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"Of all the terms of endearment that are filled with blessed memories for the human race there is one that surpasses all: it is that of FATHER".

— Fr. Gerald sP

The sweet and holy title of FATHER

I think we who are priests should be especially devoted to the fathers through whom we have received the gift of life and the office of fatherhood in whose spiritual functions we have the privilege of participating.

It is ever in the spiritual elements of fatherhood that the reflections of the Divine Paternity are most clearly discernible; and since this is so, how jealousy we should guard those characteristics of our priestly life which brings to us from faith-guided hearts the sweet and holy title of *"father"*.

Moreover, you, as a shepherd of souls, even more than I as a religious, have the obligation of being truly a *father*.

And since you are such, striving always for the material as well as the spiritual well-being of your people, going before them in sacrifice, counseling them first by example and then by preaching, guiding them gently yet firmly, strengthening the wavering, confirming the strong, hastening the slothful, and checking those whose unguided zeal might lead them from the safe path of devotion – because of these things, I know, it is pleasing to the Heavenly Father that you should claim the humble gratitude the sweetest title given by men to men; yes given by men to God.

The sweet and holy title of FATHER.

— Fr. Gerald sP

Celebrating Fathers!

Happy Father's Day

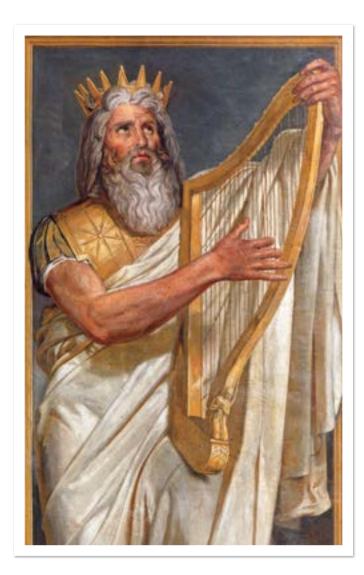
Celebrating Father's Day in the US on June 18th! Thank you to all those who serve in the role of "FATHER"!

Father Gerald sP

Founding Father of the Servants of the Paraclete and Handmaids of the Precious Blood! Celebrating 70 years of continuous fatherly care and prayers for priests and religious.

God, the Father

God the Father, the first Person of the Trinity, is the father and creator of all. Jesus, his only Son, showed us a new, intimate way of relating to him. When we see God as our heavenly Father, provider, and protector, it puts our life in a whole new perspective. Every human father is also a son of this Most High God, the constant source of strength, wisdom, and hope.



Old Testament FATHER role models for FATHERS of today

Scripture is filled with people we can learn much from. When it comes to the challenging vocation of fatherhood, several fathers in the Bible show what is wise to do--and what is not wise to do.

Adam - The First Man

As the first man and first human father, Adam had no example to follow except God. He faltered on that, plunging the world into sin. He also had to deal with the tragedy of his son Cain murdering his other son, Abel. Adam has much to teach today's fathers about the consequences of our actions and the absolute necessity of obeying God.

Noah - A Righteous Man

Noah stands out among fathers in the Bible as a man who clung to God in spite of the wickedness all around him. What could be more relevant today? Noah was far from perfect, but he was humble and protective of his family. He bravely carried out the task God assigned to him. Modern fathers may often feel they are in a thankless role, but God is always pleased by their devotion.

Abraham - Father of the Jewish Nation

What could be more frightening than being the father of an entire nation? That was the mission God gave Abraham. He was a leader with tremendous faith, passing one of the most difficult tests God ever gave a man. Abraham made mistakes when he relied on himself instead of God. Still, he embodied qualities that any father would be wise to develop.

Isaac - Son of Abraham

Many fathers feel intimidated trying to follow in the footsteps of their own father. Isaac must have felt that way. His father Abraham was such an outstanding leader that Isaac could have gone wrong. He could have resented his father for offering him as a sacrifice yet Isaac was an obedient son. From Abraham he learned the invaluable lesson of trusting God. That made Isaac one of the most favored fathers in the Bible.

Jacob - Father of the 12 Tribes of Israel

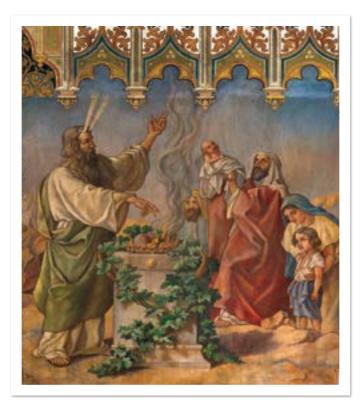
Jacob was a schemer who tried to work his own way instead of trusting God. With the help of his mother Rebekah, he stole his twin brother Esau's birthright. Jacob fathered 12 sons who founded the 12 tribes of Israel. As a father, however, he favored his son Joseph, causing jealousy among the other brothers. The lesson from Jacob's life is that God works with our obedience and in spite of our disobedience to make his plan come to pass.

Moses - Giver of the Law

Moses was the father of two sons, Gershom and Eliezer, yet he also served as a father figure to the entire Hebrew people as they escaped from slavery in Egypt. He loved them and helped discipline and provide for them on their 40-year journey to the Promised Land. At times Moses seemed to be a larger-than-life character, but he was only a man. He shows today's fathers that overwhelming tasks can be achieved when we stay close to God.

King David - A Man After God's Own Heart

One of the great strugglers in the Bible, David was also a special favorite of God. He trusted God to help him defeat the giant Goliath and put his faith in God as he was on the run from King Saul. David sinned greatly, but he repented and found forgiveness. His son Solomon went on to become one of Israel's greatest kings.





Servants of the Paraclete PO Box 9 Cedar Hill, MO 63016



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DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Marian Wolaver • 636-274-5226 x303 • mwolaver@theservants.org P0 Box 9 • Cedar Hill, M0 63016