



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

A Revitalized Priesthood Through Prayer

By Father Francis Dabre

The Fraternity of Priests, as a committed brotherhood of the ordained, continues to draw priests to Christ and one another in order to proclaim the mighty works of God in our day. We now have an opportunity to become aware of how this is being realized throughout the world as we read these reflections given by Fr. Francis Dabre a member of the Board of Directors and priest in India. Father Francis will be at this year's annual meeting later this month in Columbus, Ohio.

Today the life of the priest is very challenging, our day-to-day schedule can keep us so involved that we can find little time for personal prayer. This life easily becomes very routine and boring, leaving us defenseless to face temptations that come from such a worldly lifestyle.

One of the benefits found in the Charismatic Renewal and through the Kingdom Disciplines is to establish a strict time for personal prayer. It is good that before we preach to others about the importance of prayer that we experience the Lord in our daily personal life. Today fortunately there are many Adoration Chapels in our Churches where we can

spend quality time before the Blessed Sacrament.

I have personally developed this habit of time just for Jesus. I have a picture of the Divine Mercy in my room. I pray in silence before this picture and this gives me tremendous strength and inner power; the energy I need for the whole day. On these days everything seems to go even better than I planned. Here I am refreshed, energized. My inner thoughts are purified. I take my homilies before the Blessed Sacrament and in this dialogue they are personalized. An ordinary sermon becomes very Spirit filled and lively. I have there realized that the Word of God is powerful and practical. Through prayer not only is your sermon prepared but the Spirit prepares the hearts of those who will hear it.

Jesus always had time to spend before His Father. He went up to the mountain to pray, even late in the night. In prayer He attuned himself to the Father in the silence of His Heart. Jesus needed inner power to combat the opposition He often experienced from the Pharisees and many others. He did not want to loose them. He tackled them with love and never hatred. Some of them even got converted to Jesus coming to Him in the night to see and speak to Him. It was

the power of the Spirit, naturally kept in Him through prayer that directed His ministry.

We, being anointed and consecrated at ordination, become those whom our people look to for hope. We are called to lead them in prayer. In the Renewal our people have discovered a new way to pray so that many are turning to Jesus. The quality of their confessions has changed tremendously. Since joining prayer groups their lifestyles have also changed. Becoming involved in the Renewal and being of support to one another through the Fraternity has helped more and more priests to get fully involved. I thank and give praise to the Lord for this gift to me and really to the Church, our Mother.

A Revitalized Priesthood Leads to the Ministry of Reconciliation

"Aav barro zallo" (I feel satisfied and healed) so says a person after being forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This sacrament is truly becoming revitalized and the quality of the confessions is becoming much richer. There was a time when many people stayed away from confession. Thanks to the Renewal here in India many are finding their way back.

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Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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Fraternity members is
gratefully accepted. Any
submissions will help
make each issue better!

For many people the month of July means "vacation". And even if we do not vacation in July, the warm weather and longish days often cause our pace to slow down a bit.

One of the standard adages given to seminarians in my day was, "*There is no vacation from one's vocation.*" How true! Though the pace of one's life may change, the purpose of one's life remains constant.

The messages of gospel readings for the Sunday liturgy keep us anchored in our particular vocations. On the first weekend of July, Jesus sends out the Twelve on a field education exercise. They discovered that "even the demons were subject to us!" Jesus taught the disciples not to rejoice in successful ministry as to rejoice that their "names were written in heaven." **Lesson one: Stay heaven bound, not success focused.**

The gospel lesson for the second week of July, the Good Samaritan, is to love God and neighbor. Leo Tolstoy's short story, *Father Sergius*, describes the rise, fall and redemption of Fr. Sergius. In the end, after a meeting with a humble, overburdened widow, Fr. Sergius discovered, "I lived for men on the pretext of living for God, while she lived for God imagining that she lives for men." **Lesson two: Genuine love of neighbors concretizes our love of God.**

The gospel for the third week in July, the story of Martha and Mary, teaches us that we must give Jesus our attention. Martha tried to impress Jesus with her fret-filled hospitality. Mary simply gave Jesus her attention. **Lesson three: Jesus wants us, not our busyness.**

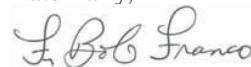
In the gospel for the final weekend of July, Jesus teaches his disciples about prayer: the Our Father, "ask and you will receive", "how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" **Lesson Four: Pray with perseverance for the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

In our busy and distracted world, Fraternity of Priests helps priests remember these lessons of Jesus. We are

reminded that it is "relationships before ministry". We know that a priesthood that is balanced by prayer and brotherly relationships will empower us to preach the gospel without becoming "disqualified" (I Corinthians 9:27) in the process.

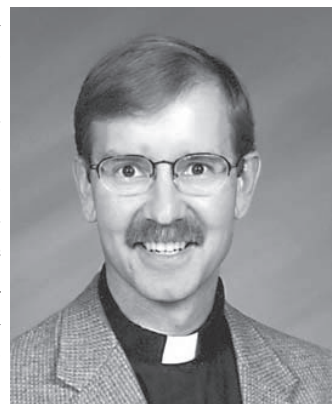
I hope that the lessons of Jesus in the July gospel readings can keep all of us on track with our vocations, even if we do take a vacation!

Fraternally,



Father Bob Franco

P.S. - Please keep our Annual Meeting of the Fraternity, scheduled for later this month, in your thoughts and prayers!



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: **\$4,750.00**

Actual Donations: **\$3,866.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$ 884.00)**

Current as of May 31, 2010.

...continued from page 1

The world where I live is making so much technological and material progress. So many worldly desires are readily available. Whatever you want, you simply need to put an order in for it and the boy delivers it to your door. People seem to be satisfied. However, there is always that hunger for something spiritual. By a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we are beginning to see the Lord's plan for changed lives taking place. Once again people are discovering the value of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. People are making appointments with priests for a dialogue confession. They have a sense of personal fulfillment and satisfaction from these well prepared confessions.

Much of this revitalization of the Sacrament is due to the Renewal here in India. During retreats and at prayer group meetings I am often requested to hear confessions. Laying the anointed hands of the priest on the penitent is a great boost to helping this person come out of his guilt and surrender to the Lord. I have seen these people become very strong in the faith and a great help to the local church.

This process of healing works in two directions; as it touches the penitent, it also touches the priest and sanctifies both of us. Grace flows to the one who repents and also to the priest who listens and heals. This deepens my sense of satisfaction and fulfillment in my ministry.

They visit the Blessed Sacrament and while sitting there with the Lord they prepare to make

a good confession. These dialogue confessions are also a good chance for the priest to help the scrupulous and to correct some erroneous thinking that has developed. It is an opportunity to give some good solid instructions to many of these good people. Many of them are giving teachings at the Charismatic meetings. While it is not possible for all of these leaders to attend theology classes, this is an excellent opportunity to correct some of the abuses we have observed.

Instead of criticizing them because of their erroneous theology, we have a good opportunity to direct them well as they each return to the smaller prayer meetings. As the use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation grows our lay faithful are becoming more fully matured. They have a great respect for priests, especially those who attend the Charismatic meetings and serve as their guides.

In every assignment, I have observed that if the priest attends the prayer meetings the number of people attending grows steadily as well. Our presence is a great encouragement to them. If we are not available to them then certain concepts, wrong notions of God and the Church get started. I see it as a great obligation to exercise our role as teacher and authoritative guide.

It is not always true that all of the committed lay faithful that God is now raising up for the renewal of His Church are in need of disciple or training. I have found that many are very knowledgeable about the teaching of the Church and have a great knowledge of the Bible. They often have the biblical references at their fingertips.

Sometimes when I am writing an article and need a good Biblical quotation to support my proposition, I make a phone call to them.

Some of our leaders are very well read when it comes to the latest encyclicals and most current Church documents. Many have a good collection of religious books. It is encouraging that many of our lay leaders are now joining seminaries or many are studying theology.

In conclusion let me say that I have experienced GRACE, a real expression of the power of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All the time that I have given to this has been used properly. I have personally gained more than I put in. It has been quite satisfying and I feel a sense of fulfillment. Let all of us in the Fraternity revitalize our priesthood through the Renewal and contribute our might through the Renewal to the Church, our Mother. People are waiting for us at our door step to be available.

Our annual Fraternity Meeting will take place at the end of this month, July 25-30, at St. Theresa Retreat Center in Columbus, Ohio. We have registrations from fraternity members around the USA, as well as from India, Trinidad and Slovenia (seven priests from Slovenia!). Pray that we share in the "distress, kingdom and endurance of Jesus" (Revelation 1:9) will experience refreshment and grace during this special week of brotherhood.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

August 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Most Rev. 1 Paul Bemile <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 2 Fidelis Vielu <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 3 Cyracus Tang <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 4 Martin Ninnang <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 5 Stephen Kangmennaang <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 6 Romanus Tampah <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	7 Pope Benedict XVI
Rev. 8 Michael Tanzile <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 9 John Bosco Eledi <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 10 Luke Kale <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 11 Leo Dabuoh <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 12 Ernest Kamath <i>Winnipeg Canada</i>	Msgr. 13 Stan Jaworski <i>Winnipeg Canada</i>	Rev. 14 Francois Paradis OMI <i>Winnipeg Canada</i>
Rev. 15 Rheal Forest <i>Winnipeg Canada</i>	Rev. 16 Maurice Jeanneau <i>Winnipeg Canada</i>	Rev. 17 Michael Nault <i>Winnipeg Canada</i>	Rev. 18 Stephen Johnson <i>Worcester, MA</i>	Rev. 19 Michael Roy <i>Worcester, MA</i>	Rev. 20 George Dunkley <i>Worcester, MA</i>	Rev. 21 Jean-Paul Gagnon <i>Worcester, MA</i>
Rev. 22 Silverino Kwebuza AJ <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. 23 William Okot AJ <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. 24 Dwight De Jesus <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. 25 Harold Imamshah <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. 26 Daniel Cook <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. 27 Ron Matthews <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. 28 Ferre D'cruz <i>Alexandria, LA</i>
Dcn. 29 Norman Gremillion <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. 30 Greg Downes <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. 31 John Pardue <i>Alexandria, LA</i>				

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

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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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This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.
Dear Father Bob Franco,
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