



INVALUABLE IMPACT OF FATHERHOOD IN THE FAMILY EMPHASIZED

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The positive impact of the father is of invaluable effect on the future life of the children, especially in their relationship as adults, in the society. This is in addition to the role of the father as the bastion of a happy and successful family.

These assertions were made recently by the Director of Social Communications, Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria (CSN); Rev. FR. Chris Anyanwu in his homily during the celebration of the Mass at St Gabriel Chaplaincy, Durumi, Abuja; to mark this year's Fathers' Day by the staff of the secretariat.

According to Fr Anyanwu who was the chief celebrant of the Mass: "Fathers are central to the emotional well-being of their children; they are capable caretakers and disciplinarians," adding that: "Many of us will remember that the early patterns of interaction we had with our fathers are the very patterns that we seem to project into many of all our relationships today."

While noting that the special roles fathers' play in the family can never be underestimated, Fr. Anyanwu congratulated the married men working in the Secretariat and other CBCN Agencies on the year's celebration. He

also used the occasion to congratulate the priests of the Secretariat “who in the first place are men but by their special vocation have decided to forsake raising families for the sake of the kingdom of God”.

The homilist then outlined the challenges facing the family in the present-day world, due to the influence of the society. These include: the traditional role of the father gradually changing at home and “some traditional values of the family such as respect, love and generosity which are being gradually eroded”. He added: “The hardships family face today in our society: lack of job and poverty has turned many of our fathers into beggars and many have compromised their integrity in order to make both ends meet.”

Fr. Anyanwu then advised the fathers to learn to be more humble, especially when their wives step-in as the bread winners of their families; support and give their wives to grow in their careers; be good fathers to their wives and children and be involved in the lives of their children from childhood to adulthood. He added: “A father’s love for his family is manifested through affection and disciplinary actions.