

## SIMPLE STEPS

Here is a list of simple steps that offer ideas on how to use the provided resources. Each step may not apply to your specific circumstance, but most can be adapted to suit your needs.

### 1. Consider how your parish could observe Father's Day.

Many parishes already observe Father's Day in some way. Find out whether your parish currently has any plans in progress. Review the Respect Life resources available for Father's Day such as the *Spiritual Bouquet to St. Joseph* activity that appears later in this action guide. Prayerfully consider which may work best in your parish and, if your parish already has plans in motion, whether there is a way to complement or integrate with those plans.

### 2. Meet with your pastor.

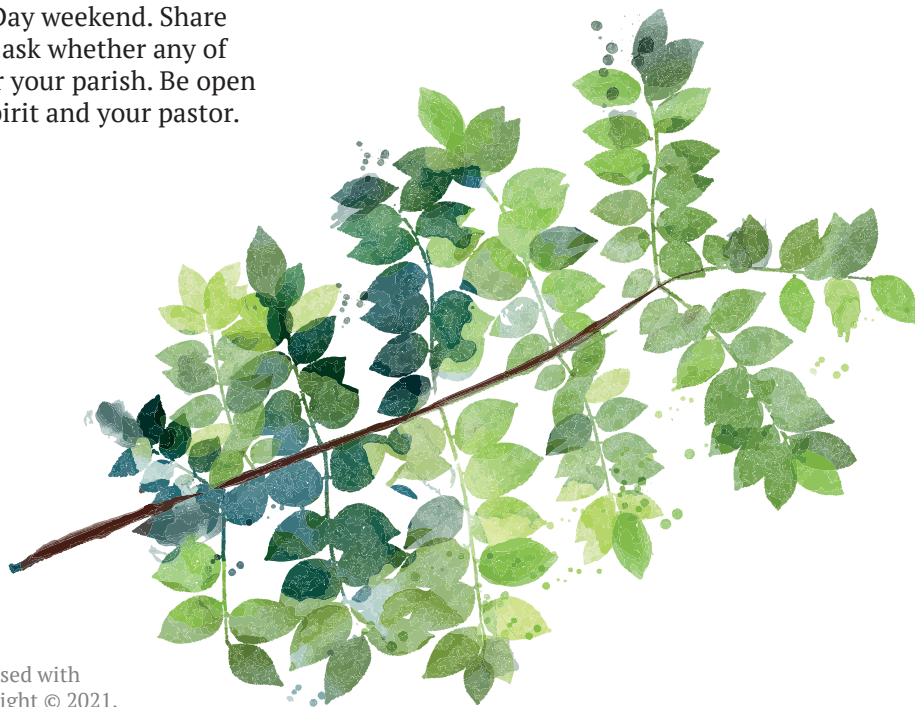
Ask your pastor whether it might be possible for your parish, on Father's Day, to highlight a father's integral role in the life of the family and in safeguarding the sanctity of human life. Let him know sample homily reflection points are available, in case he'd like to take a look at them. Share the sample intercessions, and ask if one or more could be included in the Prayer of the Faithful during Masses taking place Father's Day weekend. Share any other ideas you have, and ask whether any of them might be appropriate for your parish. Be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and your pastor.

### 3. Make necessary preparations.

Once you have determined with your pastor how your parish will celebrate Father's Day, begin making the appropriate plans and preparations in collaboration with relevant parish staff and volunteers. This could include tasks like submitting bulletin announcements, arranging special intercessions for Mass, drafting sections for the parish newsletter, or gathering materials for the *Spiritual Bouquet to St. Joseph*. See the following sample timeline for more detailed steps.

### 4. Pray for all fathers.

No matter how your parish has decided to observe Father's Day, prayer should be the basis of everything we do. As you plan and prepare, remember to lift up in prayer all fathers. Seek the intercession of St. Joseph, patron of fathers, especially for those who are struggling with some aspect of their fatherhood, such as feeling overwhelmed with the news of an unexpected pregnancy.



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