



FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS

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



H

istory

of the Fraternity of Priests

Tucson Fraternity

by Fr. Ray Ratzenberger



The clergy of Tucson had their first contact with the Fraternity of Priests through Fr. Bob Conlin. In 1983 Fr. Bob, who was originally from New Jersey, was on sabbatical in Newark staying with the People of Hope. He was the guest of good friend Fr. Jim Ferry who was a member of this charismatic covenant community.

While there Fr. Jim Ferry left for Steubenville to live at Visitation House with other members of the Fraternity of Priests Team. Fr. Conlin

later visited Fr. Jim in Steubenville where he fell in love with the idea of priestly fraternity.

He contacted Fr. Liam Leahy, a friend in Tucson who also had a desire for renewal and priestly fraternity. He invited him to the Priests and Deacons Conference at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. At this conference Fr. Liam was impressed by the presentation the Team gave on the Fraternity of Priests. So when Fr. Conlin returned to Tucson in 1984 he and Fr. Liam worked to get a fra-

ternity conference there.

The Tucson Fraternity is Formed

In March 1985 Frs. Ed Wade, George Kosicki, John Dreher, John Allard and Ed Silvia came to the Diocese of Tucson to do parish missions in Liam and Bob's parishes. The following week they gave a Fraternity Conference. A good number of priests showed up as well as a transitory deacon who was to be ordained a priest in June. The Tucson Fraternity was formed in March 1985. The first members of the Tucson Fraternity were: Fr. Bob Conlin, Fr. Liam Leahy, Fr. Carlos Cocio (Liam's associate in Douglas, AZ.), Fr. David Gross CSSR, Fr. Henry Dauphinais MS, Fr. Bud Weisler, and Deacon Ray Ratzenberger. Fr. Liam became the first leader of the Tucson fraternity. They met bi-monthly for 24 hours because of the immense traveling

In Memory of Msgr. Richard Dodd

Msgr. Richard Dodd, former leader of the Columbus, Ohio Fraternity, died peacefully in his sleep on February 26, 2000. He had suffered a stroke earlier. He served the Lord as a priest for 52 years. Among his many accomplishments were his starting the Cursillo Movement in Columbus, the training of lay youth leaders, and work with the Charismatic Movement. He had been a member of the Columbus Fraternity for 15 years. Our prayers go with him as we mourn his passing. May he forever be in God's presence.

Continued on page 3. . .

Dear Friends of the Priesthood

EPISCOPAL ADVISORS

Bishop Sam Jacobs
Alexandria, LA

Bishop Paul Bemile
Wa, Ghana

Bishop Gilbert Sheldon
Steubenville, OH

Bishop Donald Wuerl
Pittsburgh, PA

Bishop Paul Dudley, Ret.
Northfield, MI

Bishop Thomas Daily
Brooklyn, NY

Bishop John Myers
Peoria, IL

Bishop Thomas Dupre
Springfield, MA

TRUSTEES

Msgr. James Cassidy
New York

Very Rev. Les Ivers
New York

DIRECTORS

Rev. Bob Franco
Chairman

Rev. Tim Graff
Newark, New Jersey

Rev. Ray Ratzenberger
Tucson, AZ

Rev. Cuthbert Alexander
Port of Spain, Trinidad

Rev. Bob Giardina
Providence, Rhode Island

Editor's Box:

Please send all articles, comments and photos to the editor, Fr. Ray Ratzenberger, ratz@theriver.com, or, P.O. Box 2198, Benson, AZ 85602, U.S.A., or, Fax: (520) 586-3919.

Newsletter Co-editor, Rev. Cuthbert Alexander, can be emailed at cuttief@carib-link.net.

Dear Friends,

I met Mary Fran during my senior year of high school. She was one of the adult moderators of my parish youth retreat program. In passing conversation she said, "God's out!" She did not mean that the Lord had taken a lunch break or that He had been recently freed from prison. She meant that God was out and about, providentially orchestrating and moving among His people.

I spent the last weekend of June this year in St. Louis, Missouri attending the ecumenical, charismatic Congress entitled *Celebrate Jesus 2000*. And truly **God was out!** Over ten thousand Christians from many traditions and backgrounds gathered to celebrate the two thousandth birthday of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. We met with our church groupings (Catholic, Lutheran, Pentecostal, et cetera) in the morning and mixed with each other in afternoon workshops. In the evening, we met all together in the TWA Dome, where the St. Louis Rams play football. Although it was not a Catholic event per se (though more than half of the participants were Catholic), Archbishop Justin Rigali of St. Louis proclaimed it a Jubilee event.

Many of the themes of the Congress dovetailed with the spirit of the year of Great Jubilee as proclaimed by Pope John Paul II. We prayed for forgiveness and reconciliation between races, genders and various cultural groups. For example, Fr. John Gordon, a member of the New Jersey Fraternity, exchanged words of forgiveness and reconciliation with a representative of the Native American community. There was also a tremendous appeal to become more evangelistic. Rev. Steve Hill, a non-denominational minister from Florida, and Fr. Tom Forrest CRRS of Washington D.C., challenged participants to dedicate their energies to winning souls for Jesus Christ.

God was out in St.

Louis! The Holy Spirit at work through Pope John Paul was also at work in the hearts of many other Christians, calling all of us to reconciliation, unity, and evangelization.

However, the really good news is that **God is out everywhere!** The Lord is pouring out His graces at major conferences and small parishes and every place in between. The year of Jubilee goes on! We need to strive to continue to be open to the graces of this special year.

Dominic Berardino, a Catholic layman from Los Angeles who heads up Southern California Renewal Services, brought this point into clear focus. He shared a story in the Catholic track at the *Celebrate Jesus 2000 Congress* about St. Catherine of Genoa, who had a vision of heaven. As Jesus was leading her through heaven, they came to an area filled with many enormous buildings. St. Catherine asked Jesus, "What are all these buildings?" Jesus became very serious and said, "These building contain all the blessings God had for His people, but they did not ask for them or receive them". God's blessings were locked in heaven, because people did not ask for them or would not receive them! Lord, help us to be open!!!

The Lord Jesus does not want us to squander this Jubilee year. We ought to seek out Christ in the sacraments, in His word, in prayer, in community, in reconciliation, by conversion, through pilgrimage, the Holy Door, the Jubilee Indulgence and in any and all other ways! We will not deplete God's grace by emptying any of His storehouses!

Fraternity of Priests is deeply grateful for your generous and prayerful support of this ministry to priests. Wherever you are, God is out! May your lives be showered with His graces.

In His grace,



Fr. Robert Franco

. . . continued from page 1

distances in the diocese.

The guys were very enthusiastic about fraternity and were constantly encouraging others to join. Like true brothers they shared everything with each other, especially practical jokes and negative humor (though N.H. is not one of the things promoted by the Fraternity). Many humorous things seem to happen to this fraternity.

They wanted to share their excitement for the priesthood with their bishop so they invited Bishop Moreno to visit them during their meetings.

Finally in 1987 the bishop did show up, but the timing was not

good. Fraternity Team member Fr. Ken Gallagher was in Tucson for a pastoral visit. At one point during the meeting he began praying over a brother for deliverance of demonic oppression. As he prayed he yelled, "get out, get out," at that very moment the bishop walked in. Bishop Moreno looked startled and then walked out. Needless to say it has been hard trying to convince him they really wanted him to stay.

Another humorous incident occurred to Fr. Liam in 1985 when he attended the first Fraternity Leaders Conference in Wareham, Mass. We call this incident, "Standing in the Gap". While Fr. Liam was fishing with Fr. Ed Wade and Ken Gallagher a seagull's dropping suddenly appeared on him. All those present saw it as a confirmation that he was the anointed leader of Tucson.

This "sign" was repeated on Fr. Ray Ratzenberger in 1993 when he became the leader of the Tucson Fra-



FOP secretary, Kathryn Portenlanger, is hard at work getting things ready for the upcoming Fraternity of Priests Conference in Narragansett, R.I. The conference will be held August 13-18, 2000. All members of the fraternity are urged to attend this jubilee celebration of priesthood.

ternity. While on a sailing boat in Newport Harbor, R.I., as he was expounding on something of profound importance to the fraternity, a seagull spattered him. His clothes were fully anointed, and the traditional anointing confirmed his appointment.

Presently the Tucson Fraternity meets for an "overnighter" on the first Wednesday of the month. They have 9 members with the possibility of at least two new ones joining shortly.

We Need Your Help!

Please send stories, photos, funny antidotes, poems, testimonies, histories, and drawings for our Newsletter. Help us use this vehicle of communication effectively! Send them to either Fr. Cuthbert Alexander or Fr. Ray Ratzenberger. Their addresses are located on page two. Thanks!

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____



FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS

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



Do you know anyone who would like to receive our Newsletter?
(Please print legibly)

Name

Street

City, State and Zip

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 \$_____

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.**

Fraternity of Priests, Inc.
Franciscan University
Steubenville, OH 43952-9671
Phone: (740) 283-4400
Fax: (740) 283-3622
Email: contact@fraternityofpriests.org
<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

Please cut and return this form with your donation



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

you and keep him in this intimate union always.

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

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!