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## “Less” of the World -- “More” of Christ

By Father Moe Larochelle

The areas of Africa I traveled this past July are very Christian and very Catholic. Uganda I learned is about 70% Christian and about 40% Catholic. Tanzania is closer to 50% Christian and 20% Catholic. Therefore, I found the Church and faith in Africa to be vibrant.

There are a number of dioceses in Uganda. I spent my first 10 days in the Kampala area and that diocese. My main objective there was to give a retreat to some 50 priests and help them form “Fraternity of Priests” groups that serve as brotherhood and support for the renewal of parish life through the renewal of priests.

In the diocese of Kampala alone, there are over 150 men in the seminary. Someone asked me if there are so many because they seek to escape poverty? I doubt that very much, for the parish priests there are indeed among the poor. I understood the average salary of the priest to be about \$30 a month. Most priests use a large percentage of their salary for transportation to the “out-stations.” These are little missions spread over such a large area that a priest might visit each only once a month. At these out-stations, a catechist is generally given charge to organize the daily function of the community and see to teaching of the faith. One priest I spoke with had 30 out-stations

as part of his parish. One that I visited had about 200 families in the community. While people of the outstations are generous, they do not have lots of money. Therefore, it was not uncommon to see, bags of rice, chickens (usually live and clucking) or bread brought forward in the offertory procession.

The city parishes, such as Kampala seem to function much like our own city parishes. However, they too have out-stations attached. More than one priest may be assigned to a city parish, but their responsibilities could cover an area the size of Exeter-Hampton-Rye-Portsmouth.

The city parishes are no less immune from the poverty that seems to be part of the fabric of Catholic life there. Most of the Churches I visited were rundown and in disrepair. Churches that were better maintained are attached to religious communities which have connections to European countries and the United States.

While I speak of poverty in the parishes, one would never know that on a given Sunday. In spite of the high temperatures and humidity, most men arrive at Holy Mass in coat and tie, and women are sharply dressed in traditional African apparel. Even in Dar Es Salaam, a sea coast city, it would be considered disrespectful to attend Holy Mass in anything less than formal Sunday attire.

For the most part, the African people would not consider themselves poor. However, they do realize that they are not as “developed” as European and North American countries. To their advantage, television is not a large distraction because there are no cable networks and for most people programming reception comes via antenna. I did see some satellite dishes, but they were a rare sight. My initial perception of TV there was a flashback to my parents’ home in the late 60’s. While we have a PC in most of our homes, internet access is available to people at work if a persons job requires a computer. But for most part, the “internet café” is the point of entry for most. Though TV and PC seem to be a luxury, cell phone technology is very well established and is a vital form of communication.

Earlier, I said that scarcity of TV programming and availability of computer internet is an advantage. I say that because it makes them more available to their faith. In Mbeya, Tanzania, the rally I participated in lasted 20 days and was daily attended by about 6000! The rally in Iringa, Tanzania also ran for 20 days and its average daily attendance was about 8000 and on the final day for the closing Mass with the bishop, the attendance was estimated to be over 12000.

Indeed an important witness from the African people is; the more

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# Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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## Editor's Box:

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

Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted!

As we begin this month of October which is so dedicated to the Blessed Mother I think of the place that Mary has in the life of all priests and especially in the life of the Fraternity. What a wonderful blessing we have as Mary prays for us and shows the example of true discipleship.

In the scene of Jesus on the cross on Good Friday in conversation with Mary and St. John we see how the Lord wants all of us to relate to His Mother. In a very real sense He gives His Mother to the Church, and all of us are able to share in that blessing and that relationship.

As Jesus says to John, "This is your mother", he speaks to all disciples. He is not only talking to John and those of his time but to all who will follow the Lord in future generations. We have a mother who loves us very much and wants the best for each of us.

We see this in two distinct ways: her intercession and her example. Mary intercedes for all of us before the throne of God. Our Mother always wants what is best for her children so of course she prays for us and presents our needs to God.

We also see in the life of Mary the example of true discipleship. By her docility to the Holy Spirit and her faithfulness to the commands of the Lord, we see her love and devotion to the Lord lived out.

I would encourage you in this special month to reflect upon the gift of Mary and the example that she is to each of us.

This month we are including a financial report for the past year. Thanks to your prayers and your generosity we are able to do so much for the priesthood and the building up of the Kingdom of God.

We cannot thank you enough for all that you do for the Fraternity of Priests. Plans are already underway for further missions to India, Ethiopia and Tanzania next summer and we recently received

inquiries from Xambia and Rwanda. What a privilege to be a part of what God is doing in this special time.

We could not do all of this without you.

In Christ,



Fr. Timothy Graff



## Good and Faithful Servant, Rest in Peace...

The Fraternity of Priests in Columbus, Ohio grieves the loss of two of their brothers in the past three months. We ask you to pray for the repose of the souls of Fr. Patrick, O'Donnell, (R.I.P. July 4, 2004) longtime editor of the Glenmary Challenge magazine as well as Fr. Jerry Raiser ( R.I.P. June 3, 2004 ) The Columbus Fraternity is now made up of seven priests.

## 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: **\$7,467.00**

Actual Donations: **\$4,114.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage) **(\$3,552.00)**

*Current as of August, 31 2004.*

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one has, the less room one has for Christ. I was greatly convicted that perhaps "less" of the world is really room for "more" in Christ.

**"When he saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick" (Mt.14:14).**

This particular verse became real to me when I arrived in Mbeya Africa for my first "Rally." There were about 6000 people present for this 15th day of a 21 day rally. The night before, I was asked to preach a basic talk on, "recommitting my life to Jesus". After the talk, the

priests and other team members were asked to go off stage and out into the crowd to pray with people who wanted to renew their commitment to Jesus.

Not realizing what I was getting myself into, I went into the crowd with the other team members accompanied by my interpreter and made myself available for prayer. Suddenly the 6000 came forward for this prayer ministry and I found myself literally surrounded by so many people that I lost sight of the stage and could only see thousands of people all around me. Surprisingly, I did not panic at being so immersed in this

sea of humanity. The emotion of compassion for these people who were coming for prayer made me so concerned for them that my personal safety no longer mattered. Indeed, praying for the throng of people was the only thing that mattered and I was sure that my safety was being supervised by my loving Heavenly Father.

Reflecting on this, I have wondered how often we fearfully avoid caring for people of the Body of Christ because we are afraid. We may fear being unappreciated, taken advantage of, or incapable of fulfilling the present need and demand. While all these concerns may help us discern where and when we should help, sometimes the only right thing to do is to cast aside all fear and do the compassionate and loving thing. "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear" (1 Jn. 4:18). In doing so, we literally join the sacrifice of our life with Christ on the Cross. Then, as Christ crucified was cared for by his Father, that same person of the Trinity cares for us as we courageously use our bodies to minister the compassion of Jesus Christ.

I wonder how often fear stifles the ministry of loving compassion in our marriages, in family life with children, among difficult relatives, or among friends?

In the name of Jesus, I bind and cast our all fear so that we may be liberated to courageously love!

This article was contributed by:

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### 2003-2004 Annual Financial Report of the Fraternity of Priests

	Income		Expense
Lay Donations	32,957	Tithe (FIRE, Ann. House)	8,833
Easter 2003 Appeal	7,498	Payroll	19,883
Epiphany 2004	2,131	Medical Insurance	3,436
Fraternity Tithes	44,261	Visitation House	14,245
House Room and Board	4,887	Annual Fraternity Mtg	11,975
Annual Fraternity Mtg	12,422	Travel	2,383
Interest Earned	4,460	Fundraising	1,919
Miscellaneous	197	Professional Services	11,107
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$108,817</b>	Office	4,783
		Printing	9,600
		Postage	11,595
		<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$99,763</b>
		<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 9,054</b>

### Fraternity Prophecies

O my brothers I call you to simplicity; a single hearted focus on my sovereign anointing over your ministries. I wash you, cleanse you with my Precious Blood from the oppression, sadness and fears brought on by the evils of these times. How this world has filled you with fears! Like Peter walking on the water, or the dragon ready to devour the child born of the woman in Revelation, I want to lift you up and grasp you by the hand and deliver you and steady your trembling spirits. Be no longer afraid; I am with you in a powerful way. These tribulations are to humble your ego from false adulation, hero worship or even the desire to be well liked. These are flimsy and transitory. I will make you solid in the faith—a wall of brass. You've put the city (New York) before me like a fleece of wool. I will reign over it, and give you power and authority. Keep your eyes on me—be not anxious with fear. I love you and will form you as shepherds after my own heart. Be single hearted, steadfast and confident, o my brothers.

from NY Fraternity – August 10<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Tom Devery

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.*

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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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!**

November 2004						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Rev. Msgr. 1 Edmund Griesedieck <i>St. Louis</i>	Rev. 2 James Dyer <i>St. Louis</i>	Rev. 3 Albert Danter <i>St. Louis</i>	Rev. 4 Anthony Rochel <i>St. Louis</i>	Rev. 5 Martin Mannion <i>St. Louis</i>	Rev. 6 Martin Mulvihill <i>St. Louis</i>
Rev. 7 Nicholas Weibl <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. 8 Thomas Oedy <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. 9 Robert DeSloover <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. 10 Gerald Knueven <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. 11 Norbert Howe <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. 12 Edward Littelmann <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. 13 James Brown <i>Toledo</i>
Rev. 14 Jerome Nowakowski <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. 15 Liam Leahy <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. 16 Henry Dauphinais <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. 17 Carlos Cocio <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. 18 Jim Hobert <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. 19 Dale Branson <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. 20 Isaac Fynn <i>Tucson</i>
Rev. 21 Ray Ratzenberger <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. 22 Joe Baker <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. 23 Alexander Mills <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. 24 Godfrey Oparaekwe <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. 25 Henri Capdeville <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. 26 Peter Nwachukwu <i>Tucson</i>	Most Rev. 27 Patrick Ziemann <i>Tucson</i>
Rev. 28 David Reinders <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. 29 Gerald Myers <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. 30 John Fahey <i>Tucson</i>				

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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