children, affairs, material values and loss of faith among the youth are a scandal to today's fathers. Birth control is accepted even by 70% of Catholics. Abortion is the leading cause of death for babies. What is going on? WHERE DID FATHERING COME FROM?

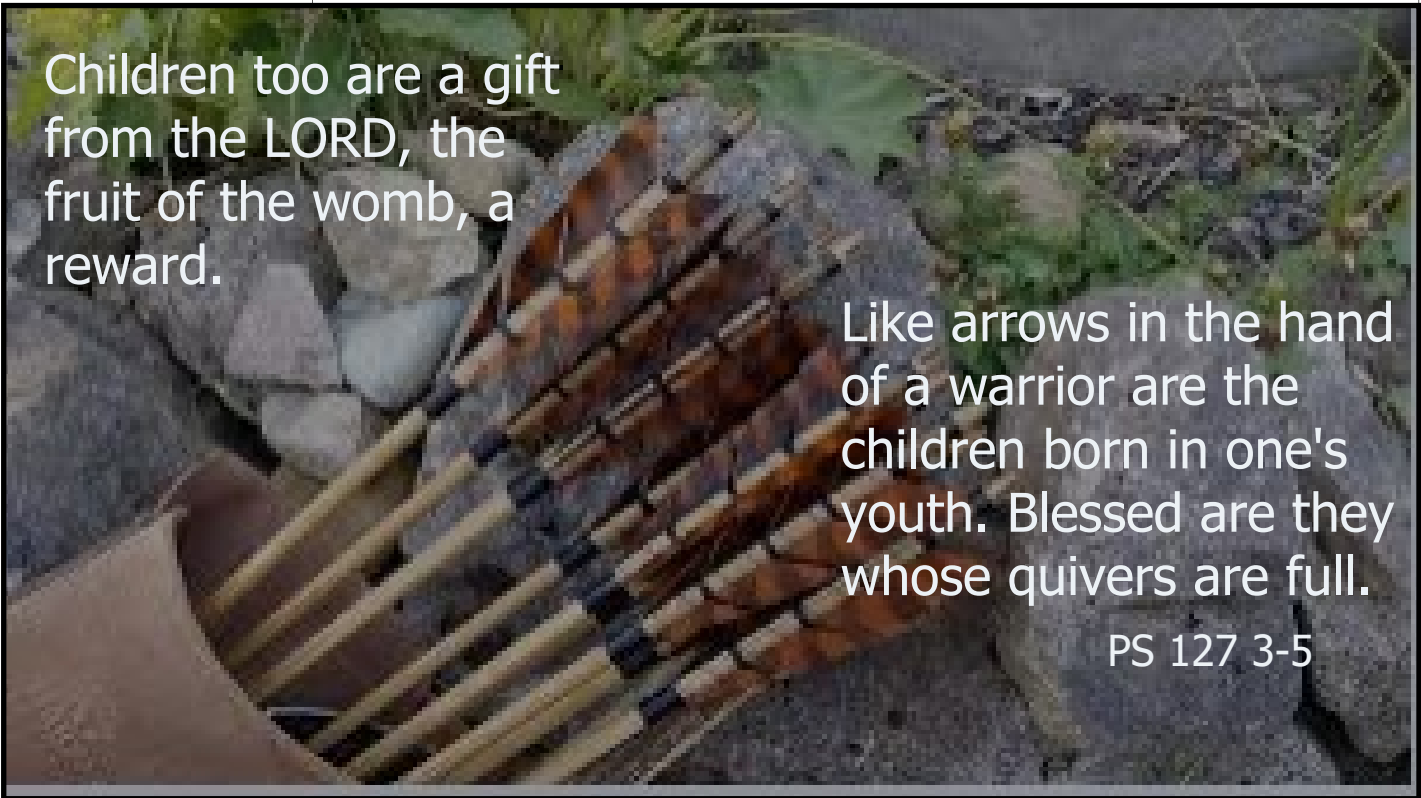
#### CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- The divine fatherhood is the source of human fatherhood, this is the source of the honor owed to parents. Gen 1:27,28 God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Gen 2:24 Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh. Before creation God had fatherhood with His Son and the Holy Spirit. Human families are but a dim reflection of the Blessed Trinity. We are called in our families to live in a loving bond of communion with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. ( continued on page 2 ....)

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from the LORD, the  
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PS 127 3-5



## Continued ...Where Did Fathering Come From?

- Jesus taught us to pray to God, "OUR FATHER" who art in heaven. Contrast this with the Muslim view that people are mere slaves. Scott Hahn tells of a conversation with a Muslim scholar. This man became more and more offended that Scott was referring to God as father until he finally burst out, "Do not call Allah father!" Yes, He created man and loved and cared for man but never father. He went on; I have a dog. I love my dog. I have raised and cared for my dog since it was a puppy. But now I am moving into an apartment. They do not allow dogs in this apartment. I am going to kill my dog!"
- What an awesome and unheard of privilege we have to call God Abba, Father, Pappa — most intimate terms of endearment from son to father. Because the Son of God historically became man, the sons and daughters of man can through Christ alone become the sons and daughters of God. Apart from the grace of Jesus Christ and apart from the Gospel which the Catholic Church alone has preserved pure and intact, humans do not have hope to become children of God.
- St Paul in Galatians 4; As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. We have value not on the basis of what we achieve but on the basis of our dignity as God's children. We understand who we are and what our true worth is when we realize that God is our Father and we are His children and He loves us very much. Jn 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. Isa 43:1-4 But now, thus says the LORD, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned; and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you.
- Passover was celebrated in Jewish homes with the father acting as priest, prophet and king. The family table was like a sacred altar. Fathers are still to be priest, prophet and king in their own homes to make the family a domestic church, to take authority and responsibility by making a commitment to providing love and nurture to children. CHILDREN The covenant God has given us in marriage transforms marital love into a life giving force. Marital love produces a new child, created in the image and likeness of God, with dignity and value that is inestimable, a soul with eternal value, infinite dignity and a divine destiny to become a child of the Blessed Trinity.

**“What an awesome and unheard of privilege we have to call God Abba, Father, Pappa -- most intimate terms of endearment from son to father.”**

**Fr. Santan Pinto**

### **A FATHER IS ELEVATED TO BE A "CO-CREATOR" WITH THE ALMIGHTY**

- Anything which blocks or thwarts the procreative aspect of marital love is unnatural and dehumanizing and an offense against the Creator. Catechism --" every action which proposes, whether as an end or as a means, to render procreation impossible is intrinsically evil. Let all be convinced that human life and the duty of transmitting it are not limited by the horizons of this life only: their evaluation and full significance can be understood only in reference to man's eternal destiny." Ps 127:3-5 Children too are a gift from the LORD, the fruit of the womb, a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children born in one's youth. Blessed are they whose quivers are full. Mt 19:14 Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."(continued page 3)

## Continued... Where Did Fathering Come From?

- The essence of our faith is exemplified by a child's trust in his parents. Mt 11:25 At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike.  
Mt 7:11 If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him.



### HOW ARE WE TO FATHER

- It is possible for men to father children and do little or nothing to protect and care for the mother or their offspring. In some societies and cultures, fathers have been minimally involved in family life or else involved in so domineering a way that women and children were regarded as property, used, abused, and even killed at the whim of the husband and father. The Old Testament presents a distinctive understanding of God as a Father whose chief characteristics are faithfulness and loving-kindness, and this Father became the model for Jewish and Christian fatherhood. Yahweh was an involved father who was compassionate, committed, and loyal to one bride -- His people. Never in the history of humanity had there been a God like the God of Israel, a God faithful in His love, righteous and holy in His law. He called forth from the men a degree of fatherly responsibility unheard of in the ancient world, to get involved in the education and nurturing of the children from the earliest days. Proverbs 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him takes care to chastise him. (We are responsible for teaching and correcting) Proverbs 10:10 He who winks at a fault causes trouble, but he who frankly reprovokes promotes peace. Proverbs 6:23 A way to life are the reproofs of discipline. Proverbs 20:7 When a man walks in integrity and justice, happy are His children after him! 1 Cor 15:33

### DO NOT BE LED ASTRAY: "BAD COMPANY CORRUPTS GOOD MORALS"

- Eph 5:1-4 So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma. Immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be mentioned among you, as is fitting among holy ones, no obscenity or silly or suggestive talk, which is out of place, but instead, thanksgiving. Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up with the training and instruction of the Lord. Col 3:12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 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." 1 Thes 5:13-18 We urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, cheer the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient with all. See that no one returns evil for evil; rather, always seek what is good (both) for each other and for all. Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.
- The Christian father is expected to be involved in his family, to be present to protect and care for his wife and children, and to carry out his responsibilities faithfully, subordinating his individual interests to the good of the family as a whole. The father also must deal with the wider world outside the home in order to obtain the necessities of life and protect his family. He must pursue goals and strive to meet standards of success.
- A father's authority is more than simply power. Authority is based on servant-hood and sacrifice whereas power is based on force, fear and intimidation. Mother Teresa had authority. In her life and in her sacrifice she commands trust and authority that cannot be gained by power or fear or force. The secret to fathering is gaining authority, by serving, sacrifice and loyal commitment. 1 Tim 4:12 Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.

(continued page 4...)

## Continued... Where Did Fathering Come From?

### PEDOPHOBIA IN TODAY'S AMERICA

- Many today see children as a burden. Children are expensive. They restrict our life style. They require sacrifice. We do not trust that God will provide what we need to care for our children.
- So many suffer without knowing that these sufferings are the opportunities and occasions by which our Father in heaven calls us to greater maturity through greater and greater loving sacrifice. We have too much wasted sufferings. Sufferings are all a part of a great curriculum for Christian education, for Catholic maturity, for growing up as sons and daughters of God.
- God's law is an expression of His love for us. He calls us to greater love, greater sacrifice, greater self giving because He wants us to be more like Him, to grow up, to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect.
- We want to make life easy for ourselves and our children, but that is not the best way. Mt 7:13,14 Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.



### THE CHURCH AND FATHERHOOD

- From creation God's goal was to father a family. At no time in history was His fatherhood not expressed through human representatives. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David are prominent examples. Genealogy was important to the Jews because it proved that God was fathering His family throughout all the ages and in all the difficulties and all the crises down through history.
- When Christ came the family expanded, all nations were called to an equal standing as sons and daughters of God in His family. Eph 3:14,15 For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
- If the Church is to be called the family of God would He expect it to get along without father figures? Jesus gave Peter the Keys to the Kingdom. In the Catholic Church, God's family is maintained by the Popes - Holy Fathers - in unbroken succession going all the way back to St Peter. Individual parishes have their priest fathers. God does not want his people to be fatherless.
- Judges 17:5,10 Will you be unto me a priest and a father. The priesthood is spiritual fatherhood. St Thomas Aquinas speaks of the priesthood as spiritual paternity. Priests are called fathers because that is what they are. To father means to communicate human life and human nature. As the spiritual dimension to life is higher than the physical, the priests who are granted the sacramental powers to give us spiritual life through Christ to communicate to us divine life are supernaturally more of "father" than we are in the natural realm of life. God the Creator redeems what He created by means of what He has made (men - priests, bread, water, and wine).  
(continued page 5...)

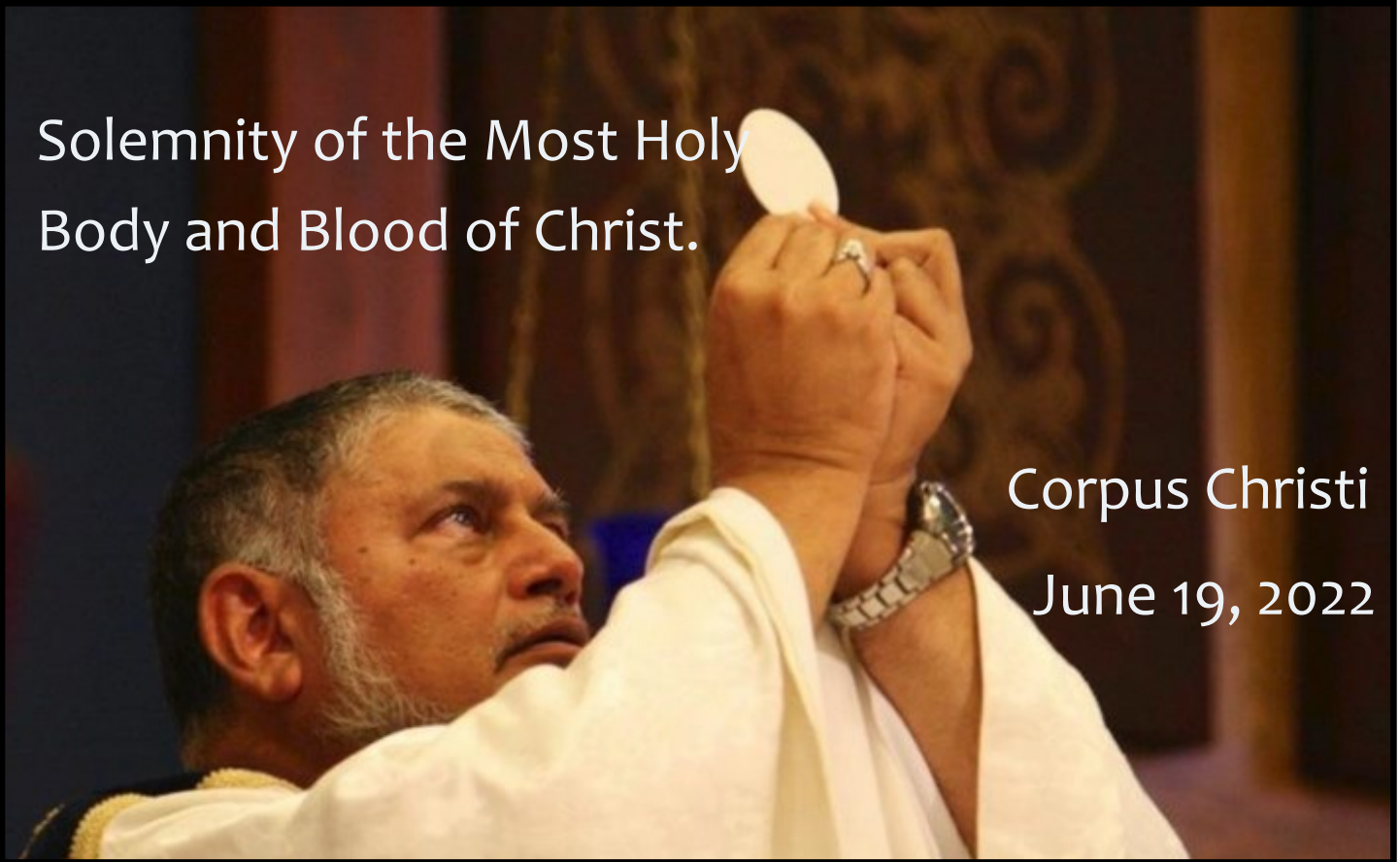
## Continued... Where Did Fathering Come From?

### FAMILY

- Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed Himself over for her. 1 Pet 3:7 Likewise, you husbands should live with your wives in understanding, showing honor to the weaker female sex, since we are joint heirs of the gift of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. Heb 13:4 Let marriage be honored among all and the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the immoral and adulterers. Mal 2:15,16 Did he not make one being, with flesh and spirit: and what does that one require but godly offspring? You must then safeguard life that is your own, and not break faith with the wife of your youth. For I hate divorce, says the Lord, the god of Israel.
- One of the most serious problems in our society is the broken home. Mt 19:4-6 Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate.

### ROLE MODELS

- Mary, the mother of God, accompanied her son to the cross. She gives us courage and strength to bear our crosses. Joseph, the patron of the Catholic Church and guardian of the redeemer, faithfully and lovingly protected and cared for Mary and his foster child, Jesus. (continued page 8 ...)



Solemnity of the Most Holy  
Body and Blood of Christ.

Corpus Christi

June 19, 2022

## A Three Year Eucharistic Revival

Catholic News Agency

The bishops of the United States discussed on Friday a program of "Eucharistic Revival" which will aim to foster deeper devotion and knowledge about the Eucharist nationwide beginning next summer.

Bishop Andrew Cozzens, an auxiliary bishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and chair of the bishops' evangelization committee, presented the plan to his fellow bishops during their virtual spring meeting June 18. He told CNA that the program aims to support and "start a fire" of devotion to the Eucharist with a particular focus on the local level— dioceses, parishes, and families.

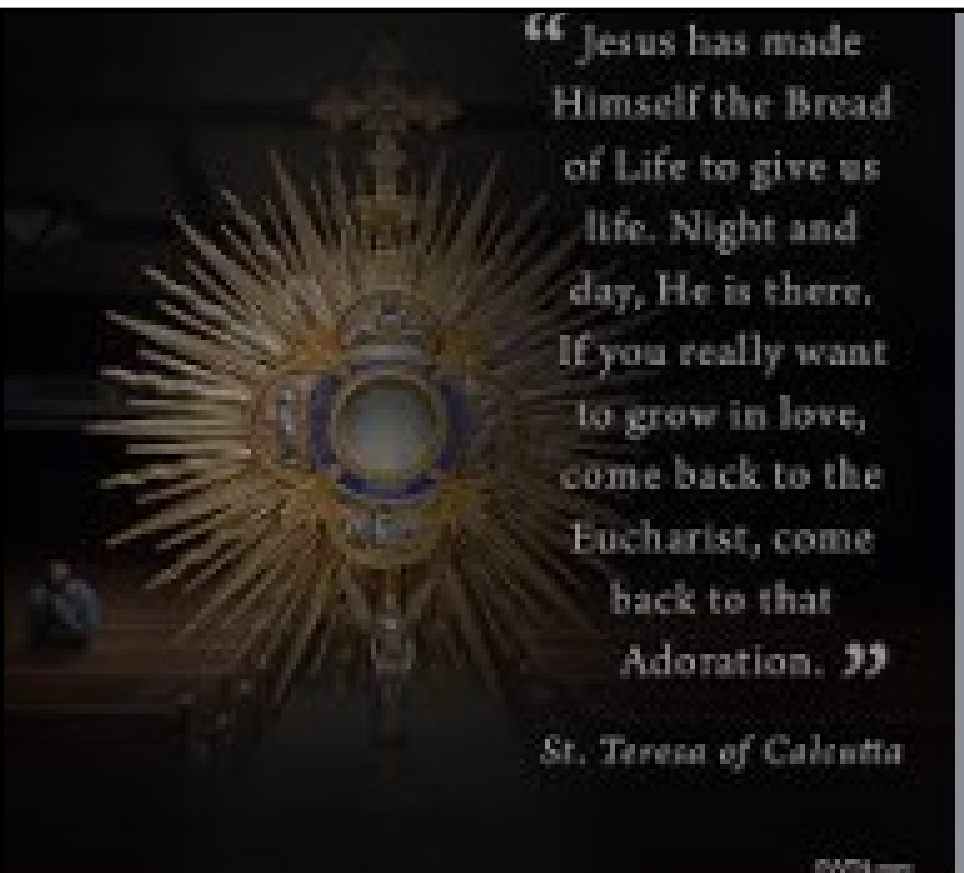
Cozzens said the initiative will aim to launch a "three year period of revival" nationwide, with a special focus on the local level, bringing the focus of Eucharistic revival to "any parish that desires it."

Cozzens said the idea of a nationwide Eucharistic revival has been met with "incredible enthusiasm" already. He noted that many Catholic donors, media organizations, and volunteers across the country have pledged support.

"One of the signs that the Holy Spirit is behind this is the incredible reception that so many different apostolates and movements have given to this idea," Cozzens told CNA.

"Everybody wants to help, which is a sign to me that the Holy Spirit's really doing something."

The development of the plan was spurred by a 2019 Pew Research study, the results of which suggested that only about one-third of U.S. Catholics believe the Church's teaching that the Eucharist is truly the body and blood of Christ. The pandemic delayed the plan, Cozzens said, but also made it "even more important" given the pandemic's as-yet unknown long term impact on Mass attendance.



The three-year Eucharistic Revival program will include three tiers: parish, diocesan, and nationwide.

Beginning in July 2022, dioceses across the country will be encouraged to hold Eucharistic events and make the Eucharist a primary focus. The bishops aim to provide free teaching materials on the Eucharist, developed with the help of various catechetical partners, as soon as possible to assist dioceses in this, Cozzens said.

Following that, in July 2023, parishes will be encouraged to do the same. Cozzens said they want to encourage "grassroots creativity" and embrace diverse Eucharistic traditions to help parishes foster a greater love for the Eucharist among their members. Parish level initiatives could include offering teaching Masses and small group formation.

(continued page 7...)

## Continued...A Three Year Eucharistic Revival Catholic News

Throughout the presentation, Cozzens repeatedly emphasized the importance of spreading the practice of Eucharistic adoration, especially since he has seen the positive impact that adoration continues to have on young people.

"There's a strong sense among those who work with young people that that encounter [with Jesus] happens profoundly through Eucharistic adoration," Cozzens said.

"We want to encourage every parish to think about increasing Eucharistic adoration as part of the life of this revival," he said.

The revival would culminate in summer 2024 with a Eucharistic celebration event, held in a major city, that would serve as a pilgrimage site. Cozzens said they are eyeing the Midwest as a location because of its accessibility, as well as some cities in the South; final approval for such an event would come from the body of U.S. bishops in November.

Calling the plan a "once in a generation" opportunity to impact faith life, Cozzens said the plan aims to create "Eucharistic missionaries"—people who go out to spread devotion to the Eucharist to new places, what Pope Francis calls "the margins."

Cozzens said the bishops plan to reach out to all of the country's Catholic universities to invite them to participate. He said he suspects some colleges will decline, but he hopes many will take them up on the offer.

"I want to have Eucharistic processions on every campus. And we have campus ministries that are ready to do that across the nation," he said.



Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary of Los Angeles, asked Bishop Cozzens during the meeting whether he thought the timeline for the project could be sped up, in order to start the revival as soon as possible.

Cozzens responded by noting that many dioceses, such as Atlanta and St. Augustine, are starting "Eucharistic revivals already, and they should continue to do so as soon as they would like to. The bishops' plan is designed to support, not replace, efforts at Eucharistic revival at the local level", he said.

The plan for a Eucharistic Revival comes soon after the U.S. bishops on Thursday debated drafting a teaching document on the Eucharist, which would include a subsection on "Eucharistic coherence," or worthiness to receive Communion.

In a proposed outline of the document, the bishops' doctrine committee cited the special need for Catholic public officials to uphold Church teaching in public life, but stressed that they are not drafting any national policy of denying Communion.

## 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 Dcn. Ray Emnace, Mike Allison, Stacey Hill or Brendan McVicker.

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## Continued... Where Did Fathering Come From?

- At the beginning of the New Testament, as at the beginning of the Old, there is a married couple, But whereas Adam and Eve were the source of evil which was unleashed on the world, Joseph and Mary are the summit from which holiness spreads all over the earth. The Savior began the work of salvation by this virginal and holy union, wherein is manifested his all-powerful will to purify and sanctify the family - that sanctuary of love and cradle of life. How much the family of today can learn from these words of Pope Paul VI. The essence and role of the family are in the final analysis specified by love. Hence the family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love, and this is a living reflection of and a real sharing in God's love for humanity and the love of Christ the Lord for the church his bride. So, it is in the Holy Family, the original church in miniature, that every Christian family must be reflected." John Paul II.
- Catechism: 2205. The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit. In the procreation and education of children it reflects the Father's work of creation. It is called to partake of the prayer and sacrifice of Christ.
- "Love drawn from God's heart spurs the whole family to find the time to attend to the elderly, to devote themselves to the sick, to be involved in the difficult situations around them, including regional problems and the more general problems of the nation. The family does not live its vocation to the full if it is not open to the needs of the community." John Paul II



## Saints Corner - Blessed Carlo Acutis

The Story of Blessed Carlo Acutis.

Born in London and raised in Milan, Carlo's wealthy parents were not particularly religious. Upon receiving his first communion at age seven, Carlo became a frequent communicant, making a point of praying before the tabernacle before or after every Mass. In addition to Francis of Assisi, Carlo took several of the younger saints as his models, including Bernadette Soubirous, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, and Dominic Savio.

At school Carlo tried to comfort friends whose parents were undergoing divorce, as well as stepping in to defend disabled students from bullies. After school hours he volunteered his time with the city's homeless and destitute. Considered a computer geek by some, Carlo spent four years creating a website dedicated to cataloguing every reported Eucharistic miracle around the world. He also enjoyed films, comics, soccer, and playing popular video games.

Diagnosed with leukemia, Carlo offered his sufferings to God for the intentions of the sitting pope—Benedict XVI—and the entire Church. His longtime desire to visit as many sites of Eucharistic miracles as possible was cut short by his illness. Carlo died in 2006 and was beatified in 2020.

As he had wished, Carlo was buried in Assisi at St. Mary Major's "Chapel of the Stripping", where Francis had returned his clothes to his father and began a more radical following of the Gospel.

Among the thousands present for Carlo's beatification at Assisi's Basilica of St. Francis were many of his childhood friends. Presiding at the beatification service, Cardinal Agostino Vallini praised Carlo as an example of how young people can use technology to spread the Gospel "to reach as many people as possible and help them know the beauty of friendship with the Lord." His liturgical feast is celebrated on October 12.



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POSTAGE

Fraternity of Fatherhood

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



**St. Joseph ...Pray For Us.  
Feast Day March 19th**



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

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