



## Board Meets at Visitation House

There were many items on the agenda for the Fraternity of Priests Board of Directors. The meeting was held on May 1-4, 2000 in marathon sessions beginning at 7AM and continuing till late in the night.

Monday, the first day, began with prayer and praise. During this time the Lord manifested Himself with an awesome presence accompanied by words of prophecy. The first to come was through Fr. Ray: "Sons hear my word; remember this is my work not yours. Listen to me. Let me guide you by My Spirit." He also received the scriptures: *Isaiah 43:1-4* which speaks about how the Lord has a special relationship with us and promises to guide us and walk with us; and *2 Kings 23:16-23* which talks about king Josiah's reforms to bring Judah back to the original way of worship handed on to them from their fathers.

With these scriptures came the sense that the Lord has chosen the Fraternity of Priests as His special work. His plan for it has not changed. He wants priests who will allow Him to work in a sovereign

and unique way, differently than He has been allowed to work with others. He is looking for priests who will let Him work in power and authority—like He did with His first Apostles. He is asking for a markedly different level of faith from us.

However, worldly influence has crept into the modern priesthood. Reliance on modern philosophy and empirical knowledge has taken precedence over faith. Simple faith and trust in God is looked upon as naivety by the modern priesthood. As a result, dynamic faith has been squelched. This is why spiritual gifts are not prevalent like they should be. The Lord is saying: "Go back to your first love!"

He is also calling us into a special relationship with Him: "You (the mem-

bers of the Fraternity) are my John (John the Evangelist). That is, my close companions with whom I share my intimacy."

Fr. Cuthbert confirmed these words. He said he received the same words the day before as he was traveling to Steubenville. Fr. Timothy received *Hebrews 11:1-6*, about dynamic faith.

Fr. Giardina then received this word: "Visitation House is my will. From here you will go forth". All had the sense that the vision the Lord gave the Fraternity was going to be confirmed in a new and vibrant way in the coming years if we cooperate with Him.

Fr. Cuthbert received: "The Lord has not found enough faith here." He then prayed that God would grant us more faith, and said that the Lord wants to work differently with us—to use us in special ways.

He also received *Psalms 119:18-24* which is a prayer asking God to reveal mysteries to us.

Fr. Bob Franco received *Jeremiah 8: 8-9*, which speaks about human wisdom as opposed to divine. He also got *1 Corinthians 1:18-30*, which speaks of Christ as a stumbling block to those who are guided by human wisdom.

Fr. Bob Giardina then received another prophecy: "Live on in my love, trust me to guide you. I will



The members of the board are: Fr. Timothy Graff, Fr. Bob Giardina, Fr. Ray Ratzenberger, Fr. Bob Franco (Chairman), and Fr. Cuthbert Alexander

# Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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Dear Friends of the Priesthood,

The Solemn Feast of Pentecost is associated with power. It was as if Jesus had hardwired the apostles with his teaching, miracles, death and resurrection. Though they were still asking the wrong questions ("Is this the time you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" Acts 1:6), they were instructed to wait. They would "receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them" (Acts 1:8).

Jesus Christ threw the switch on the day of Pentecost. The Father's gift of the Spirit came upon them and everything about Jesus life, death and resurrection made sense. The Holy Spirit enlightened their minds; their hearts were united in love and their mouths were loosened to proclaim the mighty deeds of the Lord.

How we need the Holy Spirit in our day!!! Like the apostles, we have all the facts in our minds. We readily recite them each Sunday in the Nicene Creed. However, we are not gripped by their prophetic import. At times, a still small voice reminds us that our faith is not to be one of a number of various compartments in our lives. Our faith is to enliven every aspect of our lives. Yet, how hard it is to heed that Voice.

Where is the Holy Spirit in our day? Where He has always been! Being God the Holy Spirit is everywhere, but especially present to baptized Christians, the "temples of the Holy Spirit." The real question is the one God asked Adam and Eve in the garden at the dawn of time, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9) God is with

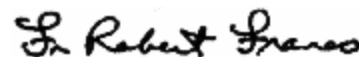
us. Are we with God?

The materialism and busyness of our times "short circuits" our souls. One moment we sense the inspiration of the Spirit to serve the Lord in a dedicated manner. The next moment we are distracted by all the things we "have" to do or by some shiny trinket we want. We need to be rewired!

Throughout the Jubilee Year we are called to reconciliation and renewal. One of the highpoints of this year will be the celebration of the Solemnity of Pentecost. Just as at Christmas we celebrate the birth of God's Son, so at Pentecost we celebrate the birth of His Body, the Church. Let us seek to become especially receptive to the gift of the Holy Spirit this year. Jesus not only gives the power. He can help us rewire the soul.

On a slightly different note, a sure and true way the Holy Spirit equips one for ministry is through the sacrament of Holy Orders. Last month, on May 27 the diocese of Steubenville (where Visitation House is located) ordained three men to the priesthood. These were the first ordinations for the diocese of Steubenville in seven years. Of special note, Fr. Paul Hrezo was ordained. Harriet, who served as the secretary of the Fraternity of Priests for over thirteen years, is Paul's mother. We trust that Harriet's service of priests in the Fraternity and at Visitation House contributed to the vocation of her son. May God's blessings be with the Hrezo family and all the newly ordained this Jubilee year.

In the Spirit of Jesus Christ,



Fr. Robert Franco

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place my call upon your heart, I will lead you where you are to go only if you open the door of your heart to me.” The scripture: *Matthew 21:21-41*, which speaks of unfaltering faith accompanied this prophecy.

The Lord also gave us the following scriptures during the week: *Philippians 2: 9-11, Romans 8:24-25, Hebrews 2:2-3, Galatians 4: 8-11, John 15:9-17, Matthew 21: 41, Sirach 32: 13-34, Haggai 2:4-5.*

The board discussed Visitation House and the changes taking place there, that is, a new guest master and the arrival of new priests who are staying there. Letters from members relating to the house were read. The Lord spoke clearly and definitively to the board regarding His plans for Visitation House. More details about this will appear in a letter to be sent out to the Fraternity members.



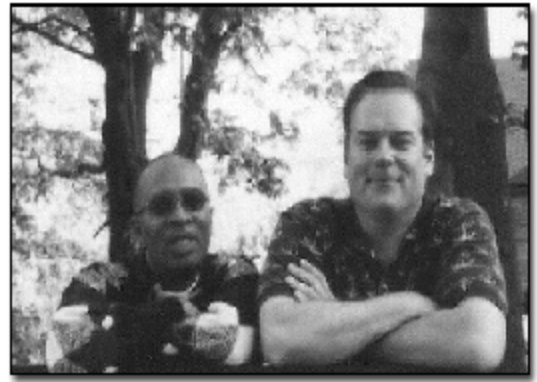
Deacon Larry Meagher

A new budget was worked out, and a new guest master was chosen to manage Visitation House. He is Deacon Larry Meagher (pronounced ‘mar’). He will be doing the traditional role of a deacon—serving at the table of hospitality (Acts 6:1-6).

The rest of the week the board worked on the By-laws for the Fraternity of Priests and other things. The By-laws will be voted on at the conference in August. A copy will be sent to all the leaders to be dispersed to their members. They also discussed the idea of having the conference in Tucson and Trinidad in the near future.

Future growth of the Fraternity in other areas of the world was discussed. Fr. Timothy Graff left for the Ukraine with Renewal Ministries, and later will go to Kenya. There are also openings in other parts of Africa and America. Trinidad is planning on bringing the fraternity to Jamaica.

Another strong word from the Lord came to us regarding the conference in August. The theme will be:



### Editorial Staff is Doubled

The newsletter now has two editors with the addition of Fr. Cuthbert Alexander. As it turns out Fr. Cuttie (as he is called by his brothers) has editorial experience. Before he was a priest he was an editor of a newspaper. His expertise is very much welcomed. Now he will do the newsletters on the odd months and Fr. Ray Ratzenberger on the even ones, though they will both be working together sending each other ideas.

**‘Behold I stand at the door and knock’** (*Rev. 3:20*).

The meeting of the board was very productive and dynamic. They left with the feeling that the Lord will have something special for all who will attend the Fraternity Conference. The conference will be held August 13—18, 2000.

Please send us your prayer intentions: \_\_\_\_\_

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# THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

## 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.*

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