

## A Non-Invasive God

*By Father William Cosgrove, NY Fraternity of Priests*

In the season of miracles we have just completed there are many miracles that are occurring throughout the medical field. One of the greatest medical miracles in the past 20 years is the ability to do non-invasive surgery. Many sicknesses and diseases require doctors and surgeons to “invade” the deepest recesses of the body causing trauma to the body as well as the soul. Many times these traumas cause massive loss of blood as well as a long recuperation process. With the advancement of technology in the field of surgery, we are able to see the wonders that can be accomplished using non-invasive surgery. Such non-invasive procedures are now standard in hospitals across America.

In reflecting on this modern day miracle, it came to mind that our God is a “non-invasive” God. In many ways God can be seen as a true “gentleman” who never forces himself into the lives and hearts of His people.

When I was a young boy ( and even to this day) I loved “horror flicks”. Some of the great horror movies would show “invaders” from another planet who came to take over planet earth. These invaders were always frightening. You never knew where they came from, what was their intention,

and what would happen to the human race. Invaders from another planet, even invasions from a foreign country , were always feared and dreaded.

God is not like a foreign invader who comes with malicious intent to conquer and destroy. It’s the exact opposite. Satan comes with seditious intent; he comes only to seek and destroy. What Satan does among the children of God, God does the exact opposite. He comes announcing the good news of our



salvation; a salvation freely offered and to be freely received. There is no room in the heart of God for anyone to be forced into receiving this Good News.

Jesus Christ came among us with an invitation that allows the human person to make a free choice—the choice to accept or reject the greatest gift ever offered to us. God sent His only Son into the world and offers us the possibility of accepting or rejecting this great gift.

Our God is non-invasive. He respects our boundaries and space. He doesn’t go where he has never been invited. In Rev. 3:19 Jesus says: Behold, I stand at the door knocking, If anyone hears me and opens the door I will enter and sup with them and they with me.” Jesus is portrayed here as a God who never barges His way into our life, but knocks at the door of our heart hoping that we will answer and invite Him into our lives.

As we begin a new year we have a new opportunity to see God in a new way. He comes quietly, he comes politely. He comes with respect for our personal freedom and gives us the opportunity to say YES to Him like Mary, or decline the invitation and, as a result, find life poorer.

In this new year may we rejoice in a non-invasive God and let us pray that we will respond more openly like Mary to the graces that are being poured out on us this New Year.

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Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted!

**H**appy New Year (belatedly)!! I was reflecting on how on the 31st of January of this new year it will make ten years I am in my present assignment as pastor of two separate parishes here in Woonsocket, R.I.. One decade—WOW!! As I reflect back over the last ten years all kinds of significant things came to mind: my father, and my close friend and Fraternity brother, Fr. Forrest Rouelle, have gone to meet the Lord, Y2K never happened and 9/11 most certainly did. I was elevated to “Prelate of Honor to his Holiness John Paul II” (I became a Monsignor). I turned fifty years old, we’ve received a new Pope and two new bishops here in the Diocese of Providence. I’ve led three pilgrimages : to Italy, to Greece, and to Ireland-England. The Fraternity has expanded into Africa, India, Slovenia, Ukraine, and the list goes on and on. It certainly has been a mixed bag of blessings, challenges and heartaches. In all this the immortal words of St. Paul in the eighth chapter of his Letter to the Romans rings in my ears:

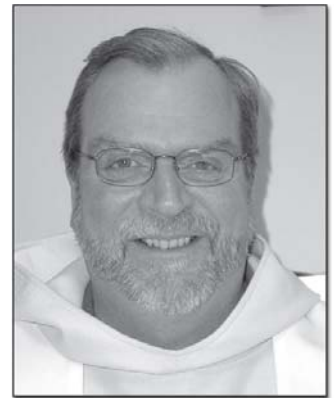
“We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.” (Rm.8. 28)

How true! Even in the crosses and disappointments that life seems to dish out, I have to admit that I am a richer and more hopeful person. My character has deepened and grown, and my walk with Jesus Christ has also deepened. I praise God for that. There is a song we used to sing at a local prayer meeting about thirty-five years ago whose refrain went:

“For all that has been, thanks, Lord, thanks! For all that will be, yes, Lord, yes!”

Isn’t that really the true Christian response to life? The Lord is right there with us through it all. He never has and never will abandon us—that’s his promise. In a sense, it makes me eager to see what the next decade will hold. Saying “yes” to life and God’s plan is so important for us. It is what Mary did at the Incarnation. There is a really sweet lady on our RCIA team who shared with us how for this past Advent Season, one of her prayer commitments was to thank Mother Mary each day for saying “yes”. It seems to me that this

is a tremendous every day prayer, never mind just during Advent. Because of Mary’s “yes” to life and God’s plan, you and I can have hope with full assurance that



our God is ever with us because he loves us so. Looking ahead should never be apprehensive or fearful. It should be expectant and exciting. Jesus is right here!!!

On behalf of the International Fraternity of Priests I want to wish you, our intercessors and benefactors, the happiest and holiest of New Year’s greetings. May it be a year of growth and peace and health for all of you and yours. My prayer for you is that the ability to faithfully say “yes” to God’s plan for your life may grace you. Always remember that he is right there with you—that’s a promise. Thank you for your generosity and prayers. Be assured of our prayers for you.

In Jesus,

*Fr. John*  
Fr. John

## 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: **\$4,933.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage) **(\$1,367.00)**

*Current as of November 30, 2005.*

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

1. Jan. 18th began the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. They are extremely opportune days of reflection and prayer to remind Christians that the restoration of full unity among them, according to the will of Jesus, involves every baptized person, both pastors as well as the faithful (see "Unitatis Redintegratio," No. 5).

The Week takes place months after the 40th anniversary of the promulgation of the Second Vatican Council's decree "Unitatis Redintegratio," a key text which has placed the Catholic Church firmly and irrevocably in the line of the ecumenical movement.

2. This year, the theme presents a fundamental truth to us for all ecumenical commitment, namely, that Christ is the foundation of the Church. The

Council strongly recommended prayer for unity as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement (see "Unitatis Redintegratio," No. 8). Given that the reconciliation of Christians surpasses "human powers and capacities" (ibid., 24), prayer gives expression to hope that does not disappoint, to trust in the Lord who makes all things new (see Romans 5:5; Revelation 21:5). But prayer must be accompanied by purification of the mind, the feelings and the memory. Thus it becomes an expression of that "inner conversion," without which there is no true ecumenism (see ibid., 7). In a word, unity is a gift of God, a gift to be tirelessly implored with humility and truth.

3. The desire for unity is spreading and deepening, touching new environments and contexts, arousing fervor for works, initiatives and reflections. Recently the Lord has also

enabled his disciples to engage in important contacts of dialogue and collaboration. The pain of separation is felt with ever-greater intensity, given the challenges of a world that awaits a clear and unanimous evangelical testimony on the part of all believers in Christ.

4. As usual, in Rome the Week will conclude with the celebration of vespers, on Jan. 25, in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. I thank the Lord Cardinal Walter Kasper, who will represent me in that liturgical meeting, in which representatives of other Christian Churches and confessions will take part. I will unite myself spiritually, and I also ask you to pray so that the whole family of believers may attain as soon as possible the full communion desired by Christ.

# 40th Anniversary of Catholic Charismatic Renewal

## Pentecost in Rome 2006

- Pentecost Vigil with the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI
- Pentecost Celebration "My Soul Magnifies the Lord"
- International Open Conference - "Charismatic Renewal: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"
- International Leaders Colloquium - "Maturing in the Spirit"
- Optional pilgrimages to Assisi or San Giovanni Rotondo

June 3-11, 2006

Sponsored by the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services

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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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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FEBRUARY 2006						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Rev. 1 Robert De Grandis <i>Washington, DC</i>	Rev. 2 Boniface Von Nell <i>Washington, DC</i>	Rev. 3 Peter Smith <i>Washington, DC</i>	Rev. 4 <b>Pope Benedict XV</b>
Rev. 5 James O'Driscoll <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. 6 John Kiley <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. 7 Donald Clinton <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. 8 Maurice Larochelle <i>Boston, MA</i>	Padre 9 Paul McManus <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. 10 Gerry Fraser <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. 11 Ross Frey <i>Boston, MA</i>
Rev. 12 David Ziomek <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. 13 Richard Kelley <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. 14 Wilfred Deschamps <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. 15 Paul Gousse <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. 16 Von DeRosia <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. 17 Paul Gilbert <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. 18 Francis Eksterowicz <i>Burlington, VT</i>
Rev. 19 Lance Harlow <i>Burlington, VT</i>	Rev. 20 Donald Roy <i>Burlington, VT</i>	Rev. 21 James Lawrence <i>Burlington, VT</i>	Rev. 22 Joseph Romano <i>Burlington, VT</i>	Rev. 23 Gerald LeClerc <i>Burlington, VT</i>	Rev. 24 Frank Karwacki <i>Harrisburg, PA</i>	Rev. Msgr. 25 Robert Lawrence <i>Harrisburg, PA</i>
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A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

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