
Remember Those Early Days

By Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa
Preacher to the Papal Household

Editors Note - This month we have run part 1 of this article. The remainder of this article will be in the next issue.

I would like to turn our attention to certain shadowy areas that give rise, it seems to me, to concerns about the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, or, if you prefer, to certain dangers that we ought to address.

1. The Charismatic Renewal is for the whole Church

There are countries where the Church is strongly polarised. On the one side are those who have come to be variously defined as liberals, progressives, or innovators; on the other side are the traditionalists or conservatives. Everything is judged according to this measure. It is a little like it used to be among us Italians up to a short time ago, when everything was judged on the basis of whether it was Communist or Christian-Democrat.

The word “liberal” in the English-speaking world, and especially in the United States, has a meaning that is a little different from the meaning it has elsewhere. It signifies those who are more open to novelty. Among them there are some whose positions are frankly unacceptable and extreme. But there are also those who simply

identify with Vatican II, which they would like to see implemented a little more courageously in the matter of pluralism, inter-cultural dialogue and the question of decentralisation.

On the opposite side, in reaction to things that are seen as too innovative and secularised, a current has developed that is strongly attached to the theology and practices of the past. Here too there is a whole spectrum, ranging from well-known extremists to people who are perfectly balanced and full of zeal and love for Christ and the Church. Within reasonable limits this kind of tension is not only legitimate but necessary, since no one person, standing alone, can realise by himself, the demands of fidelity and of progress in equal measure.

What is the danger as far as we are concerned? That the Charismatic Renewal, which came into being for the renewal of the whole Church, should end up by becoming identified purely and simply with one segment of the Church, the more conservative one. Reading religious publications from various countries, it is clear to me that some of them see the new ecclesial movements, including the Renewal, as conservative forces, if not as downright reactionary.

This does serious harm. The Charismatic Renewal is a gift for the

whole Church, not for just a particular part of it, and so it must remain. Indeed, in its early days, like every “prophetic” movement, it was seen as a great sign of newness and openness, a forward thrust on various fronts, the ecumenical outreach included. As such, it was welcomed by the Catholic Church hierarchy, and it has no need to change its appearance to make itself acceptable. Cardinal Suenens, who was for years its principal sponsor and ecclesiastical spokesman, was, during and after the Council, one of the most authoritative promoters of the need for “aggiornamento”: giving contemporary impact to the practices and beliefs of the Church.

And now, it is with infinite sadness that I see that the Charismatic Renewal has ended up confined to one part of the Church only, and regarded by the rest as something so alien that they feel fully justified in keeping well clear of it. Let me say again, the Charismatic Renewal was born to renew the whole Church and not just one part of it. When I say “the whole Church”, I mean, naturally, the Church that positions itself firmly in the mainstream of orthodoxy and the magisterium; that is ready, if necessary – on one side or the other – to submit obediently to the appointed authority (the bishop or the pope, as the case may be), but not before having borne prophetic witness to the goals that are close to

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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!

As you read this newsletter we would have already had a full summer here at the Fraternity of Priests. The summer gives us a lighter load in our pastoral ministry and allows us time to be together and to spend time on the various outreaches that the Lord is giving to us.

The first week in August is our traditional time to gather at our International Conference for the Fraternity of Priests. For many years we gathered in Providence, Rhode Island but for the last several years we have moved about the country to allow a greater diversity of brothers to attend. This year we are gathering in St. Louis and are hosted by the St. Louis Fraternity. It is always a wonderful gathering for prayer, fellowship and teaching. Thanks to a generous special gift we were able to bring priests in from overseas this year. We look forward to hearing what God is doing in Kenya, India, Slovenia and the Virgin Islands.

July is our busiest month for missions and this year was no exception. Fr. Moe LaRochelle from the Boston Fraternity led a large Fraternity Conference in Uganda and then joined me in our mission to Tanzania. Many thanks to Renewal Ministries for their kind and generous support as they allow us to minister side by side with them for the last several years. If all goes according to plan the International Fraternity could have 1/3 of our membership by the end of the summer.

Here in America the priesthood is still undergoing a time of deep challenge as we continue to deal with the sexual abuse scandal of the last decades. Everywhere I hear of the discouragement that many priests are struggling with and the difficulties that so many of them face. It is a difficult time for priests and we need to keep praying especially at this time.

At the same time I have heard of the great support and encouragement that many priests have experienced from the people they serve. Perhaps it took the scandal to wake us up to the encouragement that priests need on a daily basis. It is often

through one another that the Lord speaks so clearly to us. Please take the time to encourage the priests you know. Thank them for their service and tell them what their ministry means to your life. You may be the very channel that the Lord wants to use in his life.

Once again we want to thank you for your generosity. It allows us to reach out to priests around the world so that they can know the encouragement and the brotherhood that they need so desperately.

The Lord loves one with a generous heart. May we always be faithful and generous in all the gifts that God has given to us.

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: **\$4,022.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage) **(\$3,445.00)**

Current as of June 30, 2004.

Washington DC Fraternity Marks 6th Anniversary

The Fraternity of Priests in Washington D.C. has been meeting at the Marian Scholasticate on the Campus of Catholic University since September of 1998. Some members have come and gone over the years but two stalwart members have been with the Fraternity from the beginning, Fr. Giles Dimock, O.P. and Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC. Other current members include, Br. Bernie DuPont, O.P., Fr. Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J., Fr. Boniface von Nell, O.S.B. and Fr. Dan Kirk, O.S.B.

One notable mark of this Fraternity is that the members are all religious priests. Diocesan priests have been a part of the Fraternity over the years but the current membership is entirely religious. This probably reflects the fact that there are still many religious communities around Catholic University which used to be known as "Little Rome".

The Marian Scholasticate where the meetings take place is owned by the Marians of the Immaculate Conception who have the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA. Their house of studies is on the Campus of Catholic University since Catholic U. bought seminary buildings from the Holy Cross, Marist and Vincentian Fathers, thus surrounding the Marians.

The members see the meeting place as providential since they can also pray and intercede for the ongoing renewal which is going on at Catholic University with more Eucharistic Adoration taking place on campus and more vocations coming from the student body.

The DC Fraternity meets one afternoon each week for about 2 hours. They begin with a Eucharistic Holy Hour with praise and worship music and spontaneous praise for the first half and quiet for

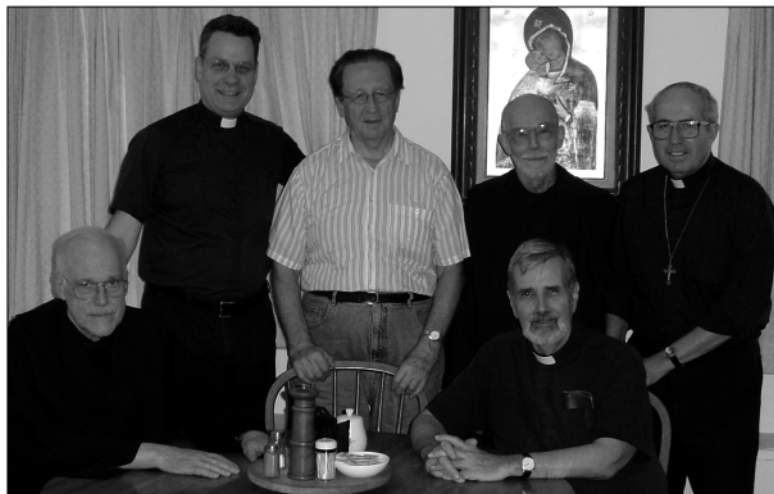
the second. They then have a snack in the refectory and then go to a lounge for scriptural sharing, sharing about their week and an opportunity to pray over each other. All find the meetings helpful because of the sharing. Even in religious communities, there is still a need to open up to like minded brothers. Some of the members recently returned from Msgr. Vincent Walsh's summer priest retreat in Philadelphia and brought a real anointing with them from that experience. Please keep the DC Fraternity in your prayers that we would continue to grow and flourish as we intercede in our Nation's Capital!

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its heart, according to the sound dialectic that has always been the Catholic Church's strength and the root of its capacity for self-renewal.

We need to look squarely at this situation and do what has to be done to prevent it becoming even more widespread, and to correct it where it has become established. This is not a matter of taking this or that stance, but of being faithful to the Spirit who has no fear of differences and who is always able, according to Irenaeus, "to create a beautiful symphony out of many voices", as he did on the day of Pentecost.

-- Continued in the next issue!



Standing left to right - Fr. Joe Roesch, MIC, Fr. Bernard DuPont, O.P.,
Fr. Dan Kirk, O.S.B., Fr. Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J.
Seated, Fr. Boniface von Nell, O.S.B, and Fr. Giles Dimock, O.P.

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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 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

September 2004						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			Rev. 1 Robert Giardina <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 2 Roland Lepire <i>Providence</i>	Most Rev. 3 George Pearce <i>Providence</i>	4 Pope John Paul II
Rev. 5 Lawrence Deery <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 6 Joseph Heaney <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 7 John Dreher <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 8 Barry McLean <i>San Angelo</i>	Rev. 9 Robert Bush <i>San Angelo</i>	Rev. 10 Terry Brenon <i>San Angelo</i>	Rev. 11 Bernard Gully <i>San Angelo</i>
Rev. 12 David Stevens <i>Sioux Falls</i>	Rev. 13 William Hamack <i>Sioux Falls</i>	Rev. 14 Jerome Ranek <i>Sioux Falls</i>	Rev. 15 Roger Geditz <i>Sioux Falls</i>	Rev. 16 Randy Phillips <i>Sioux Falls</i>	Rev. 17 Joseph Short <i>Sioux Falls</i>	Rev. 18 Joseph Forcelle <i>Sioux Falls</i>
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Rev. 26 John Rasmussen <i>Sioux Falls</i>	Rev. 27 Paul LaFlamme <i>Springfield</i>	Rev. 28 Gerald Brady <i>Springfield</i>	Rev. 29 John Ayers <i>Springfield</i>	Rev. 30 Donald Mantica <i>Steubenville</i>		

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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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