

The Attributes of a Great Leader and Father

The greatest and most important leadership position for any man is that of a father (natural or spiritual). We are both tasked with loving and leading our children to Heaven, whether they like it or not. As a father of eleven, I draw on my experiences of fatherhood to help you be a loving father leading your parishioners to Heaven. Much of what I experience with my children you will experience, in different ways, with your parishioners.

Being a pastor is difficult. It's easy to fall into being more of an administrator instead of a father, or getting stuck in the day to day and not leading. Many will attempt to rope you into their projects. Knowing your priorities and what your focus is can help steer these conversations. How does their work fit into your vision? How do you avoid distraction from the true goal?

To avoid these and other pitfalls, I have developed five attributes to guide us in what it means to be a father. Depending on your personality and gifts there are many ways to practice these, and since you have many different children there are many angles to look at them from.

1. A father loves and cares for his children
2. A father has a vision and communicates it with confidence and clarity
3. A father sets the example
4. A father inspires and challenges his children
5. A father is magnanimous (a greatness of spirit that comes not from man's belief in himself, but rather his faith in God's ability to work miracles through him)

A good pastor acts as a father in all that he does.

Almighty God and his holy Mother are to raise up great saints who will surpass in holiness most other saints as much as the cedars of Lebanon tower above little shrubs.
- St. Louis de Montfort