

Hartford Fraternity of Priests Conference

October 10–13, 2004

by Fr. Joseph Looney

“It changed my life,” said Fr. Joe Looney, the present leader of the Fraternity of Priests in the Archdiocese of Hartford, CT. “For 18 years I lived with the illusion that I could fit my Holy Hour into my daily schedule, but on this Fraternity Conference I finally made the long overdue decision to get up every morning at 6:15 a.m. to start off the day with a 7:00-8:00 Holy Hour in Church. All kinds of blessings have come to me since then. My Breviary prayers are much more meaningful, I am better prepared for Mass and more things get accomplished with a lot less stress.”

Our Fraternity had talked for many years about putting on our own Fraternity Conference. We know the value of our Fraternity, and how valuable it has been for each of us. We also want to share our blessings with other priests and learn by teaching others. The catalyst that nudged us to action was my decision to make the promotion

of the Fraternity the central part of my Doctor of Ministry Project at Hartford Seminary.

We picked the Sunday before Columbus Day to start and the following Wednesday after lunch to



Members of the Hartford Fraternity enjoy a moment outdoors at their conference.

finish. Archbishop Henry Joseph Mansell graciously gave us permission and the Office of Continuing Education agreed to reimburse us the \$200 per priest cost.

We then put together a schedule and divided up the presentations among the three of us who had made the Fraternity Conference Jan 23-26, 1988 at

Mont Marie Conference Center in Holyoke, MA, Frs. Bob Rousseau, Brian Jeffries and myself. Frs. Ken Gallagher and John Dreher presented our original Fraternity Conference. Our International Director, Fr. Timothy Graff, came to visit us from New Jersey on Columbus Day and gave one of the presentations. He was so good that we asked him to give a second one. We were very moved by his stories about bringing the Fraternity to Ghana.

Columbus Day is usually the high point of the Connecticut Foliage Season. We enjoyed the natural beauty of the Litchfield Hills at the Montfort Retreat House. The Montfort priests and staff were most cordial to us. We had the place to ourselves.

Seven priests attended full time, and four attended parts of the Conference. Four “postulants,” Fr. Will Roger Malave, Fr. Zecharias Pushpanathan, who came to us from India after 13 years in Argentina, Fr. Pierre Riaud, retired from the Archdiocese of Paris, and Fr. Frank Karvelis, retired in the Archdiocese of Hartford signed a three month covenant. Three of us veterans renewed our covenant for another year, as is our custom near

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Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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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!

As we enter the season of Lent we again hear the familiar words that begin this season each year: "Repent and believe the Good News". These words echo within our hearts because we know that they are at the heart of the gospel and at our own relationship with the Lord.

Especially during the season of Lent we reflect often on our need for repentance. As we prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we often celebrate during the season of Lent, and as we think about our own need for God's mercy, we see how a change of heart lies at the center of our Lenten observance.

How often do we reflect on "believe the Good News"? In this invitation of Jesus we are asked during this Lent to see how our belief in the Good News of the gospel effects our daily life. As I go throughout my day do I show others how the gospel changes my day? Do I spend time with the Word of God and allow it to speak to me in my thoughts and actions each day?

In my parish family we are trying to give a greater place to this very invitation of God. Each week we are given the readings for the upcoming Sunday, a short reflection and a set of questions to see how the gospel touches my life. We ask everyone to take some time during the week to pray over the readings for Sunday so that we come already having reflected on the message that God has for us that day. Every meeting that we have that week begins with prayer and reflection based on the reading for the upcoming Sunday. We are simply trying to accept the Lord's invitation to "believe in the Good News".

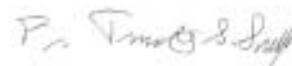
All the priests within the Fraternity of Priests throughout the world could tell you of the power of the Good News in their own lives and ministry. Many have found their lives and ministry transformed by the power of God that they have experienced through the Fraternity. They are invited each day to reflect upon the power of God's presence in their lives.

That could not happen without your prayers and assistance. Your prayers that we might be the priests that God calls us to be, and your assistance that allows us to share this invitation with priests throughout the world.

Could you please help us to further this cause by sending us names and addresses of others who would be interested in receiving our newsletter and joining in the work of renewal of the priesthood that God has invited us to participate in? Simply send them to the address in Steubenville or include them with your monthly donation.

May this Lent be a season of transformation for you as you repent and believe more fully in the gospel.

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: **\$6,300.00**

Actual Donations: **\$4,673.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage) **(\$1,627.00)**

Current as of December 31, 2004.

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the First Sunday of Advent. Fr. Philip Sheridan, could not make a weekly commitment because the driving to our weekly meetings would be difficult for him.

Our Monday meetings now may have as many as nine priests, so for our pastoral time we meet in two small groups and then come together for the last 15 minutes. The best evaluation of what we saw as God's inspiration to launch the Fraternity Conference was our unanimous decision to offer another Fraternity Conference during Columbus Day week in 2005. This way we will have more time to plan and advertise. Advertising was probably the weakest part of our preparation for our first Conference. We made a flyer and then divided up the names of all the priests of the archdiocese. We then addressed and mailed out about thirty flyers each. We also made follow up phone calls and personal invitations to any priests we thought would be open to the Fraternity. In presenting the Conference we used the outline prepared by Fr. Richard Champigny, O Carm., and Fr. Timothy Graff. Our personal experience filled in the rest. Everyone cooperated, leading Grace Before Meals, leading Morning and Evening Prayers and celebrating and preaching at daily Mass.

In my own parish, St. Margaret in Waterbury, wonderful things began to happen after I started the daily morning Holy Hour. Our annual October Count showed an increase in attendance over last year. For the Year of the Eucharist our school art teacher made two signs to advertise our

Wednesday Eucharistic Adoration, one in English and one in Spanish. Fr. Carlos Mario Zapata, another priest from Columbia, came to live with me and Fr. Will Roger Malave, our only Puerto Rican priest. Fr. Carlos has now gone on to an official archdiocesan appointment in Hispanic ministry. It was great having three priests in the rectory, even for a short time! Altogether four priests have come from South America to our Archdiocese through St. Margaret Parish. We hired a company to refinish our tabernacle, our sacred vessels, our Paschal Candle stand and all other items of sanctuary furniture. What beauty was hidden for so long and has now been revealed! Also, the Boston Red Sox won the World Series, and their pitching coach, Dave Wallace, an alumnus of our St. Margaret School, has graciously agreed to come back to visit the school and speak at a fund-raising dinner in his honor. We are going to start an Alpha Course in February.

Fr. Frank Karvelis, our lively retiree in our Fraternity, led a prayer campaign for the election. He challenged us to reprint the almost full page ad from Catholic Answers in our local newspaper on the Saturday before the election. The ad appeared nationwide in USA TODAY on Aug. 31. It listed the five non-negotiables (abortion and infanticide, euthanasia, fetal stem cell research, human cloning, and homosexual unions) and gave voter's guidelines for serious Catholic voters. It had a banner that said, "This is what Francis Kissing and her Catholics for Free Choice don't want you to read." The

publisher of our local newspaper is another alumnus of our school.

The Religion Editor thought it was so newsworthy that a group of priests raised \$2000 of their own money to pay for the ad that the Waterbury Republican American ran a front page story about us and the ad the day before it was printed. That made our ad even more effective! We were also able to send donations to Fr. Frank Pavone and Catholic Answers to thank them for inciting and equipping us.

Making that change in my daily schedule to begin the day with a Holy Hour has changed my life for the better. I hope you are able to find a consistent time every day, at least on weekdays, for your Holy Hour. Some of our members have received permission to set up Eucharistic chapels in one of their rectory rooms. Whatever you have to do to make your Holy Hour a first priority, do it today!

From the Editor

Arrangements have been made with Unitours, Inc to provide assistance to any priest who wishes to attend the International Charismatic Priests Retreat which will be held in Ars, France from September 25 - Oct. 1. There will also be an extension tour of Paris immediately after the retreat. Brochures will be sent to those priests who are on the Fraternity of Priests mailing list.

Please keep your eyes open for this brochure which will arrive in the mail shortly. Plan on making arrangements with your brother priests in the Fraternity as well as your diocese to attend this very unique conference that will mark the 150th anniversary of the beatification of the Cure d' Ars.

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>



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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 \$ _____

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March 2005						
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
		Rev. 1 James O'Driscoll <i>Boston</i>	Rev. 2 John Kiley <i>Boston</i>	Rev. 3 Donald Clinton <i>Boston</i>	Rev. 4 Maurice Larochelle <i>Boston</i>	5 Pope John Paul II
Rev. 6 Paul McManus <i>Boston</i>	Rev. 7 Gerry Fraser <i>Boston</i>	Rev. 8 Ross Frey <i>Boston</i>	Rev. 9 David Ziomek <i>Boston</i>	Rev. 10 Richard Kelley <i>Boston</i>	Rev. 11 Wildred Deschamps <i>Boston</i>	Rev. 12 Paul Gousse <i>Boston</i>
Rev. 13 Von Desrochers <i>Boston</i>	Rev. 14 Paul Gilbert <i>Boston</i>	Rev. 15 Francis Eksterowicz <i>Burlington I</i>	Rev. 16 Lance Harlow <i>Burlington I</i>	Rev. 17 Donald Roy <i>Burlington I</i>	Rev. 18 James Lawrence <i>Burlington II</i>	Rev. 19 Joseph Romano <i>Burlington II</i>
Rev. 20 Gerard LeClerc <i>Burlington II</i>	Rev. 21 John Fahy <i>Cardiff</i>	Rev. 22 Matthew Jones <i>Cardiff</i>	Very Rev. 23 Ambrose Walsh <i>Cardiff</i>	Rev. 24 Donal Gillespie <i>Cardiff</i>	Rev. 25 Michael Cronin <i>Cardiff</i>	Rev. 26 Barry English <i>Cardiff</i>
Rev. 27 Forrest Rouelle R.I.P.	Rev. 28 Richard O'Gorman R.I.P.	Rev. 29 Donald Cote R.I.P.	Rev. 30 Richard Sinner R.I.P.	Most Rev. 31 Frank Kromberger <i>Episcopal Advisor</i>		

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



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