

## Board Meets at Visitation House



Board members include (from L to R): Fr. Ray Ratzemberger, Fr. Robert Giardina, Fr. Tim Graff, Fr. John Allard, and Fr. Cuthbert Alexander.

Planning for the yearly conference and the future growth of the Fraternity were the main agenda items for the Board this May. “Stoke the Fires” is the theme for the 2001 Fraternity of Priests Conference in Trinidad. The sense that the Board had was that the potential for a great move of the Spirit is at hand around the world, but we have to make a move to “fan the flame” so to speak. The conference will cover ways in which we can do this.

We also will experience some of the dynamic wealth of the Charismatic Renewal in the West Indies. Famous speakers like Babsie Bleasdel and others will be with us. Registration for the conference can be done online this year through our website at: [www.fraternityofpriests.org](http://www.fraternityofpriests.org)

The Fraternity is growing by leaps and bounds throughout the world. We have outreaches into Africa, India, and Eastern Europe. Now there is also talk about the Orient. We plan to go through all these “doors” to bring committed brotherhood to priests everywhere.

However there is also a concern about the existing Fraternities and their development and growth. There are areas in the United States that are asking for Fraternities, such as Gallup, New Mexico. “The harvest is great, but the laborers are few,” as the Lord said.

One idea to help the fraternities in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean is through the formation of regional teams.

The members of the teams will be called to the team on a temporary basis, like a week or two a year. These teams will visit established Fraternities and form new ones in North America and the Caribbean. Eventually teams like these will be developed in other areas of the world. The board will be discerning who to ask to be on these teams. Those chosen must fit the criteria of experience in the Fraternity and possess the gifts for such a ministry. They will also need training.

The future of the newsletter was discussed. The newsletter will be slightly expanded and some minor changes will be made. A new masthead will be designed to make it more appealing and up to date.

***This prophecy was given through Fr. Al Quade on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 22, 2001 at Maranatha Ranch, St. Cloud Minnesota, U.S.A.***

I have poured out My superabundant mercies on My people today. Now I want to fill you, my beloved priests, with that mercy. Fear not to come to Me to seek a share of this Divine Mercy for yourselves, dear priest brothers. Though you have sometimes failed Me, I pardon you. I sympathize with your weaknesses, your lukewarmness, your hesitations and your fears. Allow Me to strengthen and console you with My grace. Know that My mercy is without limit. Let Me refresh you and give you peace.

I recognize your goodwill. If you have sometimes failed to reach your ideals, put your trust in Me. I will bring good fruit out of it all. Be confident that I can supply what you lack. Sometimes you toil hard, but the fruit seems meager—seemingly hardly worth the effort. Do not be discouraged or deceived! Faithful, persistent work in My Kingdom will produce an abundant harvest. Just persevere and I will make of your imperfect efforts fruits of love that will please My Father, Me Jesus, and the Holy Spirit forever in eternity. When you wake up in eternity, you will be surprised at all the good fruit and wonderful results your efforts accomplished by your humble use of My graces.

Plunge into the abyss of My mercies. Submerge yourself in My Divine Mercy, and I will purify and cleanse you. I will make you a shepherd after My own heart. You will be wise guides leading souls quickly to the heights of holiness. Your own imperfections and weaknesses will not keep you from becoming great saints. Just allow Me to fill you with My great mercy this Mercy Sunday, and every day.

# Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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Newsletter Co-editor, Rev. Cuthbert Alexander, can be emailed at [cuttief@carib-link.net](mailto:cuttief@carib-link.net).

Dear Friends of the Priesthood,

As we move into summertime, and the return of Ordinary Time, I am reminded of a few verses from the Book of Lamentations:

*The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,  
His mercies are not spent;  
They are renewed each morning, so great  
is His faithfulness.*

*My portion is the Lord, says my soul,  
therefore will I hope in Him.*

*Good is the Lord to one who waits for Him,  
to the soul who seeks Him.*

*(Lamentations 3:22-25)*

The Lord's mercies and love are renewed every morning; how truly blessed we are! In spite of us, our failings, shortcomings, sin, and arrogance, the Lord still loves us and says, "I forgive." The Lord still chooses us and walks with us. He truly is "Emmanuel" (God-with-us). And He makes good His promise with the awesome gift of Eucharist: His Real Presence—really present to us. I often shudder, and I am carried into repentance, when I think of how often I take all this for granted. In every tabernacle, in every Catholic church throughout the world, He waits for us and loves us. In the renewing time of early summer, when the pace slows down a bit and vacations are planned, take a little extra time to reflect on our awesome God who loves us so much. Walk with Him, talk to Him, and love Him! (Maybe even visit Him at your parish church).

The Lord is calling the Fraternity to a missionary spirit, to have a sense of the global church and the call to evangelize all peoples everywhere. This is a theme you will probably hear over and over again in the months and years ahead. As we are invited to Africa, Ukraine, Slovakia, etc., and are called to reach out in the Lord's name to help renew and restore His priesthood universally, we need to develop a missionary heart and mindset. Please pray for us!!! At our quick-approaching annual meeting in Trinidad, the end of July, this will be discussed and hopefully "pastored" into us. What an exciting concept!

Once again to you our intercessors and donors, thank you on behalf of the Fraternity of Priests. You are the ones who make all this possible. It

is your prayer and your generosity which enables us to continue moving the way we are; we are grateful. Be assured of our prayers in return. Again, please pray for your parish priest (send his name to us so that we can pray for him too). May God continue to bless you.



In Jesus,

*Fr. John*  
Fr. John

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Fraternity Conference in Trinidad, July 29 - Aug 3, 2001!

For more information, check the website at <http://www.fraternityofpriests.org> or send in the registration form!

## Letter to the Editor

*I just received the March Newsletter (apology accepted—I'd have to be the last to refuse). Herbie's story really touched me, not only for his honesty and willingness to share it, but because of the beautiful way it was written. And it captures such important insights so concisely.*

*This one's definitely a keeper. I'm sure parts of it will show up in homilies to come.*

*Fraternally,*

*Gerry Fraser (Boston Fraternity)*

## Fr. Piotr Hewelt, OCD Returns to The Ukraine

The Board of Directors of the Fraternity of Priests met at Visitation House during the first week of May. The members who live the furthest arrived first. Fr. Cuthbert Alexander from Trinidad and Fr. Ray Ratzemberger from Tucson, Arizona arrived on Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> and were met at the airport in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania by a friendly face. Fr. Piotr Hewelt, a Polish Carmelite priest who was staying at Visitation house, picked them up. After an unscheduled tour of Pittsburgh, they arrived in Steubenville.

The Board really enjoyed visiting with this joyful priest, even though he had some strange eating habits. As a hummingbird is to nectar, Fr. Piotr is to buttermilk. We hope he did not forget to take his ample supply of buttermilk with him.

Fr. Piotr returned to the Ukraine in the middle of May. He had been on sabbatical in Steubenville since January 2001. His first contact with the Fraternity was during Fr. Timothy Graff's first visit to the Ukraine. Fr. Piotr was one of those who heard the Fraternity message there.



*Fr. Piotr's friendly smile welcomed the board to Visitation House in Steubenville.*

Piotr was ordained in Gdansk, Poland in 1992 and immediately went off to the Ukraine, like many other Polish priests, to support and rebuild the Church there.

The Church there was devastated after many years of severe communist persecution. The communist dictator Stalin murdered at least 25 million Ukrainians during his collectivization program. The Ukraine was the "bread basket" of Europe, but after forced

collectivization of the farms there, massive starvation ensued.

When communism fell in 1989 Christians from the West flocked to Eastern Europe to help revitalize the Church there. Poland, a bastion of Catholicism, which was the most religiously free area of the communist world, sent hundreds of priests and lay workers to Russia and especially to the Ukraine. Like Fr. Piotr, the majority of priests working in the Ukraine are from Poland. He has been working hard these last 9 years, teaching and building. He presently is burdened with the supervision of several building projects.

For Piotr, Franciscan University of Steubenville was like a bit of Heaven. He enjoyed his audited studies there, improved his English, and made many close friends. Our prayers and continued support go with him as he resumes his duties of evangelization and revitalization in the great land of the Ukraine.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Fraternity: _____ Address: _____ _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Registration for the 2001 Annual Fraternity of Priests Conference</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>MODE OF TRANSPORTATION</u></p> County: _____ E-mail: _____ Phone: _____ <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">                     Cost of \$150.00 includes Registration, Room, &amp; Board for the Conference. Please send payment to: Fraternity of Priests                      100 Belleview Blvd.                      Steubenville, Ohio 43952 USA                 </div>	✍ Air Airline: _____ Flight _____ Arrival Date & Time: _____ Departure Date & Time: _____ ✍ Ground via ✍ Auto ✍ Bus Arrival Date & Time: _____ Departure Date & Time: _____
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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 John Allard,  
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