
Our First Mission to Asia

By Fr. Timothy Graff

“Fathers, I ask that you not go outside between 6:00 and 7:00 in the morning because we will let the guard dogs out then for the exercise. We used to let them out at night but the panthers would eat them.” When the Sister who ran the retreat house spoke these words I knew that I wasn’t in for a usual Fraternity Conference!

After some scheduling difficulties and postponements because of war, the Fraternity finally had their first mission to Asia from February 15-20 at the invitation of the Diocese of Vasai just north of Mumbai in India. After a mission trip by a group including Fr. Ian Taylor of the Trinidad Fraternity to the Diocese several years ago, there had been a growing interest in the Fraternity of Priests by both Bishop Thomas Dabre and the priests of the Diocese.

In the summer of 2000 Bishop Dabre asked Frs. Solomon Rodrigues, Innocent Perreira and Francis Dabre to come to the International Fraternity Meeting in Trinidad to learn more about the Fraternity. After a very good experience they returned home and have been meeting regularly to discern how to best implement the Fraternity in their diocese.

So often when I travel into a new area, it is difficult because the

priests know so little about the Fraternity of Priests. However, through the example of the brothers and the desire of the other priests I didn’t have to “sell” the Fraternity as much as teach about the implementation of the Fraternity in their local area.

The ideal of the Fraternity Conference is to give the priests the experience of what they would experience in their weekly meetings. We have teachings and times of praise and worship. We have teachings on the commitments that we make that make our life together possible. After the teachings the priests have small groups where they share about what they are experiencing and what they hear God saying to them.

There was a great openness among the 19 priests on the retreat even though some had not experienced praise and worship before or sharing their lives on a deep level.

There were 2 personal highlights for me. Often, in the evening we have a time of prayer for a deeper outpouring of the Holy Spirit and other gifts that God may want to give to us. On the last night of the retreat we had a time of praise and worship and then I went to each of the brothers with the Eucharist in the Monstrance and encouraged the priests to tell Jesus

how they loved Him and wanted to rededicate themselves to His service. To see these brothers expressing their love for the Lord was very inspiring. Afterwards, the priests broke into small groups to pray over one another for any needs that they had. Although this was a new experience for many, they were very open and prayed over one another with great enthusiasm.

On the final morning the priests shared what touched them most about the retreat. Often times there is one moment that touches many priests, but this time for each of the priests it was something different. For some it was the experience of praise and worship. For others it was the depth of sharing. For others it was the fact that God was always with them. For every priest there was something that touched them. I saw that the Lord had a personal plan for each of these priests that He saw through to fulfillment.

All the priests but 1 made a commitment to the Fraternity of Priests at the end of the retreat. Fr. Solomon Rodrigues was chosen as local leader and they already made a presentation to other priests in the Diocese and to the Bishop and many others are interested in making a commitment. Please keep these brothers in prayer as we continue to support their life.

...continued on page 3

Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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The co-editor of the newsletter, Fr. Bill Cosgrove, can also be reached via e-mail at frbill@optonline.com or fax to 845-227-3951.

Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted!

We will soon be entering into the most holy of days as we prepare for Easter. What a privilege we have each year to walk closely with the Lord in the hours of His passion, death and resurrection. For those who saw the movie "The Passion of the Christ" you may feel even more moved than in the past during these holy days.

One of the great challenges that we face in life is trying to make the life and ministry of Jesus connect with our own life and experiences. At times it is very easy to identify with the cross. Just an hour ago I presided at the funeral mass of a young mother leaving a husband and teenage children. To see the power of the cross at a time like that is very easy.

In the United States and parts of Europe we also see the cross in the recent sexual abuse scandals within the priesthood. Within the lives of victims and the lives of priests we see the presence of the cross. While times like this can lead to great discouragement, we know that the story of Jesus did not end on Good Friday. The Lord did rise again on Easter and made all things new. Nothing has ever been the same since Easter.

I talk about this here this month because of the new life that your generosity is making possible for priests around the world. In the last month I had a delightful retreat with the Toledo, Ohio Fraternity. Some of the priests there have been meeting together for many years and it was a great encouragement for them to talk about their life together. When they renewed their commitment to the Fraternity it was a great blessing to witness their love for the Lord and for each other.

The next week I was able to travel to Vasai, India for our first outreach to Asia. Again it was your faithfulness that allowed us to travel and support the wonderful priests there. More details about this unique experience are included in this issue of the newsletter.

Your generosity is changing the lives of priests around the world. Thanks for

all your prayers and financial support. The priesthood is being renewed in our midst in significant ways.

When you are reading this newsletter a team will be traveling to Ukraine to establish Fraternities in that country. Please keep the team and those with whom they will be working!

Know that you are always in our prayers and our thoughts.

In Christ,



Fr. Timothy Graff



Fraternity Financial Report

One of the objectives for the Fraternity of Priests is to inform our donors about the ongoing financial health and details of the organization. We're providing this information to help communicate our specific need and to thank those many faithful benefactors who help make our service possible. Thank you!

Monthly Donation Budget: **\$7,467.00**

Actual Donations: **\$6,131.50**

Budget Surplus (shortage) **(\$1,336.14)**

Current as of January 31, 2004.

continued from page 1...

Plans are already underway for a return visit next January for Fraternity Conferences in Mumbai and Goa. This is an open door as we move into the continent of Asia for the first time.

Praise God for His faithfulness!

Calling All Authors!

Each month we hope to highlight one of the Fraternities around the world. We hope that someone in each of the Fraternities would take the responsibility to write an article about their Fraternity for the coming newsletters. It would be great if you could also send a picture to highlight the article.

Both brother priests as well as our readers and benefactors are eager to hear from us and what the Lord is doing with His priests. Forward your article to Fr. Bill Cosgrove at frbill@optonline.net and any pictures could be sent directly to the designer at newsletter@fraternityofpriests.com.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Fr. Bill Cosgrove for details.

Prophecies Received

Deacon's Lodge - St. Cloud Fraternity

January 25, 2004

Father Mark Stang:

My Brothers, I am with you. the Evil One is battling hard against you My Brother Priest. Resist temptation. Trust in Me. My grace is with you. I love you, My brothers. Take time to rest in My love.

Father David Grundman:

Rest in Me, My brothers. Rest in our mother. Allow My graces to fall on you like gentle snowfall... a freshness and newness of My love for you. Trust in My brotherly love and know that I am here. Rest in My presence of the Most Holy Eucharist...rest in Me.

Father Jerry Mishcke:

My sons, I have anointed you with the Spirit of My Son, Jesus... that you may know the truth, that you may rejoice in hope, that you may surrender your lives in love in My service. You are My sons for the Spirit of My Son lives in you.

Father Al Quade:

How wonderful to be in Your Eucharistic Presence and to proclaim You Lord of Lords and King of Kings. You are refreshment for the weary, consolation for the grieving, solace in time of woe. To be in Your presence is to be protected from all harm and danger by You. Heal our hearts that we priests might bring consolation to your people who are so sorely oppressed in so many ways. You have chosen us to lead Your people and guide them into Your kingdom here on this earth, so that someday they might enjoy Your blessed presence in the kingdom that lasts forever. As we bask in your presence and give You praise and worship, may we priests be healed and strengthened to renew Your people so that they may be consoled in all of their crosses and difficulties. Feed us with Your Body and Blood Lord Jesus, renew the face of the earth through us Your priests.

Join with other members of the Fraternity at the
Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians Conference
at Franciscan University of Steubenville!
June 7-11, 2004

This year's conference theme is "Why not be Fire?" and will welcome Bishop Sam Jacobs, Bishop R. Daniel Conlon, Fr. Michael Scanlan, TOR, Fr. Larry Richards, Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, the 2004 Shepherd's Award Recipient Fr. Bob Bedard, and much more!

Come and experience the brotherhood of the priesthood with your fellow Fraternity members and other clergy from throughout the world! For more details visit:
<http://www.franciscanconferences.com>

The Fraternity of Priests Annual Conference will be hosted by the St. Louis Fraternity and will be held from August 1-6, 2004.

Brothers are invited to come early or stay late so as to enjoy the city. St. Louis has so much to offer including the Gateway Arch, Basilica of St. Louis, King of France (the first Catholic Church built west of the Mississippi River), and the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis with its amazing architecture.

More information will be posted in future issues of the Fraternity Newsletter! Mark your calendars now!

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

O 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.

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

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The Fraternity of Priests pledge of financial accountability: We take very seriously the trust you put in us when you send a gift. We stand accountable before God and you to honor that trust. We pledge: **To use your gift carefully and wisely, and not to ask for money that is not needed.**

Dear Father/Tim/Graff,
This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.
 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____