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## The Harvest is Great!

by  
Fr. Timothy Graff

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always, until the end of the age” (Mt 28:19-20)

As I left Uganda and was traveling to Tanzania on a mission trip for the Fraternity last July, this passage was given to me as a farewell gift from one of the priests who had been on retreat with us. Although it did speak to me personally, it was also a message that the Lord was giving to the Fraternity of Priests.

As more and more doors have been opened for the Fraternity to set up new Fraternities in Africa, Eastern Europe, India and the Caribbean, we see very clearly how the Lord is calling us to serve the Church. The Lord has given us a vision for how priesthood can be lived out and how priests can be supported. It goes beyond culture and is applicable to priests around the world in very different circumstances and situations.

Jesus first of all calls us to make disciples of all nations. In just the past few weeks, I have been contacted by priests from Ethiopia and Uganda to set up Fraternity Conferences for next summer. I will be traveling to India to the Diocese of Vasai for a Fraternity Conference in January. We have additional inquiries from other parts of the world as well.

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The Lord also promises that He is with us. We saw this very dramatically in our Annual International Meeting in New York in August. Many of the priests who were there remarked about the power of our meeting. The Lord indeed visited us and made us aware of His presence. As we hear of what the Lord is doing with individual priests around the world, we see how present the Lord is to the Fraternity. God indeed is with us.

All of this is said in context of our needs for the coming year. Like so many religious and charitable organizations over the past few years, we have seen our contributions decrease. This can be blamed on a bad economy, our donor base getting older and other factors. What it has meant for us in the Fraternity of Priests is a drastic cutting back in our budget and expenses. I can guarantee you that we have a very tight budget, and that nothing you contribute is ever wasted.

What we have seen in the last few years is that we are in a “maintenance mode” rather than a “missionary mode”. Our contributions are barely covering our basic expenses. The cost of maintaining Visitation House as a house of hospitality for priests, our support staff of a part time secretary and maintenance man, the various costs of putting out our newsletter, and covering the basic expenses of our mission are barely being met. Thus, we have been forced to cut back on our mission work and our ability to take care of the brothers from Fraternities overseas. We have not had the ability to sponsor priests from the Third World to come to our annual meetings. For any international missions we have had, the brothers

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# Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted!

Recently I was reading an article where October 26<sup>th</sup> is being designated "Priesthood Sunday" in the United States. It is meant to be a celebration of the Priesthood of Jesus Christ as well as an encouragement to priests in these difficult days of the sexual abuse crisis. It seems like a very good idea and could be a great blessing for many people and priests.

Here in the Fraternity of Priests we are greatly blessed to be very encouraged many times in our life as priests. First of all, we receive it from our brother priests in the Fraternity. What a blessing it is to hear brother priests love one another and be a source of brotherhood and consolation for each other.

We also receive encouragement from the people we are privileged to serve and minister with. Often in very surprising ways we are amazed at how our little efforts have been a source of grace and blessing for someone's life. These encounters are a great sign of God's love and presence in our lives.

We are also greatly encouraged by YOU. It is your own support and prayers that make the life of the Fraternity of Priests possible. As we seek to support one another in our local Fraternities which meet weekly or monthly, and as we are invited to many different areas of the world we feel your support and prayers.

Never underestimate the power of your prayers. They are a source of rich blessing for each of us. Whether you are praying for a priest everyday based on the calendar in the newsletter or praying for your parish priests, they are a great help to each of us. Pray that we remain faithful to the call God has given to us.

This last August I was asked by the brothers of the Fraternity to become Chairman of the Board after Msgr. John Allard's term was up. I do so with great

humility but also with a great expectation of God's plan for us in the years ahead. I want to thank Fr. John for his leadership over these last years.



This is an exciting time for the Fraternity. We continue to be invited around the world to share our life and mission. May it continue to be a blessing for the Church throughout the world.

We look ahead confidently because of your encouragement, love and support.

Thank you for the blessing that you are to each of us.

In Christ,

Fr. Tim Graff



**Blessed  
are the  
peacemakers,  
for they  
shall be called  
the children  
of God.**

Matthew 5:9

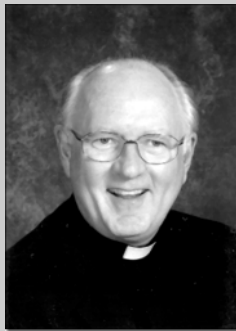
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who have gone have had to pay their own way.

That drastically limits how we can reach out to other priests and support our priests in very poor developing countries. As we plan missions for the upcoming year, we are very constrained by our lack of finances.

When I arrived home from East Africa this summer, I received an email from a priest who had attended one of the retreats that we were involved in. He stated that the retreat had saved his priesthood. He had been ordained only a few years and is in a very difficult assignment amidst great poverty and desolation. Through the ministry of the Fraternity he was greatly strengthened. He is staying in the priesthood and his people keep asking him what happened. He is so joyful and peaceful they cannot understand it.

The world is full of priests in situations just like this man. Your generosity and prayers help us to support him and give him life. I would ask you to prayerfully consider two requests. First, would you be able to be more generous in your financial support? It would allow us to serve other priests throughout the world. Second, can you please submit names for our mailing list? If you have friends or family members who love the priesthood and would seek to support us it would be a great blessing. You can mail those



Fr. Joe Looney of the Fraternity of Priests in the Archdiocese of Hartford is asking your help and prayers. He is working on a doctorate of ministry project at the Hartford Seminary to find ways to promote the Fraternity of Priests. It was a Fraternity Conference which launched Fraternities in Worcester, MA, Vermont and Connecticut.

The Hartford Fraternity is planning to put on a Fraternity Conference in the spring to offer our Fraternity life style to more priests. He asks for your prayers and suggestions. One thing that we can do is to offer announced masses for the growth of the Fraternity of Priests. Another suggestion is to invite the vicar of priests and the vocations director to one of our meetings and to make plans to invite the deacons and newly ordained. We can also ask our Serra Club to invite one of us as a speaker and ask for their prayers. As we expand to foreign countries we cannot neglect our priests at home who are praying to have what we can offer to them.

Our growth is essential. It deserves careful promotion. We all have too much invested to afford minimal growth. You may contact him at 203-754-6101, [stmargaret@aol.com](mailto:stmargaret@aol.com) or St. Margaret Church, 289 Willow St., Waterbury, Ct 06710.

addresses to us and we will be in contact with them.

The Lord has called us to all nations and is with us always. Through your generosity this will come to fulfillment in our life.

**REMINDER!**

If you would like to give a donation to help further the mission of the Fraternity, you can do so in two ways:

- 1.) Complete the form on the back of the newsletter and return in the envelope provided.
- 2.) Log on to our website at [www.fraternityofpriests.org](http://www.fraternityofpriests.org) and give using your credit card and our secure servers.



Please remember to pray for your parish priest and all priests who serve throughout the world!

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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The Fraternity of Priests pledge of financial accountability: We take very seriously the trust you put in us when you send a gift. We stand accountable before God and you to honor that trust. We pledge: **To use your gift carefully and wisely, and not to ask for money that is not needed.**

Dear Father/Tim/Graff,  
This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.  
 \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_