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HOUSTON AUTHOR HAS A VERB FOR WHAT POPE DECLARES ABOUT FATHERHOOD

On January 28, Pope Francis spoke about the “beauty of fatherhood,” calling on fathers and father figures to become more involved in their children’s lives. Houston author and father Dion McInnis has coined a term for the verb of being a dad: Daddin’.

“Mothers mother. They have a verb that inspires images of nurturing and caring. Fathers don’t have a verb like that, so I made one. If you tell someone that you saw a man fathering a child in the park, the person would likely ask if that man had been arrested. ‘To father’ in our society only connotes ‘to procreate.’ There is so much more that happens in the moments of being a dad. It is what happens...it is the verbs. It is daddin’,” McInnis said.

The book is broken down by chapters of verbs—havin’, lovin’, learnin’, fishin’, growiin’, listenin’ and more—using poetry, stories and essays to share the moments of life as a son to a father and father to three sons. The last chapter is essentially a love letter to his then unborn first grandchild—a little girl. His first copy of the book arrived 48 hours before her birth and the author gave his son that copy of the book in the hospital delivery waiting room. McInnis now has three granddaughters and a fourth due in May.

McInnis uses the book and its message in presentations, workshops, men’s retreats and more. “Dads and father figures really just need the chance to consider and then converse about the topic,” he said. “Once they get started, great things happen. Happy things and healing things. But this isn’t just for guys. Some of the biggest followers of my daddin’ programs are women.”

“My dad’s gravestone reads ‘He has left for us a most noble pattern.’ I think that is a major part of being a dad. A noble pattern, not a perfect one, is important. No one can be perfect, neither the parent nor the kids. Welcome to the human race. We can, however, do our best in each moment by being present to the verbs of doing things with our children. In that comes great and magic things, which help get parents and kids through the challenging times, too.”

McInnis uses the message and the concepts of the book for presentations, workshops, retreats and more. "There is always laughter and tears at daddin' programs. I believe that also speaks to the fullness of the potential of the experience."

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Some reviews of Daddin': : [one](#), [two](#), [three](#), [four](#)

