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FATHERS' MANUAL

Prayers and Directives for Married Men

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INTRODUCTION

The prayers and considerations presented in this little book are intended to be a means of helping you as a husband and the father of a family in the harmonious managing of the home together with your wife, and to be a guide and support to you in the very difficult task of rearing children properly according to God's plan.

It is hoped that the prayers may invite meditation as you use them and that you will ponder their meanings from time to time in a devout endeavor to make God's thoughts more surely your thoughts, God's will your will -- in a sincere endeavor to form in yourself the image of a true Christian father after the perfect image of your Father in heaven.

Morning Prayer



My Jesus, I offer this day to you
-- all my prayers, works, joys and
sufferings -- and, through you, I
make this offering to our Father in
heaven. Be with me through this
whole day in all its particulars, and
assist me that it may become a wor-
thy offering in every way.

Be close to me in all I think and say
and do. Direct your Spirit to speak to
me and guide me -- and help me to
listen attentively when he does speak
... so that, in my response, your
thoughts may become more surely
my thoughts, and your ways may
become my ways; so that my judg-
ments may accord with your judg-
ments, and that the sentiments of my
heart may be most like your very

own; so that my conversation with others may be conversation I may ask you to share with us, and that my works may be works I may ask you to approve.

Help me to have the practical wisdom to look to your Mother from time to time throughout the day and to invite her to pray with me -- realizing her concern that I be in all things faithful to you and that your graces be fruitful in me to form me after the perfect fatherhood of God.

May I know the continued grace to work *with* you in all I do, and not merely *for* you ... so that my day may become a perfect offering -- lived with you and in you and through you -- to be presented to our Father in joy and love.

Prayers for

The Needs

of

Fatherhood

and

Married

Life

**FOR HELP TO BE
A GOOD HUSBAND**



Lord God, you have reminded us that in marriage husband and wife are to be two in one flesh, and we are continually admonished that in all things your bond of union is your law of love.

Teach me to be lovingly and closely united with my wife, as a husband should be.

Teach me to share with interest and concern any problems and vexations that she has.

Teach me to be a comfort and an aid to her at all times in her burdens and trials.

May I not be unreasonable in my

demands but rather try to understand.

May I not be ready to affirm my own rights so much as to consider the feelings that are hers.

Teach me to be generous and in everything considerate of her welfare.

Let mine never be nagging or complaining words, but let me realize the value of frequent words of praise and appreciation.

Let me not ask more of her than I am prepared to give, but rather in my position as head of the family let me show forth the strength that should be mine with greater generosity in giving.

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When she is tired or weary, let me be a solace and help.

When she is discouraged, let me be encouragement and support.

When she is worried, let me show the sympathy of love.

May I strive always and in everything that we may be one in you -- in mind and heart and affection, according to your word.

FOR FATHERLY GUIDANCE

Lord God, author of all wisdom and Spirit of all true enlightenment, teach me how to do my work as a father according to your will. Enlighten my mind that I may understand what to tell my children when it is necessary to give them direction or advice. Give me good judgment to understand true spiritual values and to guide my

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children in your ways. Give me the gift of your holy Counsel.

The world makes little of your wisdom and your values and is not instructed in your ways. And close contact with the world makes it easy to become dulled to things of solid spiritual worth. Be my guide at all times in the judgments I make and the direction that I must give, that I may be a true father, sensitive always to the divine wisdom that only you can impart to our minds and to our hearts. And, instructed by you, may I impart this wisdom in turn through the direction and help I give to my children.

God, by the light of the Holy Spirit you instruct the hearts of your faithful. Grant that by the same Spirit I may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolation, through Christ our Lord.

**FOR HELP TO BE
A GOOD FATHER**

Almighty God, loving Father of us all, teach me to be a good earthly father to my children. It is from your fatherhood that all fatherhood takes its name, and your tender fatherhood must ever be the model for us to follow.

Help me to provide well for my family, and give me the devoted will to do so.

Help me to be wise and prudent in carrying out your designs for my family, and teach me to be to them such a model and inspiration as will direct their thoughts to you.

May I be selfless in carrying out my obligations as a father, with a deep

realization of the great trust that has been given to me.

May I be patient in carrying out my duties and never sharp or forbidding.

Teach me to be strong and firm without being harsh.

Teach me to be gentle and kind without being yielding or indulgent.

Give me the understanding that a father should have -- an understanding that will invite the confidence of my children.

Give me the cheerful strength to lift the burden of troubled hearts from the members of my family without vexing them with the burdens that are mine.