



Conference 2000

By Fr. Ray Ratzenberger

The conference was held once again at the Queen of Peace Retreat Center in Narragansett, Rhode Island, U.S.A. Attendance was less than in the past, probably due to it being scheduled during the Feast of the Assumption. Many priests had difficulty getting substitutes for their masses.

Among those who attended for the first time was Fr. Sylvester Nankpi. He became the first member from the Wa Fraternity (Ghana, West Africa) to attend a Fraternity conference.

The Lord was also there and He spoke to us in profound ways. The Lord asked for the priests of the Fraternity to allow Him to work through us in an unconventional and powerful way. He is looking for priests that are willing to be true disciples, willing to do whatever He asks of them. He wants us to be open to new models of ministry, ones of power through greater use of the spiritual gifts (1Peter 4:10).

Some of the scriptures we received were calling us to come out of the world into a deeper relationship with God, Genesis 15:1ff, as He called Abraham to do. The scripture, Isaiah 43:19, attested to the word that He is going to do something new with us. Luke 10:27 confirmed that the Lord



Priests at the conference after celebrating mass at the Cathedral of SS. Peter & Paul in Providence. Retired bishop Most Rev. Louis Gelineau (first row, 4th from the left) was the main celebrant.

wants us to live a radical Christian life. Ezekiel 12:1-12 warned us of the false prophets in the world today who teach what is contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He also cautioned us not to strive for success. We should desire faithfulness instead. He encouraged us to be different than the norm, and not to be afraid of the persecution that some times accompanies the call to holiness, John 15:18-21.

He also encouraged us to focus more of our energy on our local fraternities, to help make them more dynamic and healthy. We need to do this simultaneously with our mission to spread the message of the Fraternity throughout the world.

Among some of the key events

that were highlighted at the conference was the adoption of the revised Fraternity By-Laws. After some corrections were made they were unanimously passed by all present.

The brothers present also decided to hold conferences at different locations every year. Fraternities that would like to host conferences in their area should contact the Board through the web site or by other forms of mail. So far Tucson and Cleveland have made offers. Fr. Sylvester Nankpi was asked if he could contact the brothers in Wa to see if a future conference could be held there.

For information on the 2001 Conference, see page 3.

Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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Hi everybody!

I'm the new kid on the block and this is my first letter to you, so please put up with me. I'm Father John C. Allard, I'm a priest of the Diocese of Providence in Rhode Island, and I'm the newly elected Chairman of the Board for the Fraternity of Priests. I've been involved with the Fraternity since its inception in the early 1980's and I can attest to its incredible power and grace in the lives of hundreds of priests. I'm celebrating my 25th anniversary of ordination in this year of Jubilee (Sept. 19) and I'm convinced that the Fraternity's help and power in my life and in the lives of my brother priests here in Rhode Island (and around the world) is unique and necessary! The Lord is so good!

I have two thoughts for you, our patrons, supporters and intercessors. The first is that it is an honor to stand in the shoes of brothers like the late Fr. Forrest Rouelle (my Fraternity brothers are already calling me "little Forrest" and "Woody"), Fr. Bob Rousseau (a faithful brother in the Lord), and Fr. Bob Franco (who in a year's time did so much). I've known and shared with these brothers for years; it is an honor to succeed them! The second thought is a passage I've received in prayer from 1 Thess. 5: 11: "...encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." Long ago St. Paul captured for us not only what we as Catholic Christians should be doing, but also described what I believe the Fraternity is all about. Our priests need encouragement and building up more than ever before.

These are exciting times for us where the Lord is calling us into Eastern Europe, Africa, and even Asia, but he is also calling us to "encourage" and "build up" brothers here in the Americas. May His kingdom come! I want

to personally thank you, our benefactors and intercessors—without you this incredible task would be impossible. Know that we are praying for you regularly. I really believe that in these days where vocations are scarcer, and the demands on priests are greater, the work and mission of the Fraternity of Priests is more necessary than ever. Over this next year I hope to share with you more of the hopes and dreams (and crosses) of the Fraternity. Please pray for me and be assured of my prayers.

In Jesus,

Fr. John

New Board Members

Fr. Bob Giardina, from the Providence fraternity, was re-elected to the Board. His term will be for 3 years.

Msgr. John Allard, also from the Providence fraternity, is once again on the Board; he was also appointed for 3 years.

The Board chose Msgr. John Allard as the new Chairman, and **Fr. Cuthbert Alexander**, Port of Spain, Trinidad fraternity, as the Vice Chairman.

The other two members of the Board are **Timothy Graff** of the Newark, New Jersey fraternity, and **Ray Ratzenberger** from the Tucson, Arizona.

A heartfelt welcome and thanks to our new board members for their service to us!

2001 Conference

for the

Fraternity of Priests

The Port of Spain Fraternity has graciously accepted the recommendation of the Board to hold next year's conference in Trinidad. The dates will be Sunday, July 29 through, August 3, 2001. Trinidad is located as the southernmost island in the West Indies and is just a few miles off the coast of Venezuela. In close proximity to Trinidad is Betania, Venezuela, the site of many apparitions and other miracles that have been recognized by the church.



Board Members from left to right: Fr. Ray Ratzenberger, Fr. Bob Giardina, Fr. Tim Graff, Msgr. John Allard, Fr. Cuthbert Alexander



The sunny beaches of Trinidad await our gathering next summer!

The price of attending the conference for those traveling from abroad should be about the same as the conferences in Rhode Island. The cost of living in Trinidad is much cheaper than it is in the USA or Europe, so room and board will be a lot less than it was in Narragansett.

The conference will be held at the Seminary on Mt. St. Benedict. The seminary offers one of the most beautiful views of the island. The brothers in Trinidad will also check to see if Babsie Bleasdel, a leader of the renewal in Trinidad and a well sought after speaker at conferences throughout the world, would be able to speak to us. Other gifted speakers will also make presentations at the 2001 conference.

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.
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