



FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS

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



Ten Commandments for Priests



Fr. Bob Franco

The sign outside the Baptist church read, They're called the Ten Commandments, not the "Ten Suggestions." The difference between commandments and suggestions is simple. A suggestion is optional. It may prove beneficial. However, one has a choice. Commandments by nature are not optional. To violate them means consequences.

These "Ten Commandment for Priests" are not on the same plane as the Ten Commandments that bind all of Judeo-Christian heritage. However, if a priest were to neglect these "commandments" he too would experience consequences. Initially they may seem slight, a listlessness in one's heart, frustration with God's people. The consequences may grow to be great: the loss of one's vocation.

There is, though, a positive side to living by these commandments. If a priests were to live by these commandments, he would experience a vocation that was full and fruitful. He would be a blessing to the church and pleasing to the Lord.

These "Ten Commandments" were given to me by a priest in the diocese of Cleveland. I am not sure who wrote them but the inspiration was the Holy Spirit. Though they do not precisely describe the spiritual practices of the Fraternity of Priests, they do capture some of the essence of Fraternity spirituality.

† One hour each day to personal prayer.

† Sleep seven hours a night; learn to say "no".

† Balanced diet and yearly check up.

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History of the Fraternity of Priests

by Fr. Ray Ratzenberger

In this section we hope to give you a perspective of where we came from, and where we are going. When we study history we are not looking into the past for old news, but are looking into our present reality. The present has been built upon the past.

For the Christian history is linear, each present moment building upon another. As Catholics we are a people of rich history and tradition. Tradition is the steady "rudder" that guides us into the future.

As we now begin a new millennium we will explore the beginnings of the Fraternity of Priests. We hope to find a clear perspective of where the Lord is leading us by showing us from where we came.

Like most ideas or organizations, The Fraternity of Priests was not conceived out of a vacuum, but was the child of a movement that was spreading throughout the world.

The Catholic Charismatic Movement started at Duquense University in 1967. A group of students and faculty had a retreat experience where the gifts of the Spirit were manifested. The Second Vatican Council had opened the door to such experiential types of worship. From there the Charismatic Movement spread quickly through the Church, and many priests were embracing it.



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It's Here! Updated Fraternity Website



Fraternity of Priests has significantly reworked its web for the Great Jubilee. Though we have had a web page for some years (thanks to Fr. Dan Cook), it has been completely revised, updated and expanded. Please visit our reworked web site at www.fraternityofpriests.org.

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The banner that hangs in my parish boldly proclaims the theme of the year: **Open Wide the Doors to Christ**. Pope John Paul's theme for the Great Jubilee is both an invitation and a challenge.

The invitation comes with the word "open". There is a famous picture describing Revelation 3:20. This verse reads,

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens door, I will enter his house and dine with him and he with Me.

What makes the picture unique is the door. Jesus is knocking at a door with no door handle on the outside.

Only the person on the inside can open the door. In this year of intense grace we are invited to **open** ourselves to Christ, to respond to his invitation.

The challenging part is how we are to open ourselves: **WIDE!** Our response to Christ is to be big! Many people can become comfortable with just a little religion. They look at it as fire insurance. They buy into it enough so that they don't go to hell. However, God's plan is so much greater.

St. John Neumann was the first male citizen of the United States to be canonized. However, he was born in Bohemian section of Germany.

After discerning a call to the priesthood, he prepared and studied for his local diocese. Upon completion of his studies, John's local bishop told him that the diocese had enough Bohemian priests. He had no place to send him (apparently there was no vocation crisis at that time!)

John was not easily deterred. His heart was set on the priesthood. His zeal had been fueled by letters from America describing missionary work among the many Catholic immigrants.

John opened his heart even wider. In 1836, He responded to a call of the Lord to go the United States and serve the German immigrants before ordination.

After sending a letters on ahead of him, he set out for Harve, France where he caught a boat to New York City. Arriving with one dollar in his pocket, he was welcomed and ordained a priest within four weeks.

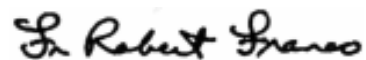
The rest, as they say, is history. After joining the Redemptorist community in 1840, he eventually became the Bishop of Philadelphia. St. John Neumann built over 80 churches in the seven plus years he was bishop.

He was known as the architect of Catholic schools in the United States, promoted Eucharistic Devotion (Forty Hours) and tirelessly served the people of Philadelphia until his sudden death on January 5, 1860. His wide open heart became an avenue of grace many people.

Pope John Paul invites and challenges us to open wide the doors of our lives to Jesus Christ. He is more than fire insurance. To the wide open heart, Christ becomes a well spring of life which revitalizes all.

At Fraternity of Priests, we want to thank you for opening your hearts to us. Your prayers and support fuel our zeal Christ, brother priests and service of God's people. May this year of intense grace bring you every good gift.

In the heart of Jesus our Great Jubilee,



Fr. Robert Franco, Chairman
Cleveland



Who's Mug?

Can you tell me who this debonair and handsome priest is? You get three hints. 1. He has been a member of the Fraternity of priests for 15 years. 2. He can be seen traveling the country in a Ford Van with a Western license plate. 3. This picture was taken for his ordination more than 16 years ago.

Please send all answers, and old photos, to the editor of the Newsletter, Fr. Ray Ratzenberger at P.O. Box 2198, Benson, AZ 85602, or E-mail: olol@theriver.com

History, cont . . .

To answer the need for a charismatic dimension to the priesthood, the University of Steubenville, under the leadership of Fr. Michael Scanlan, TOR started the *Priest & Deacons Conference* in 1975.

At practically the same time Fr. George Kosicki, CSB a charismatic priest, started *Bethany House of Intercession for Priests* (1973-1983).

Other priests were involved in Charismatic Covenant Communities throughout the country. However, there was a growing need for charismatic fellowship among priests.

In response to this need, in September 1980 some priests of the Diocese of Providence formed a "Priest Community". They wanted to perpetuate the experience of brotherhood and support they felt at the Priests & Deacons Conference.

FIRE was formed in May of 1983 as a Catholic Alliance of Faith, Intercession, Repentance and Evangelization. The Scriptural basis was Luke 12:49—"I have come to cast fire on the earth and would that it were already ablaze". It was formed as an outreach of the Catholic Covenant Communities in Ann Arbor and Steubenville. Team members Fr. Michael Scanlan, Fr. John Bertolucci, Sr. Ann Shields and Ralph Martin were very committed to the renewal of the priesthood, and often clergy days were held in conjunction with FIRE Rallies.

This inspired the Providence group of priests to hold their first outreach to the presbyterate in their area; it was called *Priest's Day*. It was conducted on September 12, 1983, and followed a FIRE rally. As an outgrowth of this day, the first Fraternity of Priests group was founded in Providence, Rhode Island.

Just a couple weeks later on September 28, 1983 the first *Fraternity of Priests Team* formed. Fr. Jim Ferry (1983-84), and Fr. Ed Wade (1983-88) who brought their experience of Covenant Community in New Jersey, joined with Fr. John Dreher (1983-88) from the "Priests Community in Providence, and Fr. George Kosicki from Bethany House of Intercession to form the original Team. The People of Hope Community located in New Jersey purchased Visitation House in Steubenville, Ohio. From this home base the Team traveled throughout the country and beyond to form local Fraternities of Priests.

The first Fraternity they started was in Cleveland, Ohio in January of 1984. The Bismark, North Dakota Fraternity was formed in August 1984. Then the team headed West. Fr. John Dreher, Fr. Ed Wade, and Fr. John Allard came to Tucson to form the Tucson Fraternity in February of 1985. The first Leaders Conference was held in Wareham, Massachusetts in August of 1985.

This is just a brief and incomplete history of the Fraternity. In the course of this year we hope to receive more detail along with the histories of all the fraternities. We will present them in this section called HISTORY. Please send all articles to Fr. Ray Ratzenberger, P.O. Box 2198, Benson, AZ 85602, or Fax: (520) 586-3919, or E-mail: olol@theriver.com

I want to thank Fr. Tim Gaff for his help in preparing this article. Fr. Ray Ratzenberger

Ten Commandments, cont . . .

† Pray the Liturgy of the Hours.

† Confession and spiritual direction: "A man is as sick as his secrets".

† Have friends who really know you. Know and be aware of your defenses against people knowing you.

† Be judicious in use of alcohol: Know whether you can or cannot use alcohol, either because you are an alcoholic or because alcohol has the effect of reducing your defenses and leading you to other forms of destructive behavior.

† Take a day off each week; an evening; a vacation each year. Have something to look forward to.

† Internally accept and be comfortable with (not complacent about) your own limitations; and the limitations of others- of the church and its authority. Don't reduce the whole gospel to a single idea.

† Say a Mass for yourself regularly; Mass of our Lady; prepare for Mass never go to the altar unprepared in soul and heart. Be unfailingly reverent.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____



FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS

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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

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

January, 2000						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Pope John Paul 1
Rev. 2 Robert Giardina <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 3 Tim Gillen <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 4 Wilfrid Gregoire <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 5 Francis Guidice <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 6 Roland Lepire <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 7 Herbert Nichols <i>Providence</i>	Most Rev. 8 George Pearce, S.M. <i>Providence</i>
Rev. 9 Samuel Turillo <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 10 Normand Valois <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 11 John Ederer <i>Saginaw</i>	Rev. 12 Thomas Fleming <i>Saginaw</i>	Rev. 13 Terry Brenon <i>San Angelo</i>	Rev. 14 Robert Bush <i>Saginaw</i>	Rev. 15 Joel Byrne, OFM <i>Saginaw</i>
Rev. 16 Bernard Gully <i>Saginaw</i>	Rev. 17 Barry McLean <i>Saginaw</i>	Rev. 18 John Ayers <i>Springfield</i>	Rev. 19 Gerald Brady <i>Springfield</i>	Rev. 20 Paul LaFlamme, Jr. <i>Springfield</i>	Rev. 21 Franklin Darling <i>Springfield</i>	Rev. 22 Peter Kirchner <i>St. Cloud</i>
Rev. 23 Gerald Mischke <i>St. Cloud</i>	Rev. 24 Anthony Oelrich <i>St. Cloud</i>	Rev. 25 Alvin Quade <i>St. Cloud</i>	Rev. 26 Todd Schneider <i>St. Cloud</i>	Rev. 27 Mark Stang <i>St. Cloud</i>	Rev. 28 Gregory Mastey <i>St. Cloud</i>	Rev. 29 James Statz <i>St. Cloud</i>
Rev. 30 Elmer Torborg <i>St. Cloud</i>	Rev. 31 Robert Hamel <i>St. Cloud</i>					

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

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.

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



Please cut and return this form with your donation

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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 \$ _____