

## Rooted in the Priesthood of Christ: A tribute to Richard

The Fraternity of Priests said farewell to one of its much-loved brothers, Fr. Richard O’Gorman in mid-March. Fr. Richard’s funeral took place on March 20, at Resurrection Church, Rye, where he grew up. He was overall leader of the Fraternity from 1992 to 1994. He was 70 years old.

Fr. Bill Cosgrove recalls, in a homily delivered to Fr. Richard’s former parishioners in Bangall, New York, how well he understood “brotherhood” as an essential dimension of the priesthood.

Life presents us with various models to imitate. When we think of all of the models in our life some of the greatest models are usually our parents, teachers and priests that have so richly blessed our life. One of those great models has been the priestly life of Fr. Richard O’Gorman.

The charism of the Fraternity of Priests calls us in a unique way to re-root our lives in the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Many priests love Jesus but many of us have allowed our WORK to take over the primacy of our RELATIONSHIP with Him. As we remember one of our brother priests who has been called home to the Lord, we are all reminded of

what it means to have our lives totally centered on the high priesthood of Jesus Christ.

For over 20 years Fr. O’Gorman sought to make the charism of the Fraternity central to his life as priest. His model for priesthood came from the understanding that he was called to minister FIRST to his High Priest Jesus Christ in his daily holy hour of praise and worship. He appropriated the wisdom of the Fraternity which taught us that within the life of the Holy Trinity, RELATIONSHIP came before MISSION. It was this model of priesthood that inspired Fr. O’Gorman’s priestly life for these past 20 years.

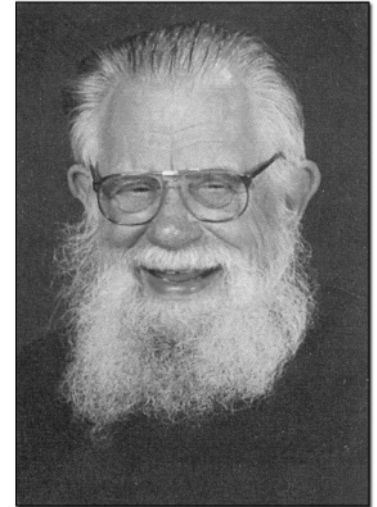
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### MARCHING ORDERS

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The first model of ministry for Fr. Richard was to “come into the throne room” of His Presence and receive his “marching orders” for the day. The model of ministering FIRST before the throne of His Presence reminded all of his brother priests that we were all ordained for this purpose.

The second model of ministry comes from the rite of ordination which reveals that we were also into the fraternity of the priesthood. It is



The Rev. Richard O’Gorman  
Born July 7, 1931  
Ordained June 1, 1957  
Died March 14, 2003

in the laying on of hands in the rite of ordination that we see the powerful reminder that BROTHERHOOD is an essential dimension of a priest’s life. Not all priests discover it nor have many experienced it as Fr. Richard did in his life. He saw his brother priests to be his true family. He rarely missed an opportunity to gather with priests in prayer, social settings and educational opportunities. Even in the last few months of his life while retired at St. Lawrence Friary in Beacon and unable to drive himself, Fr. Richard made sure that one of the friars was available to drive him to the monthly gathering of the Duchess County priests.

The third model of priesthood came from the fruit of his prayer

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# Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted!

Many thoughts are running through my mind as I write you this month. My prayer is that I can bring them all together in a clear manner (as one gets older one does have a more difficult time doing this).

May is a beautiful month. Spring is here and we are basking in the glorious Easter Season. May is Mary's month, a time to focus on the beautiful Mother of God. In this time of world-wide unrest and war, her title of Queen of Peace takes on added significance. Her message from Medjugorje,

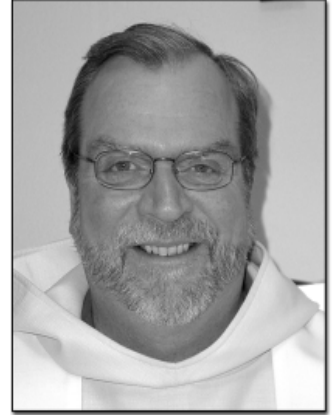
'MIR', rings in my ears. Through the years Mary's revelations have talked of prayer for peace. Even the Holy Father has asked for prayer—the rosary in the Year of the Rosary—for peace. In his recent Apostolic Letter, "Rosarium Virginis Mariae", he reminds us of "the need to implore from God the gift of peace (paragraph 6)", and the rosary is that prayer.

Pope John Paul II calls the rosary "a compendium of the Gospel" and recommends that it be prayed meditatively. If you haven't read this Apostolic Letter, it might be a great first step in helping build peace. I know that many of you reading this letter already pray the rosary daily. Won't you join me in praying the rosary daily for world peace? We've seen the Berlin Wall topple (and Saddam's statue too!) and Russian Communism crumble in our lifetime. These were seemingly impossible events, brought about, I believe, through prayer as Mother Mary promised at Fatima.

Another reflection on peace is to be a "channel of peace" as St. Francis called it; Pope John Paul II called on all Christians to be "sentinels of peace." Is there someone you are not at peace with? Is there someone who is at odds with you? Is there a way to build peace? Again, the Queen of Peace can help. Once again the word "MIR" rings in my ears.

Finally, my thoughts go to the recent death of Fr. Richard O'Gorman of the New

York Fraternity (March 14, 2003). Father Richard was our over-all leader for a couple of years. He was a man who loved the priesthood and was a source of tremendous support for so many of us. He had a refreshing sense of humor. With his long beard I always thought he looked like one of the Smith Brothers on a cough-drop box. When I would ask him which Smith brother he was, his answer was always, "the other one." Richard was a man of peace. He radiated the Lord's peace throughout his priesthood. What a gift he was to us! We will miss you, Fr. Richard, and we praise God for the gift you have been to us, and for the intercessor you now are for us.

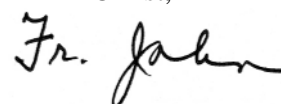


To you, our benefactors and intercessors, we of the Fraternity of Priests wish you peace—the peace of Jesus. Through Mary's intercession may we all become more like her Son, the Prince of Peace. Thank you for your prayer and generosity over the years. The early church father, Origen, once said, "We (Christians) have become children of peace, and Jesus is our leader." Be assured of our prayers for your intentions. Pray for your parish priest, for his peace of heart and mind.

"Take time to be still, to be silent, to allow God to fill you up with deep peace and love"

*(Mairead Corrigan Maguire, founder of the Peace People in Belfast, Ireland).*

In Christ,



Fr. John

continued from page 1...

before the Lord and a priestly life shared with other priests. He saw that he was called to act as a watchman and shepherd for His people. Those who were pastored by him would tell you that Fr. Richard was not afraid of sharing a "hard" word from the Lord when necessary. He was a priest who would always call you on to deeper holiness. He drew some of his inspiration for pastoral ministry from Ezekiel 3 where the Lord appointed his pastors to be both shepherd and watchman. His functioning as shepherd came out of his being "shepherded" himself in his daily prayer time.

His love for the priesthood and for the brothers in the priesthood was crowned last August by his reception of the annual Brotherhood Award from the Fraternity of Priests. When he received the award he openly cried over the phone as he told me of the

### From Richard to Fraternity Leaders in 1993:

Dear Brother Leader,

*You are very much on my mind this summer. It was a special joy for me to see so many of you at our Leaders Meeting in June. That has become a time of real brotherhood. I have realized that I have grown to know most of you by name. Your life and ministry and especially your local Fraternity have become very important to me. When I see you, I want to be with you, listen to your "stories", share your joys and successes and be compassionate with your sorrows and pains. You are truly brothers and I love you. Indeed it has taken two years of leadership for me to know that and unfortunately, as long to say that. I suppose if I can do nothing more than live that out during this next year, my "term of office" will have been most rewarding for me and, I pray, helpful for the international Fraternity of Priests...*

joy in his heart for such an acknowledgement by his brother priests. Not seeking an award, nothing gave him greater joy than to receive it.

We commend Father Richard O'Gorman for leaving the Fraternity of Priests and all priests in the Archdiocese of New York a

wonderful model of priestly life. Each day he stood ministering in the Lord's presence, each week he stood with his brothers in the Fraternity meeting and now we pray that he is standing victorious before the throne of the great High Priest. Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master!

## REMINDER!

Fraternity Conference  
2003!

Cardinal Spellman Retreat House, overlooking the Hudson River, New York, is the venue for this year's Fraternity Conference, taking place from August 3 to 8.

More information in the June issue of *The Visitation!*

## Prophecies from our members:

Brothers, trust in your calling, trust in me even though it may seem like I may be absent in the world. Fear not as you are not alone even amidst the anxieties, doubts and worries. I am beside you. Take time to listen, take time to pray, take time for yourself and be kind to yourself. Brothers, receive my love and compassion and in turn, be that loving and compassionate priest.

My brother priests don't be afraid. Don't be afraid to pray. Don't be afraid to ask. Don't be afraid to ask for evil to be removed from the world for I have power over all evil. I am the miracle worker. I am the mountain mover. I am love. Don't be afraid to ask. Don't be afraid to pray. Don't be afraid.

St Cloud Fraternity of Priests  
Deacon's Lodge  
February 2003

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

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# 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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Dear Father John Allard,  
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