
Fraternity of Priests Retreat in Trinidad

On November 14 to 19, 2004 three priests from Grenada, one from the Virgin Islands and one from Barbados the rest from Trinidad and Tobago joined Fr. Dwight Merrick for a retreat on the island of Trinidad. Fr. Dwight opened the retreat on Nov. 15th at 8:00 am during which he gave the contents of the retreat as follows;

- The essence of priestly support
- The Papal Encyclical on the Eucharist
- Leadership skills in our ministry
- The Rosary in the life of priests
- Community Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration
- Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Every priest that participated in the retreat emphasized the spiritual healing of the retreat. In one way or the other every one was deeply touched by one or all of the subjects discussed during the sessions. Every priest present made a resolution to see the continuity of such a retreat in the future. It was very clear to all present that many priests are having crises, which sometimes takes them out of the priesthood for the reason that such priests do not get their brothers' support. Or

again, they are out of contact with their fellow priests. They presumed that they could make the journey on their own. Secondly, many of them ignore or neglect the sacrament of reconciliation for a long time in their lives. Some do not have a spiritual director or a confessor to whom they could go to in times of confusion and crisis. Finally, it would seem that some bishops are in their own world, and the priests are in their own separate world without a connection with their chief shepherd. Among the priests themselves, every one of them is in their own world doing whatever they like without focus. By being part of the Fraternity of Priests in their diocese, they could be encouraged and at the same time be given a new direction and focus. This can be done by giving them positive and constructive criticisms, which will enable them to wake-up and stand for the kingdom values of the priesthood. The environment was conducive for a retreat even with some noise in the background. The meals were excellent and the Dominican Sisters took good care of us.

I do recommend with due respect that each bishop should link up with his priests and share their lives with them. Every bishop

should show his fatherly care and sense of oneness in the family of the ordained. Furthermore, each bishop should be part of the Fraternity of Priests in his diocese, and make it mandatory that every priest within his jurisdiction must be part of it. The fruit of it is very enriching both spiritually and emotionally. It strengthens and enhances each priest's ability to function well in his parish and also live up to his expectations.

Some bishops have in their dioceses a way of enhancing priests' spirituality. Many have monthly clergy meetings in which the bishop is the chairperson and every priest must be there. There are also monthly clergy days of recollection in which the bishop is always present. They begin the day of recollection with a rosary procession, followed by a talk by one of the priests. Sometimes the bishop invites another priest or bishop to come and speak after which they enter into a penitential service and confessions. The day of recollection ends with a Eucharistic celebration. At the end of the mass, the bishop gives them lunch after which every priest returns to his parish in a renewed spirit and fortified with zeal to attend to the people, bearing in mind that "Nemo dat quod non habet."

I further recommend that every priest should have a confessor and spiritual director, one that can give

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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 continue to celebrate "The Year of the Eucharist" as declared by Pope John Paul II, we are invited to reflect on the place of the Eucharist in our life. It is a wonderful time to see how each of us is called to place the Eucharist more and more at the center of our lives.

This follows on the great gift of Vatican II which asked us to see that the Eucharist was "the source and summit" of our spiritual lives. As the Holy Spirit inspired the Council Fathers, we have seen a greater emphasis on the liturgy and our participation within it.

Although this was seen most clearly in the Liturgy being celebrated in the local language, we also see it in the liturgical renewal that has taken place over the last 40 years. All are called to "full and active participation" in the Mass. It is the place of everyone who comes to the Liturgy to participate fully, and to be attentive to all that God is calling us to within the Eucharistic celebration.

In the last few years we have also seen a greater emphasis on the Eucharist in many parishes and in the lives of individual believers. We see it in increased Eucharistic Adoration in many parishes, more people spending time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, the increase of Eucharistic centered programs like Lifeteen. All are signs of the importance of the Eucharist within our lives.

I invite all of us to answer the Lord's call to us during this year of the Eucharist. What is God asking of you this year? How can your life be more centered upon the Eucharist? Are there special prayer experiences or programs that your parish is having this year that you can participate in?

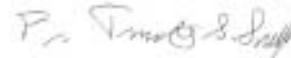
One of the great gifts that priests have is to preside at Liturgy. What a wonderful gift to bring the Lord's presence into the lives of his people.

We in the Fraternity of Priests certainly love that gift and the many other gifts that God has given to us.

Thank you, our benefactors and friends, for the gift that you are to us as well.

By your prayers and financial sacrifice you make our life possible.

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: **\$4,502.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage) **(\$1,798.00)**

Current as of November 31, 2004.

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him a constructive challenge to live according to the values of the clergy. We should also be praying for one another and for each other because no individual person can make the priestly journey alone. We need the support of one another. In conclusion, I pray that God will bless all our efforts to make his kingdom a reality in this world through the intercession of our Mother Mary.

Note from the Editor

Over the past four years the New York Fraternity has discovered rich resources for “teachings” during Fraternity meetings. We have found books being published on a regular basis that speaks about the richness of our priesthood as well as acknowledging some of the transitions and struggles we are experiencing during these critical times. Presently we are reading an excellent book “Stewards of God’s Mysteries – Priestly Spirituality in a Changing Church” published by Liturgical Press and authored by Paul J. Philibert. Other books we have read and discussed are “The Changing Face of the Priesthood” by Donald Cozzens, “Quickening the Fire in Our Midst” by George Aschenbrenner (a particularly fine work), “Priests for a New Millennium” published by the USCCB and finally “The First Five Years of the Priesthood” a Study of Newly Ordained Catholic Priests by Dean Hoge (which the NY Fraternity has not yet read).

There are many other fine books relating to the Catholic priesthood that might be food for our spiritual reading and common sharing among the brothers. If you have discovered one that you found particularly interesting, please contact me at frbill@optonline.net

Rhema Prophecies

1. Dear Brother Priests, Come to me with your worries and failings, your burdens and concerns. Don’t worry about being successful, be concerned about being faithful. Go out into the deep and lower your nets with fish – not yours. Please be assured that I will pour out my traces on you during this time of Eucharistic Adoration. Know that I will bless you when you take time out of your busy schedules to praise me. Ask for my Holy Spirit to console you during times of fear, doubt and loneliness in your priesthood. Love your brother priest, Jesus.

2. Come into my Eucharistic Presence and rest awhile. Come away from the noise and distractions of the world. I know you are tired and burdened with your manifold priestly works and responsibilities. Sometimes your loving service is unappreciated. Sometimes you are criticized unfairly for situations you can do nothing about. The unfortunate priest scandals of a few have tarnished all of you. Let me console and rejuvenate you as you remain here before the Blessed Sacrament. I am the Bread of Life. You have the nourishment and strength you need.

I have also promised to be with you always until the end of time. As you live your life of celibacy, know that I am always there to support you. You are never alone. Trust in my grace. I will keep you faithful. I will make your ministry fruitful. Do not be discouraged. With me you are the victors. In spite of trials and challenges, I will fill your spirit with joy. You will bring blessing and hope to many in this hour of darkness. Your light, by my grace, will give strength and encouragement to many people. Thank you, my beloved priests for leading my people with love fidelity and perseverance. My priests, you are special to me. And I will bring you victory. I love you, my chosen priests!

INTERNATIONAL CHARISMATIC PRIESTS RETREAT

September 25 to October 1, 2005
Ars, France

For the first time ICCRS (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services) in conjunction with the Catholic Community of the Beatitudes, with the cooperation of the John Mary Vianney Society offer together an international charismatic priests retreat to be held from September 25 to October 1, 2005 in the year of the hundredth anniversary of the beatification of the Holy Priest in Ars-sur-Forman (Ain- France) The last time a retreat like this was held was in Rome in 1990. Cardinals, Bishops, priests are invited to deepen the theme: “Priesthood, the Love of Jesus Heart”, to pray in the power of the Spirit and to spend this week close to the Holy Cure, to Jesus, heart and the Virgin Mary, led by Sr. Briege Mckenna, OSC and Fr. Kevin Scallon, CM and many other speakers and celebrants.

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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to receive our Newsletter?
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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 \$ _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

February 2005						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Rev. 1 Stephen Kantubog <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 2 Peter Paul Langnedoma h <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. Msgr. 3 Lawrence Kyemaalo <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 4 Cyracus Tang <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	5 Pope John Paul II
Rev. 6 Stephen Kangmennaan g <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 7 Martin Ninnang <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 8 Fidelis Vilelu <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 9 Leo Dabuoh <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 10 John Bosco Eledi <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 11 Evarist Kuuwulong <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 12 John Kpan <i>Wa, Ghana</i>
Rev. 13 Sylvester Nankpi <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 14 Luke Kale <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 15 Michael Tanzile <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 16 Gaetan Nuurbaare <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 17 Augustine Ten <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 18 Romanus Thampah <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 19 Benette Tang <i>Wa, Ghana</i>
Rev. 20 Justin Daanah <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 21 Augustine Dery <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 22 Mathew Tuurosong <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 23 Raphael Kyiebiineh <i>Wa, Ghana</i>	Rev. 24 Robert Mraz <i>Allentown</i>	Rev. 25 Larry Hess <i>Allentown</i>	Rev. 26 George Winne <i>Allentown</i>
Most Rev. 27 Paul Bemile <i>Episcopal Advisor</i>	Rev. Msgr. 28 Ireneus Songliedong R.I.P.					

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



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