

Fathers & Dating

12 May 2026

Principles

- Fathers are responsible to give children correct understanding of principles of healthy courtship.
- Cannot simply give commands and expect them to be followed. Must do everything possible to nourish desire to receive in one's children.
- Children remain free to marry whom they will, provided there is no impediment.

Remote Preparation

- Build trust
- Nourish spirit of Faith
- Give example of healthy marriage
- For boys,
- For girls,

Proximate Preparation

- Explain purposes of courtship
- In light of this, strive to communicate conditions which indicate one is ready to enter courtship
 - Spiritual life
 - Emotional maturity
 - Financial preparation.
- Explain challenges in courtship
 - Dangers to purity
 - Tendency to downplay challenges of marriage

During Courtship

- Be engaged and concerned
- Use your approval intelligently
 - Make it clear you are ready to give, but want to have sufficient knowledge before giving it.

- If necessary, deny it.
 - For boyfriends of daughters
 - For sons
- Nourish a healthy detachment

Challenges

- Listen to Fr Beck & Fr Rutledge talks on courtship
 - Invite your high school children to do so with you and talk with them.
- For parents with children in a serious relationship
 - Talk with your wife about status of relationship and where and to what extent you might need to be more involved
- For children in teenage years
 - Again, talk with your wife about how to approach sex education (if you have not already done so). This is your responsibility. Furthermore, you have the best ability to ensure that their introduction into the topic is marked by the respect for a holy and good institution given to us by God.