
A Priest's Litany of Thanksgiving

Composed by Father Peter John Cameron, O.P

Response: *Lord, you know that I love you.*

For instituting the holy priesthood. **R**
 For setting me apart to work for the kingdom of God. **R**
 For the privilege of serving your holy Church. **R**
 For the grace of preaching. **R**
 For the honor of pasturing your people. **R**
 For the capacity to teach the faith. **R**
 For the power to baptize. **R**
 For the honor of being able to witness marriages. **R**
 For the joy of bringing healing to the sick and consolation to the dying. **R**
 For the miracle of being able to say, "This is my body." **R**
 For the wonder of the words, "I absolve you from your sins." **R**
 For all the ways I act *in persona Christi*. **R**
 For making me a man of prayer. **R**
 For consecrating my hands for sacrifice. **R**
 For priestly paternity. **R**
 For proposing me, despite my unworthiness, as an example of holiness. **R**
 For making me capable of offering pastoral counseling. **R**
 For priestly fraternity. **R**
 For the strength you provide in times of trial and distress. **R**
 For the desire to reach out to the poor and the alienated. **R**
 For priestly compassion, tenderness, and generosity. **R**
 For transforming me in my weakness and sins. **R**
 For helping me to live in unfailing dependence upon you. **R**
 For making me ardent in self-sacrificing love. **R**
 For the presence of Jesus that radiates from my fatherhood. **R**
 For the grace to be able to generate others. **R**
 For the ability to feed your sheep. **R**
 For making me an instrument of grace. **R**
 For every host that I have distributed in Holy Communion. **R**
 For the gift of holy celibacy. **R**
 For my love of Mary, Mother of priests. **R**
 For creating the priesthood to be the love of the heart of Jesus. **R**
 For the divine commission to sanctify others. **R**
 For the inestimable grace of being an *alter Christus*. **R**
 For the countless graces with which you bless my life. **R**

On the day of my priestly ordination I declared that:

I am resolved, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to discharge without fail the office of the priesthood in the presbyteral order as a conscientious fellow worker with the bishops in caring for the Lord's flock;

I am resolved to celebrate the mysteries of Christ faithfully and religiously as the Church has handed them down to us for the glory of God and the sanctification of Christ's people;

I am resolved to exercise the ministry of the word worthily and wisely, preaching the Gospel and explaining the Catholic faith.

Most merciful Father, as I prepare to celebrate the institution of the priesthood on Holy Thursday, please strengthen my resolve and perfect my efforts to live as another Christ, always thankful for my priesthood and for the supreme privilege of serving God's people in holiness. I ask you this united to Jesus Christ, the great High Priest.

Amen.

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Editor's Box:

Please send all articles, comments and photos to the editor, Fr. Bill Cosgrove via e-mail at frbill@optonline.com or fax to 845-227-3951.

Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted!

Christ is Risen! He is truly Risen! I love the way our Eastern brothers and sisters greet each other during the entire Easter Season. They don't say, "Happy Easter!" which to me smacks of little chickies and bunnies and candy eggs, and the like. They tell it like it is: "Christ is Risen!" (the response is, "He is truly risen!"). They call to each others minds the truth of our salvation. If you want to have some fun this Easter Season, greet people with "Christ is Risen!" They will look at you like you've got three heads. Answer the phone with this greeting and listen to the silence on the other end of the line. One thing you will do is to make people think.

What a glorious season this is. Here in New England the weather is warmer, the days are longer, and new life is sprouting all around us (YAY!). The death and darkness of Winter is over. In this time of nature's rebirth we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In his saving Paschal Mystery you and I are asked to recall our Baptism in which we were plunged into Christ, and new and eternal life was given us. We are destined for eternity with Christ—this is why we were born and baptized.

—Sin and death have no lasting hold on us because "Christ is Risen!"

—I am a child of God destined for eternity because "Christ is Risen!"

—I can begin to live victory in my life today because "Christ is Risen!"

—I can echo with St. Paul (in Rm 8. 37) that "we are more than conquerors"—no more defeated lives because "Christ is Risen!"

Isn't this awesome? All of this truth is ours; all is motivated by the Father's incredible love for us, the Father who holds nothing back, but gives all that we might live, really live.

May you, our intercessors and benefactors, be blessed in a special way this Easter season. May all that we recall and celebrate at this time become dynamic truth for your lives. We pray for the gift of

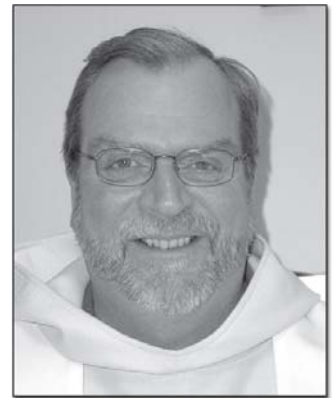
APPROPRIATION, that we might better "own" the truths of our salvation. May Jesus be "truly risen" in each and every one of you. On behalf of the Fraternity of Priests I thank you for your prayers and support.

"Christ is Risen!! He is Truly Risen!!"

In Jesus,



Fr. John



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: **\$6,300.00**

Actual Donations: **\$2,186.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage) **(\$4,114.00)**

Current as of February 28, 2006.

The DaVinci Code: Fact, Faith, or Fiction

Was Jesus just a mortal prophet? Was Jesus and Mary Magdalene married? Was the divinity of Jesus voted on at the Council of Nicaea? Are the books in the Bible the right ones? While these questions may seem ludicrous to you, thousands will be asking them after May 19 when the DAVINCI CODE comes to theaters, intriguing the minds of non-Christians and Christians alike. Some pastors and experts say the movie represents an even greater outreach opportunity that NARNIA or THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST. How will your church respond? See below the TRUTH that separates the facts from the fiction.

Theory: Was Jesus' deity voted on by the Council of Nicaea?

Fiction: "At this gathering,' Teabing said, 'many aspects of Christianity were debated and voted upon – the date of Easter, the role of the bishops, the administration of the sacraments, and, of course, the divinity of Jesus. Jesus' establishment as 'the Son of God' was officially proposed and voted on by the Council of Nicaea.'" (page 233)

Fact: Jesus' divinity was not voted upon at Nicaea. His deity goes back to the earliest Christian documents we have – as early as A.D. 55 (1 Cor 8:5-6). Some 216 bishops from around the existing Christian world gathered to discuss not if Jesus was divine, but in what sense He was divine. The accepted view was that Jesus existed eternally as the Son with the Father. The creed adopted precise philosophical and theological language that the majority of the Church believed. All but two bishops signed on to this creed, hardly a close vote.

Theory: Was Jesus married to Mary Magdalene?

Fiction: "Therefore, any gospels that described earthly aspects of Jesus' life had to be omitted from the Bible. Unfortunately for the early editors, one particularly troubling earthly theme kept recurring in the gospels, Mary Magdalene...More specifically, her marriage to Jesus Christ." (The Da Vinci code, page 244)

Fact: There is no evidence. The vast majority of liberal and conservative Jesus scholars agree on this. No ancient text declares that Jesus was married. The gospels of Phillip and Mary simply say Jesus loved Mary more than the other disciples, and scholars do not believe these texts give historical detail about Jesus.

Theory: Were the four gospels not connected to the Canon of Scripture early on?

Fiction: "Because Constantine upgraded Jesus' status almost four centuries after Jesus' death, thousands of documents already existed chronicling His life as a mortal man. To rewrite the history books, Constantine knew he would need a bold stroke, ... Constantine commissioned and financed a new Bible, which omitted those gospels that spoke of Christ's human traits and embellished those gospels that made Him godlike." (page 234)

Fact: Although the Canon was discussed through the fourth century, the four gospels were not a part of the discussion. By the end of the second century, they were established as the key sources for Jesus. Irenaeus, writing in A.D. 180 names these as the "four fold gospel that is the Gospel." The first listing of a Canon known as the Muratorian Canon (A.D. 180), also lists only the four gospels. Writing some 25 years before Irenaeus, Justin Martyr gives us a clue as to why the gospels were so highly regarded. He calls them the "memoirs of the apostles," noting that their source is rooted in apostolic experience.

Theory: Did Leonardo da Vinci paint Mary Magdalene into "The Last Supper"?

Fiction: Sophie examined the figure to Jesus' immediate right, ... As she studied the person's face and body, a wave of astonishment rose within her. The individual had flowing red hair, delicate folded hands, and the hint of a bosom. It was, without a doubt ... female... 'That, my dear,' Teabing replied, 'is Mary Magdalene.'" (page 243)

Fact: Art historians say this is impossible. We have notes about the painting that state the people gathered around Jesus represent the apostles. "The Last Supper" scene was commonly painted during this period, and the "feminine" looking figure next to Jesus simply reflects the tendency at that time to paint young figures in an androgynous manner.

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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APRIL 2006						
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Rev Edward Bunchek 4/2/05 RIP 30						Pope Benedict XVI 1
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