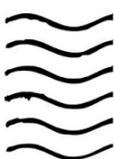


FATHERHOOD
IS A VOCATION IN
GOD'S SERVICE 
 **TO BE NOT HELD lightly**
OR frivolously 
 **BUT WITH THE**
SERIOUS DETERMINATION OF
SERIOUS MEN.

 Fr. Lawrence Lovasik

catholicALLYEAR.com

**THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 17TH, IS FATHER'S DAY. HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
TO ALL FATHERS, GRANDFATHERS AND GODFATHERS...AND
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO OUR PRIESTS!**

**BE SURE TO VISIT THE PASTORAL CENTRE FOR CATHOLIC GIFTS
FOR THE FATHERS IN YOUR LIFE!**

THE FOLLOWING IS ANOTHER TEACHING BY GUS LLOYD FROM HIS
BOOKLET, *A MINUTE IN THE CHURCH: ONE MINUTE CATHOLIC
APOLOGETICS*.

AVAILABLE AT THE PASTORAL CENTRE!

CALL NO MAN FATHER

Why do Catholics call their priests “Father?” After all, didn’t Jesus forbid that in Matthew 23:9? Let’s go to the scriptures. In Matthew 23:9 Jesus says, “*Call no one on earth your Father; you have but one Father in heaven.*” Now, did Jesus mean that you’re not even allowed to refer to your dad as father? Of course not; Jesus didn’t mean that at all. If Christians took that verse literally, we would all have to refer to our male parent as “our male parent.” So, was Jesus speaking strictly in a spiritual sense? Apparently St. Paul didn’t think so. In 1 Corinthians 4:15, St. Paul says, “*You do not have many fathers, for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*” And in the letter to Philemon, verse 10, St. Paul talks about his “child” Onesimus (remember St. Paul never married) saying, “*...whose father I have become in my imprisonment...*”. And in Romans 4: 16-17, St. Paul refers to Abraham as “*...the father of us all...*”. The New Testament has many references to fathers. Just read the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1.

It’s clear that St. Paul knew exactly what Jesus meant...not to attribute the Fatherhood of God to any man. So the next time you see a priest, why not say. “Thanks, Father, for guiding your spiritual children.”

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1 Corinthians 4:14-16

Philemon 10

Romans 4:16-17

Matthew 1: 1-17