

FATHER'S DAY!
Deacon Rick Moser

Happy Father's Day!

For all the new Fathers here, adoptive Fathers and Step-Fathers here?

For Fathers with school-aged children? Any of you have children in Middle School?

My prayers are with you!

For grandfathers and great-grandfathers here?

A Happy and a Holy Fathers' Day to all of you and God Bless all of our Fathers, living or deceased.

So, I ask you, "What is a Father?"

In my entire life of 75 years, I would never have believed that I would be asking the question, "what is a father," other than rhetorically. Who would not know what a Father is?

That is, until two weeks ago.

Two weeks ago, our Biden Administration redefined a "Mother" as a "birthing person" or it could even be a "birthing unit." After all, conception can and does take place in a petri dish.

What then is a father? An egg-fertilizing unit of no particular gender? The same article suggested that fathers were merely "sperm contributors."

It's craziness: - it's sheer Insanity.

The Hebrews had a 3 word phrase for this. It was "Bah-Lo-Nay," Baloney.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Now, gender is not **decided** in the womb or even at birth; it will be decided by the person at a later date.

According to "*Healthline: billed as: Medical information and health advice you can trust,*" there are 64 terms that describe gender identity and expression. Unbelievable! And you, of course, you not limited to just one identity.

According to my hero, Archbishop of Philadelphia Emeritus, Charles Chaput, who writes in his book "*Stranger In A Strange Land: Living the Catholic Faith in a Post-Christian World.*"

- "The takeaway is this: What's **at stake** in current sex and gender-identity struggles is not just the ability of Catholic ministries and schools to serve unhampered in the public square.
- The freedom of Catholic families to raise their children according to Christian beliefs is also, in everyday practice, becoming more difficult.
- Most Catholic children attend public schools, whose curricula are often beyond parental control.
- The volume of noise advancing transgender and same-sex rights is strong at every level of our culture, and it distracts us from the most obvious and unsettling dimension of the gender-ideology debate.
- In decoupling gender from biology and denying any given or "natural" meaning to male and female sexuality, gender ideology directly repudiates **reality**.
- People don't need to be "religious" to notice that men and women are different.
- The evidence is obvious.
- And the only way to ignore it is through a kind of intellectual self-hypnosis.
- **Gender ideology** rejects any human experience or knowledge that **conflicts** with its own flawed premises; *it's the imperialism of bad science on steroids.*
- For Christians, it also attacks the heart of our faith: the Creation ("male and female he created them"); the Incarnation

- God taking the flesh of a man; and the Redemption
- God dying on the cross and then rising in glorified bodily form.
- The Catholic faith, more than any of its Protestant cousins, is a religion not just of the mind and will but also of the bodily senses.
- And while the senses can make **mistakes**, when it comes to sexuality, they ground us firmly in the real.
- The human body, complementary in its male and female forms, is precious, not **simply** as a pious ideal but as an organic reality.
- The body reveals who we are as human beings.
- Sexual difference expresses the manner in which we're called to love in the world.
- Thus the body **is our** rootedness in nature.
- It's a gift.
- It engages us with creation as part of creation.
- It has meaning. It's integral to who we are and fundamental to the whole Christian message.
- But for American culture—in its exhibitionism, and in its endless appetite to reveal every intimate aspect and detail of human sexual behavior to a global audience
- the body is now little more than **animated modeling clay**.
- **According to Scripture**, Genesis: 1:27 “God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”
- God didn't create Adam & Steve, or Ava & Eve!!

In the Gospel today, Jesus and His apostles are on the Sea of Galilee in a violent storm! We are in a violent storm as well. A Satanic Storm.

This is the “world” that we live in, we are in a violent storm. The Storm is the “World.” “We will never defeat the “world” because the ‘world’ is an attitude, and it is the attitude of Satan. He is never going to change. He also smells victory, immediate victory, which has greatly emboldened him.

I teach a class on the “World” and I use a four page handout listing quotations only from Sacred Scripture on the “world.” But I would like to read an excerpt from a famous book, that is not scripture, on the “world.”

- “This is [their] concern:
- that every man be able to increase his wealth so as to supply his daily prodigalities,
- so that the powerful may subject the weak for their own purposes.
- Let the poor court the rich for a living [so] that under their protection they may enjoy a sluggish tranquility;
- and let the rich abuse the poor as their dependents, to minister to their pride.
- Let the people applaud not those who protect their interests, but those who provide them with pleasure.
- Let no severe duty be commanded,
- let no impurity be forbidden ...
- [In] his own affairs let everyone with impunity do what he will ...
- This was written about the “World” in a book titled “The City of God” by St. Augustine in 426AD.

Back to the question - What is a father?

A little boy asks his Dad, “Daddy, what is a Father?”

“Well, son, a father is a person who is kind and forgiving, patient and loving, hard-working and would do anything for anyone at anytime and who loves everyone unconditionally.”

His son says, "Thanks, Daddy, when I grow up I want to be a father, just like mommy."

What is a father? Simply speaking: A father is someone who begets children. If a man begets a child, no matter how long that child lives, even if that child is aborted or miscarried, that man is the father of that person for all eternity.

Unfortunately, **fathering** a child is as far as some men take it, they abandon their child, emotionally, spiritually and even physically.

My wife, Jody's parents abandoned her in the hospital right after birth; they also abandoned her older brother and younger sister. However, they didn't signed the adoption papers because they thought maybe they could make money by selling them to their adoptive parents. Three years later, they got arrested. That's a bad father (and mother).

Some fathers abuse or abandon their children in many ways. That is one of many reasons why the "world" has been, and is, in such a mess.

I have to say, as terrible as it is, in many areas in our country the children have actually become "Feral."

A father is a parent. He should always be there for his children. He sacrifices for them, he teaches them, he supports them, he gives them great example, he teaches them about God and the Church and he loves them unconditionally.

My parents grew up during the Great Depression and World War II. They never had anything growing up, not even decent food. They had good, hard-working parents and they were good hard-working parents themselves. Yet, none of them had much during their lives, but they loved and sacrificed for their children.

The Patron Saint of Fathers is St. Joseph. St. Joseph was the foster father of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, he is also the Patron Saint of the Church. St. Joseph worked hard, protected Jesus and Mary and provided for them. Yet, we don't even know where he came from, how or when he died and there are no recorded words that he spoke. Yet, he is our role model as fathers. That says a great deal!

Without fathers, no one would exist; without mothers, no one would exist.

Parents are not just part of God's plan; they are His Plan. Like Adam and Eve; we have messed it up.

In these days, we cannot change the "world" as I said earlier. But there is not one person living in this "world" that cannot be saved from the "world." Every single person in this world has a father. If only they would do their best to protect their children or rescue their children from the storm.

Let us turn now to Our Father in heaven who is offering His only begotten Son for us in this unbloody sacrifice on this Altar so that we can be freed of sin and be with our Heavenly Father for all eternity in heaven.

Happy Fathers' Day to all of you!