

## Conference

### **The Importance of Fathers: The bond with the father figure as a key issue in child's development**

By Dr. Paul C. Vitz  
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For the Institute for Culture and Society - Universidad de Navarra  
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#### **About the speaker**

Dr. Paul C. Vitz is a senior scholar and professor at the Institute for the Psychological Sciences, Divine Mercy University. He is also professor emeritus at the New York University. Dr. Vitz's work is focused on the integration of Christian theology, especially Catholic anthropology, with psychology and breaks from secularism and post-modern relativism. This is expressed in his work on the just published Catholic Christian Meta Model of the Person. He also addresses: hatred and forgiveness; importance of fathers; psychology of atheism; psychology of the virtues; and the complementarity of men and women. He has published seven books and many articles, videos, Op-Eds, etc.

#### **Abstract**

This paper documents much of the large research literature showing the positive effects of a father's presence on his family and the negative effects of his absence. The different psychological theories that account for the father effects are presented. The discussion is set in the context of the father crisis existing today and in the need for young men to develop a positive understanding of masculinity.