

The Successful Father

There are fathers who lead their sons to faith and holiness and the love of God and fellow man. Who are these men? What is their relationship with God, family and community? What can we learn from them?

Clearly if we knew the secret, it could become a model, a visible moral compass for fathers to endow to their children.

Perhaps the following list might provide a first attempt at answering this question.

- First, the father loves God, knows Jesus and has a personal relationship with him.¹
- He loves his wife before all else. The children know that and respect them.
- He prays with the family. He insists they eat dinner together as often as possible.
- He spends time with his children and they know he cares deeply for them. He prepares them for and protects them from worldly evil. He is their hero.
- He practices and lives by the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes and the teachings Jesus gave to the Church.
- He shows charity and personal sacrifice to help others and engages the children to do likewise. Not just giving alms but also spending time and physical assistance for those in need.
- He patiently answers their questions, always in a non-condemnatory way, but rather in a way that leads them to the truth.
- He regularly takes his family to church service.
- He is respected in the church and presents the example of a strong, peaceful, masculine Christian.

¹ "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." Saint Jerome, a Doctor of the Catholic Church.