

ON DIVORCE (Internet pornography is a leading cause of divorce in the U.S.)
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Where's Dad? by Monica Hidalgo Breaux, PhD, MSW

Divorce removes the constant presence of the father in the life of a child. Usually Dad is reduced to a playmate on every other weekend. Providing a sense of authoritative direction to the child is almost impossible without the cooperative alliance with the mother that marriage affords. The children have no role model for honoring their parents, which is a commandment of God because it is crucial to our spiritual maturity.

Fatherless children are 10 times more likely to live in poverty, twice as likely to drop out of school, and twice as likely to end up in jail. Boys are 63% more likely to run away and 37% more likely to abuse drugs. Girls are twice as likely to get pregnant and 53% more likely to commit suicide. Most children requiring social services do not have the presence of a father figure in their life: 63% of teen suicides, 70% of kids in state-operated institutions, 71% of school dropouts, 75% of kids in chemical-abuse centers, 80% of rapists, 85% of kids with behavioral disorders, 85% of kids in prison, and 90% of homeless and runaway kids are fatherless. These statistics make it easy for us to understand why God hates divorce.

Our catechism teaches that children make their parents holy. People are often shocked and confused by this. Each challenge of parenting is an opportunity to increase awareness of personal sin and cooperate prayerfully with God to overcome sinfulness. The demands of raising children make it impossible for parents to deny their frustration and frequent sense of failure. Almost daily, Satan invites moms and dads to come away with him on a mini-vacation away from Sacrificial Love to the Islands of Self-pity and Resentment. By the grace of God, parents usually choose to act in the best interest of their child, following Jesus' invitation to Love by embracing their Cross. This path to holiness truly satisfies our soul.

Divorce affects every person in society. American culture promotes divorce. It encourages everyone to roll in the muck of self-pity and resentment. We must pluck the weeds of self-pity and resentment from our hearts, and then help others to do the same. As we mature spiritually, we grow in gratitude to God for the circumstances of our lives and learn how to let what is given be enough.