

My faith has been nurtured by my pastor, Fr. John, and associate, Fr. Ron, together with my parish community of brothers and sisters. I also came to the realization of the significant role played by my Christian education (in the Catholic school system) in support of my faith and its growth during life's pilgrimage. The exemplary practices of fatherhood presented to me through school religion classes, prayer services, Scripture study and liturgies were firmly entrenched in me.

As a dad, I have been gifted through the many experiences I have had. For me, this role is definitely a work in progress, so there is much more to learn. Fatherhood, for me, provides an array of roles under its banner of dad. You serve as marriage partner, role model, confidant, admirer, friend and steward of your family. It is a lot, but God never gives you more than you can handle. However, that at times is open for further debate.

Fatherhood, then, is something to celebrate. It is both a responsibility and definitely a privilege – one that requires walking the journey in the footsteps of, and hand in hand with, God and the members of the faith community.

I will continue to live out my fatherly vocation knowing that God will not abandon me in my mission. To fathers all, remember that life is precious and we must advocate for it. Go forward to serve your family and community and be proud of your fatherhood. "Bless you!"

*Dr. Ashleigh Molloy is director of the Transformation Education Institute. He is available to speak about this issue to pro-life and church groups.*