
Pope Benedict XVI and the Charismatic Renewal

Pope Benedict XVI has known the Charismatic Renewal for a long time. In fact, he was among the Theological Consultants for the First Malines document by Card. Suenens: "Theological and Pastoral Orientations on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal" (May 21-26, 1974). This is reported in: L.J. Card. Suenens, *The Holy Spirit - Life-Breath of the Church*, vol. II, Fiat Association, Ertvelde, 2002, p. 11, note 1.

Pope Benedict also wrote the Presentation to the Italian edition of the Fourth Malines document: "Renewal and the Power of Darkness". It is reported in: L.J. Card. Suenens, *Rinnovamento e Potenze delle tenebre - Orientamenti teologici e pastorali*, ed. Paoline, Roma, 1982, pp. 5-8. Pope Benedict spoke about the Charismatic Renewal in a book written with the journalist Vittorio Messori (who also wrote a book with Pope John Paul II): "Ratzinger Report" (1985). Here are two passages from that book:

"What sounds full of hope throughout the universal church - and this even in the midst of the crisis that the Church is going through in the Western world - is the upsurge of new movements that no one has planned and no one called into being, but that simply emerge of their own accord from

the inner vitality of the faith. What is becoming apparent in them - albeit very faintly - is something very similar to a pentecostal hour in the Church. I am thinking for instance of the Charismatic Renewal movement, the Cursillo movement, the Focolarini, Communion and Liberation, and so on... I find it marvelous that the Spirit is once more stronger than our programs and brings himself into play in an altogether different way than we had imagined.... It grows in silence. Our task - the task of the office-holders in the Church and of theologians - is to keep the door open to them, to prepare room for them..." (pp. 43-44).

"The period following the Council scarcely seemed to live up to the hopes of John XXIII, who looked for a 'new Pentecost'. But his prayer did not go unheard. In the heart of a world desiccated by rationalistic scepticism a new experience of the Holy Spirit has come about, amounting to a worldwide renewal movement. What the New Testament describes, with reference to the charisms, as visible signs of the coming of the Spirit is no longer merely ancient, past history - this history is becoming a burning reality today."(p.151).

He also addressed the world Congress of the Ecclesial

Movements with a theological reflection on the Ecclesial Movements in the Church, just before the famous 1998 Pentecost when Pope John Paul II met some 300,000 representatives of the various Movements of the Catholic Church. This is reported in: Pontifical Council for the Laity, *Movements in the Church, Laity Today*, Vatican City, 1999, pp. 23-51.

The Pope also published an article in the theological magazine "Communio" in 1998: "The Theological Locus of Ecclesial Movements".

Cardinal. Sodano, the Vatican's Secretary of State, wrote a message to the national congress of Renewal in the Spirit in Italy, which gathered 25,000 people in Rimini a few days ago. The letter, signed by Card. Sodano, included the Holy Father's apostolic blessing and confirmed the new Pope's intentions to continue to guide "with paternal affection", the ecclesial movements, associations and communities that were nurtured by Pope John Paul II.

Creation in Expectation

In the second reading of the Apostle Paul (Romans 8:18-23), we read: "for creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty

...continued on page 3

Dear Friends of the Priesthood

EPISCOPAL ADVISORS

Bishop Sam Jacobs
Houma-Thibodaux, LA

Bishop Paul Bemile
Wa, Ghana

Bishop Donald Wuerl
Pittsburgh, PA

Archbishop John Myers
Newark, NJ

Archbishop
Franc Kromberger
Maribor, Slovenia

DIRECTORS

Rev. Timothy Graff
Chairman

Msgr. John Allard
Providence, RI

Rev. John Gordon
Steubenville, OH

Rev. Dwight Merrick
Port of Spain, Trinidad

Rev. William Cosgrove
New York, NY

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!

As I write this column plans are underway for our annual International Meeting for the Fraternity of Priests which is being hosted by the Cleveland Fraternity this year. It is a wonderful time for priests to gather from around the world for a time of formation, relaxation and brotherhood.

We are privileged this year to have 4 priests and seminarians coming from our Fraternity of Slovenia. Along with the fraternities in Ukraine, they represent our first presence in Eastern Europe. It is wonderful to see how the Lord continues to bless our efforts to serve priests throughout the world.

This summer we also have 2 mission trips to Uganda and Samoa. Fr. Moe Laroche and Fr. Paul Gousse from the Boston Fraternity will be returning to Uganda after a very successful mission last summer where 9 Fraternities were begun in Uganda and Kenya. Fr. Ian Taylor will be returning to Samoa after an earlier mission there with Renewal Ministries last year. Please keep these brothers in prayer as we continue to share the good news of God's goodness with priests the world over.

With the meeting in Cleveland I will be finishing my term on the Board of Directors for the Fraternity of Priests. It has been my pleasure to serve on the Board for the last 6 years. We will have new priests coming into leadership which will be a great blessing for all.

One of the privileges of serving as Chair has been the ability to share with all of you, our generous friends and benefactors, about the life and the mission of the Fraternity. It has allowed us to, not only share how the life of the Fraternity is a great blessing for all who are involved in it, but also to thank you for your generosity which you exhibit in so many ways. They all show your love for the priesthood and your love for the individual priests who serve you in your parishes and communities.

Very often we receive a note asking us to pray for your parish priest. You may tell us of the struggles that he is experiencing or the great blessing that he is within your life.

Be assured that we keep these men in our prayers and our intentions.

What this shows us is the generosity of your love and concern. You recognize the needs that priests have for prayer and support. It is a wonderful example of all that you have within your heart.

I also want to thank you for the generosity of your financial contributions. They allow to care for priests and to continue to spread the good news about the Fraternity with priests from other parts of the world.

This will be my last column and I want to thank you for the pleasure of communicating with you these past 2 years.

May the Lord bless you generously and the priests who serve you.


Fr. Tim 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: **\$6,300.00**

Actual Donations: **\$5,646.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage) **(\$ 654.00)**

Current as of June 30, 2005.

Fr. Edward Buncheck
Rest in Peace, Good and Faithful Servant

Fr. Edward Buncheck died on April 8 at the age of 66. He had been a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh for forty years, and served as a faithful and dedicated priest in many Parishes around the Diocese. He was very active in the Slovak community of the area. He founded the Slovak Radio Hour on a local radio station, on which he “DJ-ed” until shortly before his death. He was the first Moderator - Bishop’s Liason for the Charismatic Renewal in the Diocese, serving from the beginnings of the Renewal, and doing outstanding work in that role for many years. He was the “founding father” of the Pittsburgh - Greensburg Fraternity of Priests. Our Fraternity was one of the first established, and Ed lead our Fraternity with dedication and faithfulness for more than twenty years.

A few years ago, he took a medical leave from his Pastorate because of health problems, primarily a blood disorder which robbed his body of oxygen. But he continued to serve in Parish work, and continued to lead the Fraternity faithfully each week up until a few weeks before his death. He was planning on going to this summer’s Fraternity Retreat in Cleveland.

In his last days, we truly realized how much Ed had been struggling with his illness. He never complained, and continued on when he had very little strength left. Ed died just as Pope John Paul’s Funeral Mass in Rome ended. We said Ed snuck in behind him when the gates of heaven were opened for the Pope. But we know that Ed did not have to “sneak into heaven.” He was an exceptional priest. As the words he wrote for his funeral card said: “I was happy to serve the Lord in the priesthood, so I have a happy end, and even on the day of my death, I am blessed! So rejoice with me.”

Ed was the heart of our Fraternity, always calling us on to live the vision of the Fraternity. His funeral Mass was concelebrated by two of our Bishops, and seventy or eighty priests, plus a standing room only Church of Ed’s Parishioners and friends.

...continued from page 1

of the children of God. ... The whole of creation has been groaning in travail together until now.”

This well-known text speaks to us of solidarity, in good and evil, between man and creation. Together they groan, together they wait; the groaning of man is the fruit of the corruption of his liberty, that of creation is participation in man’s destiny. We are before the text of Scripture which is closest to what today is understood by ecology and protection of creation, and this is the topic to which we wish to dedicate our reflection, bringing to light its biblical foundation.

There are two ways of speaking of ecology and respect for creation: one starting from man and the other starting from God. The first has man at the center. In this case, there is not that much concern about the things in themselves but as a function of man: because of the irreparable damage that the exhaustion or

contamination of air, water and the disappearance of certain species of animals would have on human life in the world. It is an environmentalism that can be summarized in the motto: “Let’s save nature and nature will save us.”

This environmentalism is good, but very precarious. Human interests vary, in fact, from nation to nation, from one hemisphere to another, and it is difficult for all to come to agreement. This was seen, in fact, in the famous hole in the ozone. We have now realized that certain gases damage the ozone and we would like to put a limit to refrigerators, aerosols and similar things in which such gases are used. But developing countries, which only now are acquiring these comforts, rightly answer that it is too easy an answer to demand of them to give up these comforts, when we are the ones who have been using them for such a long time.

Excerpts taken from a meditation on
Romans 8 by Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa

Rhema Prophecy

Remove your sandals for the ground you stand on is holy ground. I, the Lord called you by name before you were born. I have made you my son fashioned after my own heart. Be not afraid, be bold in witnessing to the truth and to my Cross. If I your Lord and Teacher wash your feet, you must wash each others feet with the same attitude of self emptying and humility. I give you all the treasures of the Kingdom of God. It is too little for you to spend your time in stress, and worrying and planning. Come before my Eucharistic presence and let me speak to your heart. Be converted this day and be made new. I will reveal to you more glorious things never before imagined. I want your joy to be complete in my love. Let go of your self preoccupation. Give all worship and honor to the Father and we will continue to release the Holy Spirit within you. Trust me - surrender and be not afraid.

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.

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 or donate online at www.fraternityofpriests.org.

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

Name _____
Street _____
City, State and Zip _____

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 \$ _____