
Fraternity of Priests Retreat

Archdiocese of Samoa

By Father Ian Taylor

Archbishop Alapati, recently ordained Archbishop of Western Samoa and Savaii, islands in the South Pacific, extended an invitation in January to Fr. Ian Taylor of the Fraternity of Priests, to conduct the annual retreat for priests of his archdiocese. The archbishop is a visionary and staunch advocate of John Paul II's "New Evangelization." In his own words, "There can be no 'New Evangelization' without a 'New Pentecost'." Hence, the theme of the Priests' Retreat was: "A Priesthood in the Power of the Holy Spirit."

Fr. Ian had been part of a Renewal Ministries team led by the Greenhaw's on two weeks' mission to Samoa in Jan. /Feb. this year. That mission included a one-day retreat for priests focused on the need for a personal on-going relationship with Jesus, and the need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. The openness of the Samoan people, their priests, and especially their archbishop, to the Holy Spirit proved a great encouragement for a follow-up mission.

A lay team from California would accompany Fr. Ian, and they would work principally with the youth and other laity. From the start there arose great excitement

about this mission, since most of the team was totally inexperienced in ministry and mission. Ten (10) of the seventeen (17) had only been baptized in the Holy Spirit in March of this year at a Life in the Spirit Seminar. And, six of them were youths and young adults between 13 yrs. and 22 yrs. of age. Fr. Taylor must have been crazy to attempt such an expedition. An accomplished singer from Tampa, Florida, Kristin Taylor, our liaison for Samoa, a dynamic preacher from Trinidad, Mrs. Janet Chinnia, and Dennis Donahue, founder/director of Ends of the Earth Outreach comprised the rest of the foreign team. Locally, Mrs. Carol Paul-Achong, a Samoan, would complete the team. Only very basic training was given the team prior to departure.

Twenty-seven to thirty priests, mostly diocesan, consistently attended the 4-day retreat, including Archbishop Alapati. They all lived in with the team at Tofomamao and this allowed for a wonderful spirit of brotherhood and Christian living. Team members spent hours in Blessed Sacrament adoration, interceding for the priests and for the ministry to the laity.

Priestly formation today lays great emphasis on academics often at the expense of spirituality. So, the Fraternity retreat helps priests re-root their priesthood in Jesus and empowers them for ministry in the Holy Spirit. Much of this teaching proved new to the priests, who therefore raised many questions. The Fraternity call to radical gospel repentance, conversion and holiness for the priest himself was highlighted by the account of Fr. Steven Scheier, the priest who thought he was okay, but almost made it to hell. (See, www.frtommylane.com/stories/Fr.StevenScheier). The assembly fell silent at the end of that talk.

The call to evangelize before we catechize caused animated discussion. And, as expected, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially tongues and healing occasioned many questions and some doubts. What was clearly emerging was a new vision, a new way of perceiving our priesthood and for some, it was a hard pill to swallow.

Denny Donahue who assisted Fr. Ian, gave testimony of his own conversion and baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Visitation message, God's timely intervention in our times in people's personal lives was constantly proclaimed. The ball was now in their court. What would their response be? These Samoan priests held a meeting by themselves to discuss the matter.

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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!

It's always difficult to write a moment earlier than when this article will be printed. Today is Thursday, Sept. 15 (deadline day—so I am scurrying!). As I write, our country is still reeling from the aftermath of hurricane Katrina. I have to admit that my emotions were all over the lot: deep compassion for those suffering, anger toward those preying on the less fortunate and defenseless, and awe at the outpourings of faith and help. I asked myself, "What can I do to better a broken world?" Donations are always needed, but what can we as Christians do to contribute to the betterment of our world? One of the Gospel teachings that came to mind was Mt. 18. 15-20—this was the gospel for the weekend following the hurricane. To recap, Jesus states that if a brother sins against you, "go and tell him his fault between you and him alone"(v.15). If that doesn't work try again, "take one or two others along with you"(v.16). If that doesn't work, "tell the church"(v.17); and if this doesn't work,"then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector"(v.17).

What we see here is Jesus' plan for righting wrongs and restoring Christian relationships. Jesus calls us to work it out face to face. How often do we sin against this? So often everyone else but the person involved knows about the problem! If it doesn't work face to face, Jesus recommends bringing another Christian along to help change an emotionally charged atmosphere. If that doesn't work, we bring it to the Body, "the church", for prayer and healing. American society is so prone to lawsuits for everything. This is bad, but it is scandalous when Christians sue other Christians. Why can't the Body heal itself from within? If this still doesn't work, Jesus says something totally out of character,"treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector". Is he saying we should shun people or write them off? I don't think so! How did Jesus treat Gentiles and

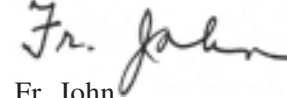
tax collectors? He reached out to them still, he never wrote anyone off—even with the Pharisees he burned no bridges.

Can you imagine how lives would

change if we followed Jesus' plan for righting wrongs? This could change America, and surely contribute to world peace. How far from the Word of God have we strayed in this department. G.K. Chesterton once said: "It's not that Christianity has failed; it's never been tried".

Thanks to all of you, our intercessors and donors. Your belief in the Fraternity of Priests enables us to carry on our work with and for priests. Know that you are in our prayers too! Remember to pray for your parish priest. Special prayers go out to the priests of the Gulf Coast as they continue the ministry of healing and rebuilding among their people. God bless you all.

In Jesus,



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: **\$2,596.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage) **(\$3,704.00)**

Current as of August 31, 2005.

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The lay team was alerted and intercession was increased with some of the youth spending the night at adoration.

Thursday, the day of decision arrived. The lay team assisted, bearing personal testimonies to the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives and the joys of conversion to Jesus. One could still sense hesitancy, perhaps a fear of the unknown. Then, one young priest asked: "What are we waiting for? I want to be baptized in the Holy Spirit." Suddenly, the tension had broken, the floodgates were opened, and the Spirit could now come in power. And, come He did. Several priests burst into the gift of tongues together as the Spirit was invoked, and the team led off in tongues. The priests displayed great humility, allowing the lay team to lay hands on them, assisting them, and prophesying over them. Several priests also prophesied. What a glorious sight to behold, laity and clergy praying together in the Holy Spirit. One cannot fail to recognize the power of the witness of lay people in the mission field and their impact on the priests, the laity to whom they ministered in the schools and the churches, and on the archbishop himself. Archbishop Alapati in an earlier interview lauded this as a model for the Church.

Friday, the final day, all of the retreatants, the archbishop included, formed themselves into Fraternity groups. There already exists a spirit of fraternity among the Samoa priests. Thus, there are now 4 or 5 Fraternities in the Archdiocese of Samoa and two of

these had already met by the time of the team's departure. One priest, Fr. Toni bore testimony that the retreat had really done much for the renewal of his whole priesthood. We later met him in his parish, ministering powerfully with the Eucharist to his people.

Archbishop Alapati expressed the desire to see this renewal in the Holy Spirit happen in the seminaries as well. He also intended to inform his brother bishops of the South Pacific that the Fraternity of Priests stands ready to assist them too in their dioceses.

Fr. Ian personally shared this with Bishop Quinn in America Samoa (another diocese), when the team made a short stopover there before returning to the United States and Trinidad. To God be the glory!

P.S. Contact Fr. Ian Taylor at:
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Thoughts to Consider

On the occasion of his ordination to the priesthood St. Norbert said:

"O Priest! You are not yourself because you are God. You are not of yourself because you are the servant and minister of Christ. You are not your own because you are the spouse of the Church. You are not yourself because you are the mediator between God and man. You are not from yourself because you are nothing. What then are you? Nothing and everything. O Priest! Take care lest what was said to Christ on the cross be said to you: "He saved others, himself he cannot save."

PADUA PLACE/ MUSSIO HOUSE: A SABBATICAL PLACE FOR PRIESTS

There is an influx of priests taking classes at Franciscan University every semester for sabbatical. Limited local housing is available. Padua Place/Mussio House can be an option for these priests. Priests need to have a place to rest, pray, study and enjoy fraternal companionship in a hospitable and affirming environment.

The homes are very comfortable. Rent (\$550/mo. & \$50/mo. extra for garage) includes all furnishings, maintenance and services, general housekeeping, house laundry (linens provided) personal laundry, basic food/grocery (enough for a light breakfast, snack or light supper). Various support services, pastoral ministry updates and other activities as articulated by guests are available.

Contact:

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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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 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

November 2005						
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Rev. 6 Gerald Knueven <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. 7 Robert Desloover <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. 8 Thomas Oedy <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. 9 Nicholas Weibl <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. 10 Norm Clisch <i>Upper Peninsula</i>	Rev. 11 Theodore Brodeur <i>Upper Peninsula</i>	Rev. 12 Michael Steber <i>Upper Peninsula</i>
Rev. 13 Darryl Pepin <i>Upper Peninsula</i>	Rev. 14 Ray Hoefgen <i>Upper Peninsula</i>	Rev. 15 James Roetzer <i>Upper Peninsula</i>	Rev. 16 Christopher Gardiner <i>Upper Peninsula</i>	Rev. 17 Raymond Zeugner <i>Upper Peninsula</i>	Rev. 18 Larry Vandamme <i>Upper Peninsula</i>	Rev. 19 Cyril Kottayarikil <i>Upper Peninsula</i>
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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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