

FRATERNITY OF FATHERHOOD

VOLUME 13 | ISSUE 2
JUNE 29, 2024



A SPIRITUAL FRATERNITY
FOR ALL MEN



Fr. Santan Pinto
SOLT
Founder of The Fraternity
of Fatherhood

Dear Fathers,

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 to open our hearts to the graces God gives us.

In understanding your vocation, you grow in holiness. You learn to serve as St. Joseph did.

Excerpt from Fr. Santan Pinto's "Letter to Men"

This Issue is Offered in Thanksgiving and Gratitude For The Great Gift of Fatherhood

It's been over twenty years since Fr. Santan began to work with men to learn to love the Lord by serving Him with humility and strength in our vocations as husbands and fathers. Basic principles were learned of God preparing and forming us as Disciples of Jesus and Mary and setting the stage for the Apostolate of the Fraternity of Fatherhood.

This issue of our quarterly newsletter is the 50th edition. To mark this special milestone, we focus on the theme of gratitude as we are truly humbled to be called to such a blessed ministry as serving for and with men in the love and service of our families and the dear Lord Jesus.

We hope you are inspired and encouraged by the testimonials shared in this issue submitted by some of the men from our Fraternity. Please let us know if there is any way we may serve you.

Your Brothers
in Christ,

*Brendan McVicker,
Stacey Hill,
Mike Allison,
Dcn. Ray Emnace*

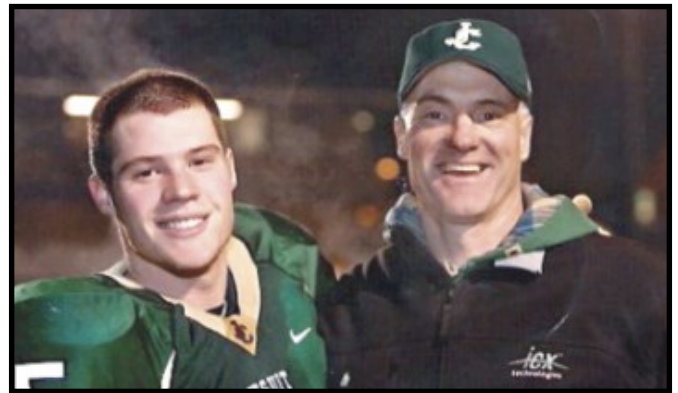
**Fraternity of
Fatherhood Core Team**



Fraternity of Fatherhood

Eternally Thankful - *Brian Martinek*

In 2017 my family's world was flipped upside down when my son was suddenly and tragically killed at the young age of 24. Afterward, I leaned into my faith and went to mass as often as I could searching for relief, peace, and some sort of understandable meaning behind my son's death. At the same time my family life began to quickly change into something far different than it had been before as they lost faith and were disillusioned by the church and downright angry with God. And as it turns out, in some ways, with me too.



It would be an understatement to say that our lives as we knew it were tragically disrupted and blown apart. A little over a year later a former co-worker named Jerry, who I had not had contact with for years, unexpectedly reached out to me. He had heard about my son's death and knew I was Catholic because we had attended daily Mass at the same church in the past. Although I was a long-time practicing, cradle Catholic I was unaware of the Fraternity of Fatherhood in Portland or anywhere else in the world for that matter, until Jerry invited me to attend a meeting.



There I met the incredibly faith filled, compassionate, kind, and courageous men that make up the group in Portland. I found out that there were other men who leaned into their faith, through the Eucharist and the other sacraments, when times were hard. They are not shy about sharing their strong beliefs, sharing their failures, and sharing prayers and support for each other as we all navigate the challenges, tragedies, and joys of life. I did not say much at first and still say relatively little but, I gain so very much from being there at Mass, at breakfast and in listening to what the men in the Fraternity have to say; many of them seemingly guided by the mentorship and their former personal relationship that they had on earth with Father Pinto.

I am extremely grateful for Jerry introducing me to this wonderful group of Fathers and for the spiritual fruit, support, peace and understanding that I gain from the Eucharist and from each encounter with the Portland Fraternity of Fatherhood members. No doubt God's presence is there in a huge way, and I am eternally Thankful for that!

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Respectfully,
Brian Martinek

Fraternity of Fatherhood

Oh, YES ... He is Present in The Eucharist - *Brendan McVicker*

There will come a time in our life, and for some, multiple times, that we find ourselves in an experience and there is no place to go for comfort. And the only real choice we have is to grab hold of our faith and go “to the foot of the cross”. This is an experience of mine about gratitude for the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. For years, I didn’t know if I should share my experience but lately I have received confirmation after confirmation that I should, beginning with my brothers in the Fraternity of Fatherhood. So, I am sharing it with you. And in today’s world, if I can help just one person convert their heart to the true presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist then may it be so.... And may it be all for the Glory of God and the salvation of souls.



On Sunday, July 15th, 2012, I was working in the yard for several hours, it was a very hot day, and my right chest muscle cramped as I was just finishing sweeping the walkway. I thought that was weird. Then a few minutes later it happened again. Now I was really scared. I had never had that happen before so I thought I better get it checked, like right now.



In the emergency room, the doctors thought my main problem was dehydration and not drinking enough water on a hot day, but they wanted to check my blood for the cardiac enzyme troponin that is in your blood if you did have a heart attack. The first blood test showed no enzyme, which is good. The doctors said I couldn’t leave though because they needed to do a second test in 4 hours because sometimes it takes time for the enzyme to appear after the event of a heart attack. As I waited I started getting some hay fever symptoms and the doctor asked if I wanted some Benadryl. I said sure. And this is when everything changed. Within 10 seconds of the nurse giving me the Benadryl in my IV port, I felt an instant illness I can’t describe. The last thing I remember was saying, “please help me!!”. Then my heart stopped completely for over a minute and forty-five seconds. Total flat-line! When I came back, I opened my eyes to

alarms going off on the medical equipment in the emergency room and about 12 doctors and nurses working on me from head to toe; one of them directly to my left giving orders to the rest on what to do and what is being done and another pumping on my chest very hard. CPR hurts! Within another minute my heart stopped again for over a minute....flat-line. My wife was there for the whole event and she could not believe what she was seeing. They then shot me with adrenaline. I came back again and woke up to my body, legs and arms literally bouncing on the table because of the adrenaline impact on my body. The last thing I remember at that point was the doctor saying, “He is not going anywhere.” The next thing I knew, I was waking up in Cardiac ICU the next morning wondering what the heck just happened.

(...continued page 4)

... continued Oh YES, He is Present in The Eucharist - *Brendan McVicker*

Then a nurse came into my room, who was the most rude and nasty to both myself and my wife. I mean this was a scary nurse. I mean really scary. She literally threw a booklet at me and said read this on heart disease. Remember ..I was in ICU when this happened! She told me I had heart disease, that I would need to be medicated the rest of my life and began telling me things about my life style that I shouldn't do and that is why I have heart disease. My wife and I looked at each other amazed and told her none of what she just said about me was even true. It was shocking! She didn't even know me and continued to say things about me that were not true. It was evil.

I continued blood tests every 4 hours that day (7/16/12) and the cardiac enzyme which was now present began to level off and slowly decline. I was very worried about heart disease and what the ICU nurse had said to me. Doctors now concerned with the enzyme troponin present were not sure if the reason was that I did have a heart attack or if the enzyme appeared because my heart stopped due to the Benadryl apoplectic shock.

That night, still 7/16/12, after my wife went home, a lady from the hospital Catholic ministry came in to see me. He asked if I would like to say prayers with her. I said what I would really like is to receive the Eucharist if I could. She said sure and she went to the chapel to get the Eucharist. She returned, we said the Our Father together and I received the Eucharist at about 9:30PM or so. My daughter had brought me my Bible earlier that day and my healing cloth from Fr. Pinto was in it. After receiving Eucharist, I placed the healing cloth on my chest and with my Rosary in hand said the following.....

“Jesus, I know you are with me in the Eucharist. You know I have been dedicated to You in the Eucharist. I know all healing comes from You in the Eucharist. You have the power to make all things new again. If it is Your will Lord, You have the power to make my heart new. I ask this through the intercession of St. Mary and of Fr. Pinto. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Done, that was it.

Immediately, my chest became very warm (even hot) and the warmth began to travel from my chest, to my arms, to my hands and into my legs, to my feet even. I could literally feel the heat travel through my entire body. I began to sweat from the heat to the point that my sheets were wet similar to what you experience when a fever breaks. It was incredible. I knew something took place. Something had happened to me. Was my heart made new? There was no doubt. I had a burst of energy. I felt wonderful and I slept very very good that night.



(... continued on page 5)

... continued Oh YES, He is Present in The Eucharist - *Brendan McVicker*

The next morning (7/17/12), they then wheeled me out of my room to complete my cardiac tests (stress test, nuclear pictures etc.) beginning at 6AM until 10AM. I was very worried because when I finished each of the tests, the technician who finished my various stress tests mentioned that it looks like there is definitely heart disease. After each test they said the same thing, heart disease, BUT that the pictures would tell the whole story.



I was very scared that the tests did not go well. Emotions started to kick in, the tears flowed and I kept remembering about that nurse in ICU and cardiac test technicians said about me having heart disease. I was worried! I kept thinking in my heart...how can this be, based on what happened to me the night before when I received Eucharist. I knew what happened, the night before, it was real. But all the technicians are telling me something different. I was back and forth with doubt.

After 4 hours of tests now complete around 10AM, I arrived back in my room and a priest was waiting in my room talking to one of my brothers and wife. He could tell I was upset. It was like he knew exactly what was going on with me. He gave me Eucharist and told me to “Trust” and “Do not be afraid”. Soon he left.

(... continued on page 10)

Gratitude - *Harley Talkington*

First of all I am beyond grateful for a beautiful wife who has blessed me with three loving children and 54 years of marriage. Beyond this “inner circle,” the four key sources of my gratitude would be the gift and grace of my Catholic faith, my community within that, the sacrament of Confession and the Eucharist. Without the purpose, guidelines and wisdom of the Catholic faith, I don’t know what my reason for living would be. I could not sustain this focus for my life without a community of like-minded men and women and children who know me, love me and expect me to be a light to others as they are to me. Because I frequently fail in this mission I can name my sins, confess them, experience God’s mercy and begin anew. Oftentimes, the Eucharist is my motivation for even going to confession, to receive Christ, FOR REAL! My heart is heavy when I think about all the Catholics and Christians out there who don’t believe that Christ meant what He said, in “This Is My Body.” We have so much in this treasure and it’s there for the taking! I am so grateful to be able to have this purpose, support, way to return and the Eucharist, the gift that itself means, “Thanksgiving!”

Deo gratus,
Harley

Fraternity of Fatherhood

Humility and Gratitude - *Michael Allison*

I'm writing this reflection on a most appropriate day...Father's Day. It is with great humility and a nearly indescribable gratitude in my heart, that I am able to claim one of God's greatest gifts and treasures; the gift and vocation of fatherhood.

Over forty years ago my wife and I had our first little child and I for the first time was called father.

Now I needed to learn to become a father. We were then blessed to have two more children and the fruits of that love have given us nine grandchildren.

I never imagined how God could expand the deep and everlasting love I have for my wife in such a beautiful and amazing way as fatherhood. Every day since the birth of my children, God has been teaching me what it means to be a father. He shows me what it means to relinquish love of self (and believe me, that's hard!) and to strive to live a life of self sacrificial love- that is true fatherly love.

Father Santan Pinto said that fatherhood is a journey on the path to holiness. I'm incredibly grateful for Fr. Pinto and his fatherly example of truth, strength and holiness. I'm also extremely grateful that God has called me to fatherhood and marriage as such a life-giving and joyful way to grow in holiness.

One of the most powerful lessons I've learned that in every circumstance, always and everywhere I am a father. Not only am I a biological father but a spiritual father as well. God has placed so many good men on my path and surrounded me with great examples in my life. I'm continually being taught to conform my heart to the Heart of the Father, to see through the eyes of goodness, to hear the voice of Jesus and obey and trust Him.

Thank you to all the men, all the priests, all the holy men of God and my brothers in the Fraternity of Fatherhood to assist me on this wonderful journey of fatherhood.

To quote my favorite coffee mug...“Fatherhood, the toughest job I'll ever love”.



Gratitude And Thanksgiving - Abe Garcia

There is much to be thankful for: life, family, friends, a good cup of coffee and even the hardships that we struggle with from day to day. We know that our Creator is love and as such He wills our well-being always, even when we can't see it.

I was away from the Church that Christ established for the better part of 14 years, it's only within the last two that I have made my way back. I lamented the fact that I was away for so long, I lamented that I lived in a non sacramental marriage, with unbaptized children apart from God.

As I later responded to His calls, and rectified our relationship. I realized that the time I spent away has made me appreciate God's grace, and his blessings all the more. What I perceived to be a dark period in my faith Has actually fueled my love for Christ, and also those he has entrusted to me.



Thank you Lord!

Finally what a gift I have found with this Fraternity of Fatherhood. A group filled with Godly men, where we can walk shoulder to shoulder, learn from each other and pick each other up as we stumble towards the kingdom of Heaven.

What a blessing and privilege it is to be a husband, father, grandfather etc. How grateful I am to be formed in the image of the God Man Jesus Christ. Who shows us how to love, who shows us that at the center of that love is sacrifice and at the center of that sacrifice is YOU/ME and all the gifts God has given to serve those he has placed in our care.

The Lord did not have to give us life, nor all the grace we see everyday, nor the wives or children we get to serve, nor the fraternity of fatherhood. We've been given a gift and for that I am eternally grateful for.

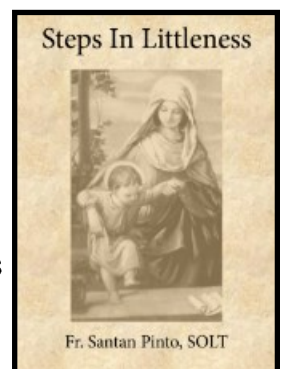
Glory to Jesus Christ!

Abe Garcia, Sacramento, CA Group

Grateful - Chris Verbiest

I am grateful for our Fatherhood Fraternity Group. The men help me in my journey towards holiness and my relationship with the Lord.

Fr. Pinto's "Steps In Littleness" is made up of spiritual life lessons and mile markers in this journey. I am inspired by this group of such Godly men.



Fraternity of Fatherhood

We Are Blessed - *Jeremy Younger*

In July 2024, it will be 13 years since I moved to California from Texas. Prior to 2011, I had no interest in moving here or even visiting but my life changed when I met an amazing woman. Our first year of dating was long-distance yet it became clear that we shared a vision for marriage and family rooted in our Catholic faith. Bridget and I have been married nearly 12 years and so much has changed. We are blessed to be raising four children who overwhelm us with love and laughter every day. We have also faced the loss of parents and close friends.

These hardships and times of grief have providentially given us ways to grow closer and for our love for each other to mature. I am grateful for the gift of my marriage and each of our children. I am also grateful for faithful Catholic men who encourage and call me to grow as a faithful servant of Christ.

Jeremy Younger
Eldorado Hills, CA Group

My Vocation - *Michael Hummer*

I am grateful to Jesus for my vocations, which have changed over the years as I grow in understanding and wisdom.

My vocation was to be a husband to a loving wife who was given to me by our Lord in answer to my prayers. She stood by me in support during all our joys and struggles as we raised our family.

My vocation is also being a father, raising our children which came with much love and some challenges, sometimes seemingly impossible. My wife was the light that showed a way forward when I could not see. Now my vocation has expanded to be a grandfather to our granddaughters.

My vocation is also to be a man of God, leading our family with my wife and being an example to our children teaching them virtues to live by.

Participating in the Fraternity of Fatherhood is teaching me the groundwork that helps me continue to be the husband worthy of the gift our Lord gave me, my wife and family. Fraternity of Fatherhood is a road map to be a better father to our children. The teachings from our Lord that come to us through Father Santan Pinto in our Fatherhood booklet have generated many discussions in our group that I am eternally grateful for. I

(...continued on page 9)

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 My Vocation - *Michael Hummer*

learned that there are many facets of insights from the men who participate in our meetings that the Holy Spirit prompts them to share with others so we may all grow closer to God.

I am grateful for the Brotherhood that has developed between us as the Lord continues to teach us and help us to grow closer to Him.

Michael Hummer

Sacramento, CA group

Honor and Privilege - *Ante Baricevic*

Being part of something that consist for the unification of Men through our Catholic teachings is such a honor and privilege.

As Fathers, we seek to be the guiding figure for our families, the person to protect, the person to come to for support, the person our families go to, to be entrusted for inspiration and guidance. For this I am so grateful to be part of the Fraternity of Fatherhood. How blessed we are to be Men of Catholic families sharing the values and teachings that our Lord set out for us to follow.

Ante Baricevic

Sacramento, CA group

...continued Oh YES, He is Present in The Eucharist - *Brendan McVicker*

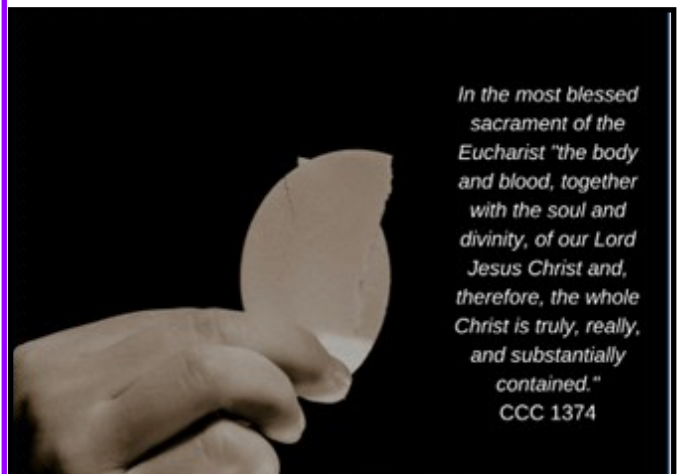
PSALM 25

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 2 O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
- 3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- 4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
- 5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
- 6 Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
- 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O Lord!
- 8 Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
- 9 He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.
- 10 All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.
- 11 For your name's sake, O Lord,
pardon my guilt, for it is great.
- 12 Who are they that fear the Lord?
He will teach them the way that they should choose.
- 13 They will abide in prosperity,
and their children shall possess the land.
- 14 The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him,
and he makes his covenant known to them.
- 15 My eyes are ever toward the Lord,
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
- 16 Turn to me and be gracious to me,
for I am lonely and afflicted.
- 17 Relieve the troubles of my heart,
and bring me out of my distress.
- 18 Consider my affliction and my trouble,
and forgive all my sins.
- 19 Consider how many are my foes,
and with what violent hatred they hate me.
- 20 O guard my life, and deliver me;
do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
- 21 May integrity and uprightness preserve me,
for I wait for you.
- 22 Redeem Israel, O God,
out of all its troubles.

I waited all day for test results. At about 3:00PM, the cardiologist finally came in my room, stood at the end of my bed and said, "Brendan, we really can't figure you out!". The cardiologist told me that I have absolutely NO heart disease what-so-ever. Zero! Like the heart of a kid. No sign of Heart disease at all. None! He said my blood in my heart flows absolutely perfect so whatever I am doing...keep doing it. There are a lot of people in this world with heart disease and you are not one of them.

All I could do is think "EUCCHARIST", and thank you Jesus for what He did for me. And thank you Mary and Fr. Pinto for their intercession.

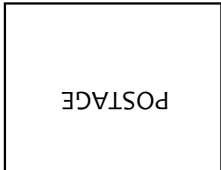
Every year, I am sure to attend Holy Mass, on this date, July 16th, which is also the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, I give gratitude to Jesus in the Eucharist for what He did for me and continues to do for me. Oh Yes, He is Present in The Eucharist. But what was the Lord teaching me also? I have to trust. I must trust Him. I have to work on trusting Him daily in everything. I am still learning every day. Psalm 25 has always been special to me and now even more. God bless!



In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist "the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained."
CCC 1374



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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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