



Una Fides
An Apostolate
for Today's Catholic

- ◆ PRAYER
- ◆ FELLOWSHIP
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Newsletter

Since 2003

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for June:

That where secularization is strongest, Christian communities may effectively promote a new evangelization.



Essential Fatherhood

There seems little doubt that fatherhood is under assault in contemporary culture. Proponents of the redefinition of marriage and genderless parenting opine that fathers are just not essential. In a recently published article in the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, two sociologists argued that "the gender of parents only matters in ways that don't matter." This outlandish claim flies in the face of decades of research that clearly shows the critical importance of a father or father figure.

Dr. Fred Goodwin, head of the Center on Neuroscience at George Washington University, states, "The absence of fathers is the biggest single predictor of antisocial behavior." David Blankenhorn, author of *Fatherless America: Confronting Our Most Urgent Problem*, writes that his research shows clearly that fatherlessness is the most devastating demographic trend in our present day. He draws attention to the orchestrated effort to "deculture" paternity, in essence, to do away with fatherhood.

Blessed John Paul II is someone who would not be surprised at this attack on fatherhood. In his book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, he made a remarkable statement which sheds light on what we see happening. Blessed John Paul II said that original sin is, above all, an attempt "to abolish fatherhood." Today we clearly see that Satan continues his plan to eradicate fatherhood. We are well advised to look carefully at those things that Satan most relentlessly seeks to destroy, because these are the things of the utmost importance.

Read more: "The Drama and Dilemma of Fatherhood" by Donald DeMarco

<http://www.fathersforgood.org/ffg/en/flashitems/involved/drama.html>

Great Resources Extolling the Importance of Fathers

Four Things Boys Learn from their Fathers

1. How to deal with, look at and think about women
2. Confidence
3. Strength, Sacrifice, Service
4. What it means to be loved by the Father

This excellent article, written by Tom Steenson, should be read in its entirety.

Go to: <http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/parenting/pa0164.htm>

A Pediatrician Talks to Fathers

Dr. Meg Meeker has written two great books on the critical role that fathers play in the lives of their children:

Strong Fathers/Strong Daughters

and

Boys Should Be Boys.

Listen to her podcasts on fatherhood at: www.fathersforgood.org/ffg/en/podcasts/index.html

Men Don't "Mother"

Canadian scholar Andea Doucet's book *Do Men "Mother"?* researched this question extensively and concluded that fathers do not "mother". Mothering and fathering have many elements in common, but there are "persistent, critical differences" that are exceedingly important for healthy child development.

The rough and tumble play that is so characteristic of the play between father and child might make a mother cringe in fear or close her eyes, but it is crucial for childhood development. Australian researchers have found that in the pre-school years this rough and tumble play is critical in helping children learn how to simultaneously manage emotions, thinking and physical action. Fathers also seem to instinctively use fun and playfulness as a way of nurturing and connecting with their children.

To read more, check out these two articles:

<http://catholicexchange.com/men-dont-mother/>

http://www.insidershealth.com/article/new_research_finds_rough_tumble_with_dad_is_crucial_for_childhood_development/4701

Top Ten Movie Dads

See if you agree with this list of Top Ten Movie Dads compiled by Steve Greydanus, film critic for the National Catholic Register.

Tevye (Topol) *Fiddler on the Roof*
Marlin (Albert Brooks) *Finding Nemo*
Frank Sullivan (Dennis Quaid) *Frequency*
Gwilym Morgan (Donald Crisp) *How Green Was My Valley*
Giuseppe Conlon (Pete Postlethwaite) *Name of the Father*
Guido Orefice (Roberto Benigni) *Life is Beautiful*
Sir Thomas More (Paul Scofield) *A Man for All Seasons*
Dr. Tatsuo Kusakabe (Shigesato Itoi) *My Neighbor Totoro*
Chri Gardner (Will Smith) *The Pursuit of Happyness*
Atticus Finch (Gregory Peck) *To Kill a Mockingbird*

A Tribute to Fathers

Edgar Guest (1881-1959) was known as "the poet of the people." His poetry is passionately pro-life and pro-family. How refreshing it is to read poems that praise and celebrate our fathers!

Daddies

I would rather be the daddy
Of a romping, roguish crew,
Of a bright-eyed chubby laddie
And a little girl or two,
Than the monarch of a nation
In his high and lofty seat
Taking empty adoration
From the subjects at his feet.

I would rather won their kisses
As at night to me they run,
Than to be the king who misses
All the simpler forms of fun.
When his dreary day is ending
He is dismally alone,
But when my son is descending
There are joys for me to won.

He may ride to horns and drumming;
I must walk a quiet street,
But when once they see me coming
Then on joyous, flying feet
They come racing to me madly
And I catch them with a swing
And I say it proudly, gladly,
That I'm happier than a king.

You may talk of lofty places,
You may boast of pomp and power,
Men may turn their eager faces
To the glory of an hour,
But give me the humble station
With its joys that long survive,
For the daddies of the nation
Are the happiest men alive.

Only A Dad

Only a dad, with a tired face,
Coming home from the daily race.
Bringing little of gold or fame,
To show how well he has played the game,
But glad in his heart that his own rejoice
To see him come, and to hear his voice.

Only a dad, with a brood of four,
One of ten million men or more.
Plodding along in the daily strife,
Bearing the whips and scorns of life,
With never a whimper of pain or hate,
For the sake of those who at home await.

Only a dad, neither rich nor proud,
Merely one of the surging crowd
Toiling, striving from day to day,
Facing whatever may come his way,
Silent whenever the harsh condemn,
And bearing it all for the love of them.

Only a dad, but he gives his all
To smooth the way for his children small,
Doing, with courage stern and grim,
The deeds that his father did for him.
This is the line that for I pen,
Only a dad, but the best of men.

St. Joseph, Patron of Fathers, Patron of Families, pray for us!

Take Note: Second Annual Fortnight for Freedom, June 21 to July 4, 2013

For more information, please go to:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/fortnight-for-freedom/>



The Mission of Una Fides is to build the Body of Christ by encouraging Catholic men and women to enrich, fortify, and embrace their faith through prayer, study, and fellowship

www.UnaFides.com