



## FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS

"... to gather priests to Christ  
and to one another to proclaim ..."



# NJ Fraternity Reports a Successful Retreat

Our New Jersey Fraternity had a retreat on January 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 4<sup>th</sup>, 2000. It was held at St. Pius X Retreat house in Blackwood New Jersey. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and fraternity with one another as brothers. Our retreat master was Fr. Phillip Merdinger. He is a member of the Brotherhood of Hope, and was one of the founders of our N.J. fraternity group.

Father Phil shared with us his own journey in the spiritual life.

He also invited us to consider several questions for our own meditation. The first was: "Where is your love?" He invited us to reflect on how the absence of love in our lives affects our ability to love and be loved. He encouraged us to meditate on how highly God regards us, and realize how we are of much greater worth than we think. God has chosen to save us and redeem us.

The second talk was on Spiritual fatherhood; God comes in search of us in Jesus. So often we hide from God, yet He calls us to relate to Him in a personal way. Fr. Phil invited us to consider how we emulate Spiritual Fatherhood in our priesthood. By empowering others, helping them to come to their true identity in God as sons and daughters, we do the work of a father. Many are looking for spiritual fathers today, and we can meet that need.

He invited us to use the Consciousness Examen of Fr. George Aschenbrenner S.J. The Examen helps one to reflect on ways to enrich our dialogue with God, and experience His presence on the path to holiness.

The final reflection he gave us was on how to hear and speak God's Word in the midst of a world of a secular mindset. Is one guided by questions like: "what do I think," or by, "What is the mind of Christ?" As priests we are called to help our people confront the secular mindset, and help them to live lives formed by the Word of God.

During the retreat the Lord spoke powerfully, and ministered to the brothers gathered before the Blessed Sacrament in a holy hour. There were also many words of prophecy including one about the visitation message.

Our Lord said: *"The visitation message is not meant to be a secret, it is meant to be proclaimed with great power and love. The fact that I have visited you tonight is just a sign of the many times and ways I want to visit you in the coming year. Expect my visitation."*

—Fr. Paul  
New Jersey Fraternity



Photo from The Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians Conference at Steubenville, OH - June 1987

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# Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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Dear Friends of the Priesthood,

As Pope John Paul II summoned the Church to prepare for the Great Jubilee, he chose the passage of scripture which describes the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus in the gospel of Luke. As Jesus entered the synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth He read these words from Isaiah the prophet:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. (Luke 4:18,19)*

During this year we highlight the final phrase, "a year acceptable to the Lord," which is understood as meaning the Jubilee year, described in Leviticus 25. However, in this month it would be good to reflect on the first line of these verses: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor."

The liturgies of this month highlight our Lord's most loving and life-giving actions. He washed feet and gave us His own body and blood. With a humility never seen before Jesus laid down His life for us. With a power inconceivable, He was raised from the dead, giving hope to all on earth and eternal life to those who die in Him.

Nestled in the midst of these wonders, the Church summons her priests and faithful during Holy Week to celebrate what is called the Chrism Mass. During this mass, the diocesan bishop blesses the oils that are used in the sacraments of the church. The oil of catechumen is used to prepare children and adults for baptism. The oil of the sick brings Christ's healing and forgiveness through the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

Chrism is the perfumed oil used in

three Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders. It is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. When one is baptized, that person is anointed with chrism on the crown of the head. The Church proclaims that even at baptism, each Christian shares in the priestly, prophetic and kingly roles of Christ. At confirmation, the faithful are anointed with chrism on their foreheads. They receive the fullness of God's Spirit.

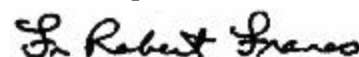
Finally, in holy orders priests have their hands anointed with chrism. It is the symbol that they share in the office of Jesus Christ, High Priest. They receive the pledge of the Holy Spirit that equips them in three ways. First, they are empowered to preach and teach the Gospel. Second, they are equipped to sanctify, that is to lead God's people in prayer and the celebration of the sacraments. Finally, priests are called to govern the church, lovingly serving God's people.

Please pray for priests to be faithful and open to the gifts of God. The Sacrament of Holy Orders and the anointing by the Holy Spirit are treasures placed in earthen vessels. Pray that these "earthen vessels" be faithful to God's calling and open to the gifts of the Spirit.

In the year of Jubilee may those anointed by the Spirit in Holy Orders make present by their words and deeds Jesus Christ, who sets the captive free! May priests know deep in their hearts; "He has anointed me..."

*We at Fraternity of Priests are deeply grateful for the support of God's people. Your prayers and gifts help fan the flame of God's Spirit in us. May the Lord return a hundred fold your sacrificial love.*

In the Spirit of His love,



Rev. Robert Franco

P.S. Thank you for your prayers for the pilgrimage last month. A report will be given in May.

# Prophecies for the New Millennium

*These prophecies were given to the brothers of the St. Cloud Fraternity while at the Maranatha Ranch on January 23, 2000.*

*Through Fr. Kirchner:*

My fellow priests: know that I am with you always until the end of the world. I love you with an everlasting love. Stay close to Me in prayer. Without me you can do nothing. Love, Jesus

*Through Fr. Al Quade:*

I have brought you, My brothers, into the Third Millennium initiated by the Great Jubilee 2000. My desire is that you might be filled with grace and peace.

May you be reconciled with one another and then be the instrument of My reconciliation for the people you shepherd. Know that I am with you always. I am there to console you in all your sorrows, to (help you) persevere in the monotony of fulfilling your daily duties.

Let your heart be filled with My love—filled to overflowing. With (a heart filled of) compassion pour out My love to all in need of encouragement. Soothe the disturbed. Bring peace to quarreling factions. Fill My people with zeal to build up My King-

dom through evangelization. Lead the way to the Kingdom of My Sacred Heart. Good faithful souls will follow you. Trust in Me, and move forward in the Faith in this New Millennium.

*Through Fr. Elmer Torborg:*

My brothers come aside and rest a while. Let Me minister to you. You need to be filled too. You can't always be giving out; you need to receive too.

I am the Bread of Life; let Me nourish you as you sit in My presence quietly. I have so much to give you, and you in turn can share it with others. The time you spend with Me in adoration is never wasted time; it will bear abundant fruit in your own spiritual growth and for others.

*Through Fr. Todd Schneider:*

Peace, peace, peace. I give you My peace dear brothers, not as the world gives peace; the peace I give you, My dearest brothers, is intimate participation in the life of the Most Blessed Trinity. I give you My peace,

I bring you into the very heart of our Heavenly Father; My Father and I send upon you the indwelling peace and life of the Holy Spirit.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Be at peace for I have overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil. Place your trust and faith in Me and your hearts, minds and entire lives will be filled with My Divine peace. Peace be with you. I love you My brothers. Jesus

*Through Fr. Jerry Mischke:*

My dear brothers, I have come that you may have life and have it to the full. This Jubilee Year is indeed a time to receive the fullness of My grace and blessings. Prepare yourselves and My people by opening wide the doors of your hearts and the doors of your homes to Me. Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone opens the door to Me, I will come in and have supper with him and he with Me. My companionship is beyond imagining My banquet will satisfy all your desires. I love you, My brothers.

Please send us your prayer intentions: \_\_\_\_\_

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*(Please print legibly)*

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# THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

## A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

*Jesus, Eternal High Priest, live in (name of priest), act in him, speak in and through him. Think your thoughts in his mind, love through his heart. Give him your own disposition and feelings. Teach, lead and guide him always. Correct, enlighten and expand his thoughts and behavior. Possess his soul, take over his entire personality and life. Replace him with yourself. Incline him to constant adoration and thanksgiving; pray in and through him. Let him live in you and keep him in this intimate union always.*

*Mary, Immaculate Conception, Mother of Jesus and Mother of priests, pray and intercede for (.....). Amen.*

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**Dear Father Robert Franco,**  
This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.  
 \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_