
Pope Benedict XVI's Easter Message

Urbi et Orbi - To the City and the World

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

“Christus resurrexit!” — Christ is risen!

During last night's great vigil we relived the decisive and ever-present event of the Resurrection, the central mystery of the Christian faith. Innumerable paschal candles were lit in churches, to symbolize the light of Christ which has enlightened and continues to enlighten humanity, conquering the darkness of sin and death for ever.

And today echo powerfully the words which dumbfounded the women on the morning of the first day after the Sabbath, when they came to the tomb where Christ's body, taken down in haste from the cross, had been laid. Sad and disconsolate over the loss of their master, they found the great stone rolled away, and when they entered they saw that his body was no longer there.

As they stood there, uncertain and bewildered, two men in dazzling apparel surprised them, saying: “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, he is risen” (Luke 24:5-6). “Non est hic, sed resurrexit” (Luke 24:6). Ever since that morning,

these words have not ceased to resound throughout the universe as a proclamation of joy which spans the centuries unchanged and, at the same time, charged with infinite and ever new resonances.

“He is not here ... he is risen.” The heavenly messengers announce first and foremost that Jesus “is not here”: The Son of God did not remain in the tomb, because it was not possible for him to be held prisoner by death (cf. Acts 2:24) and the tomb could not hold on to “the living one” (Revelation 1:18) who is the very source of life.

Like Jonah in the belly of the whale, so too Christ crucified was swallowed up into the heart of the earth (cf. Matthew 12:40) for the length of a Sabbath. Truly, “that Sabbath was a high day,” as St. John tells us (John 19:31): the highest in history, because it was then that the “Lord of the foretold this: “Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel” (Ezekial 37:12). These prophetic words take on a singular value on Easter Day, because today the creator's promise is fulfilled;

today, even in this modern age marked by anxiety and uncertainty, we relive the event of the Resurrection, which changed the face of our life and changed the history of humanity. From the risen Christ, all those who are still oppressed by chains of suffering and death look for hope, sometimes even without knowing it.

May the Spirit of the risen one, in particular, bring relief and security in Africa to the peoples of Darfur, who are living in a dramatic humanitarian situation that is no longer sustainable; to those of the Great Lakes region, where many wounds have yet to be healed; to the peoples of the Horn of Africa, of Ivory Coast, Uganda, Zimbabwe and other nations which aspire to reconciliation, justice and progress. In Iraq, may peace finally prevail over the tragic violence that continues mercilessly to claim victims.

I also pray sincerely that those caught up in the conflict in the Holy Land may find peace, and I invite all to patient and persevering dialogue, so as to remove both ancient and new obstacles. May the

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Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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Please send all articles, comments and photos to the editor, Fr. Bill Cosgrove via e-mail at frbill@optonline.com or fax to 845-227-3951.

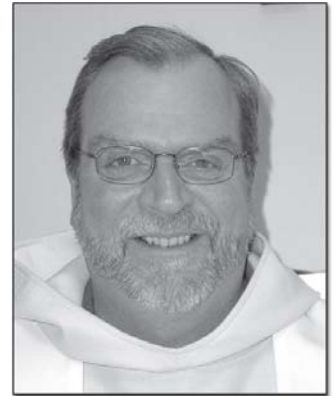
Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted!

Springtime is such a wonderful time of year! Everything proclaims life as nature puts forth its incredible display of new growth and color. What a tribute to the Creator! The days are longer and the air is warmer. Praise God, we got through another Winter!! (I find myself saying that more and more as I get older.)

At this time of year I get to interview our Confirmation candidates, which is always an interesting experience. I love our young folk. Like the Springtime they are full of life and color. It's fun to hear them describe their faith, and their commitment to Christ and his Church. I'll often ask them, "What does Confirmation mean to you?" Inevitably they will respond, "it means that I'm an adult in the faith" (I don't know where they get that; we never tell them that!). I in turn will ask, "What does that mean?" Nine times out of ten the answer is "Duh!" That's when I begin to talk about responsibility—adults are supposed to be responsible. Our kids usually run with that ball. I often share with the the sadness I often sense when as "adults in the faith" I do not see them any more. Confirmation is meant to a whole new beginning of Spirit-powered life for the Church and the recipient, but often it becomes a graduation ceremony from the Church. We surely need to pray for our kids.

Have you thought and prayed about your Confirmation lately? The powerful gifts given us are indescribable. We've been sacramentally empowered with the very life-breath of God, his Holy Spirit. The challenge for all of us is to ask the Lord to fire up in us the gifts given us in our sacraments. Such powerful grace is given to us in each of the sacraments. How important it is for us to enable this grace to be operative in our lives. I like to talk about moving sacramental graces from a

POTENTIAL force in our lives to a KINETIC one—grace in action. This is the work of the Holy Spirit, to make his gifts active—look at the Pentecost



experience in the Acts of the Apostles. Timid mousy people become dynamos of faith. I am sure that when the late Pope John Paul II saw a new Springtime of faith in the Church he had some of this in mind. You and I are all God has. He has gifted us and called us to be "adults in faith", to bring more and more people into his mighty kingdom.

To you, our intercessors and benefactors, I wish a happy Springtime on behalf of the Fraternity of Priests: a Springtime filled with new life and power in the Holy Spirit. May the Lord stir up the grace of your Confirmation within you. Again, thank you for your prayers and generosity. Be assured of our prayers in return.

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: **\$7,394.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage) **\$1,094.00**

Current as of March 31, 2006.

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international community, which reaffirms Israel's just right to exist in peace, assist the Palestinian people to overcome the precarious conditions in which they live and to build their future, moving toward the constitution of a state that is truly their own.

May the Spirit of the Risen One enkindle a renewed enthusiastic commitment of the countries of Latin America, so that the living conditions of millions of citizens may be improved, the deplorable scourge of kidnapping may be eradicated and democratic institutions may be consolidated in a spirit of harmony and effective solidarity.

Concerning the international crises linked to nuclear power, may an honorable solution be found for all parties, through serious and honest negotiations, and may the leaders of nations and of international organizations be strengthened in their will to achieve peaceful coexistence among different races, cultures and religions, in order to remove the threat of terrorism.

May the risen Lord grant that the strength of his life, peace and freedom be experienced everywhere. Today the words with which the Angel reassured the frightened hearts of the women on Easter morning are addressed to all: "Do not be afraid! ... He is not here; he is

risen" (Matthew 28:5-6). Jesus is risen, and he gives us peace; he himself is peace. For this reason the Church repeats insistently: "Christ is risen — 'Christós anésti.'"

Let the people of the third millennium not be afraid to open their hearts to him. His Gospel totally quenches the thirst for peace and happiness that is found in every human heart. Christ is now alive and he walks with us. What an immense mystery of love! "Christus resurrexit, quia Deus caritas est!" Alleluia!

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Plan ahead!! Save these dates!

Fraternity of Priests Annual Conference August 6 – 11, 2006

St. Edmund's Retreat Center
Enders Island
Mystic, Connecticut

When making plans to arrive by air, please use the Providence, Rhode Island Airport, [T.F. Green.]

Arrangements for hospitality with local fraternities can be made for those arriving early and those leaving later than Aug. 11.

PROPHECY FOR PRIESTS

How blessed to dwell in your presence, Lord God of Hosts. How blest we Fraternity of Priest members are to gaze on your loveliness here in the Blessed Sacrament. Nearness to you brings us safety and comfort. You, dearest Jesus, warm us, heal us, and renew us. Through you we have the courage to continue our priestly service. Continue to pour out your love upon us. Draw us into your Sacred Heart, where we shall always find refuge. We need this comfort and assurance in the troubled world in which we find ourselves today. It is a world that has lost its way. You, Jesus, light up the way to follow you safely as your disciples. Help us, members of the Fraternity of Priests, to be so filled with your grace as your followers so that we can bring the world to your feet in conversion and renewal. Give us priest brothers, the courage to step out and proclaim the Gospel with greater effectiveness. May the Holy Spirit guide us to ever more fruitful priestly ministry. May our ministry flow from our union with you in the Blessed Sacrament as we come into your presence often, if not daily. Jesus, we adore you. We praise and bless you. All for you, O Jesus. Jesus we trust in you.

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.

Fraternity of Priests, Inc.
Franciscan University
Steubenville, OH 43952-9671
Phone: (740) 283-4400
Fax: (740) 283-3622
Email: contact@fraternityofpriests.org
<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>



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