

“Calling All Fathers”

(Written for the Black Catholic Deacons Annual Father’s Fay Luncheon)

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By Gregg H. Brown

Hear ye, Hear ye, All fathers of the land
It is time to unite and take a noble stand,
Every child is a holy child biologically or not
Deserving of a fighting chance, each precious tiny tot,

Startling statistics of children who grow up
In single parent households where fathers don’t show up,
24 million to be exact in the land of the free
Let us examine how this fact weighs on society,

More than 70% black children born out of wedlock
Like innocent sheep set-up to stray from the flock,
Five times more likely to end in poverty and commit crime
Who never had fathers who spent with them quality time,

Nine times more likely to drop out of school
where there is no man at home to enforce God’s golden rule,
Children suffer from emotional and financial neglect
Absent fathers cannot teach their off spring basic love and respect,

For when he abandons this sacred fatherhood tradition
A child is 20 times more likely to end up in prison,

Now more than ever, This is a call for all fathers to unite-
Restore our manhood in the village and do what is right,
To protect, provide, nurture and cultivate
To create a better world devoid of violence and hate,

What one cannot do alone, collectively we can-
It takes real men to teach a boy how to be a man,
A job we cannot leave to street hustling brothers
Or even well-to-do mothers
or dead beat dads that sail the seven seas,
holiday fathers or weekend wanna-be’s,

Our children are dying, gunned down to the grave-
Yeah real men cook, but we need real men who save,
Who build hope and opportunity wherever our children roam
And glory be to God for each father who stays at home,

Who stands on principle defending their honor without fear-
There 24/7, 365 days a year,

Calling all fathers, step fathers, grand-father god-fathers and father figures
Let’s pull together, pull up our children, and stop pulling deadly triggers,

Let us celebrate Father’s Day with a renewed sense of purpose
To make the vault of loving responsible fathers an overflowing surplus
And when on Father’s Day, all the pews are filled like on Mother’s Day
You will know God answered our call, because Daddy is home to stay.