

May 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Rev. Joseph Looney Hartford, CT	Rev. Christopher Gaffrey, OFM Hartford, CT	Rev. Will-Roger Malave Hartford, CT	For the souls of our deceased FOP members	For prayer requests received	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. Francis Dabre India	Rev. Mr. Bernabe Romo Indianapolis, IN	Rev. Paul Landwerlen Indianapolis, IN	Rt. Rev. Bryan Eyman Indianapolis, IN	Rev. George Joseph Nangachiveetill Indianapolis, IN	Rev. Harold Knueven Indianapolis, IN	Rev. Thomas Cawley, CM Kansas City
Rev. Roderic Giller, OSB Kansas City	Rev. Earl Dekat Kansas City	Rev. Bob Hasenkamp Kansas City	Rev. Rheal Forest Manitoba, Canada	Rev. Raymond Zeugner Marquette	Rev. Ryan Ford Marquette	Rev. Darryl Pepin Marquette
Rev. Larry Van Damme Marquette	Rev. Aaron Nowicki Marquette	Rev. Brandon Oman Marquette	Rev. Jeff Johnson Marquette	Rev. Michael Steber Marquette	Rev. Christopher Gardiner Marquette	Rev. Timothy Ekaitis Marquette
Rev. Benjamin Hasse Marquette	Rev. Norman Clisch Marquette	Rev. Paul O'Donnell Duggan New Jersey	Rev. Tim Graff New Jersey			



"To gather priests to Christ and to one another to proclaim..."

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

My Time As Intercessor

By Fr. Jim Hobert

One of the main lessons we learn in the Renewal is the importance of prayer—especially intercessory prayer. We can say the main job of priests is prayer. The Church requires priests to pray daily the Liturgy of the Hours, a prayer of intercession for the Church and its people. Several years ago, when first elected to the *Fraternity of Priests Board*, I accepted the year assignment of praying for the prayer requests that come in through this newsletter. It was a profound experience for me.

I mostly offered the prayers during my daily Liturgy of the Hours prayers. This made my own prayer more exciting and lively. Your prayer requests were so poignant and profound, I began to look forward to praying! I also included requests in the petitions of our Sunday Masses; at our Tucson *Fraternity* gatherings; at my weekly *Cursillo* grouping; and even at diocesan gatherings, like our annual Convocation of Priests. Most of the requests were from the U.S., but there were also prayers from Canada, India, Ireland, and Finland.

I was greatly impressed with your faith. The requests were really windows into what you yourselves were praying for. It was as if I were simply invited to pray along with you. Your prayers were mostly selfless. You think first of the sufferings of others, not yourselves. Typical was the request of a man who prayed for

a loved one suffering from cancer. At the end of his request, as a kind of footnote, he humbly asked that we pray also for him. He too had cancer.

I saw your great love that you have for those close to you. Parents sent in many requests: prayers for adult children with marriage problems; prayers expressing feelings of pain, worry, and powerlessness over children's impending divorces that would affect loved grandchildren. There were prayer requests for rebellious daughters; for sons being sent to Afghanistan; for reconciliation between a son and a grandson; for safe births and healthy babies. There were many prayers for loved ones with addiction problems, especially alcohol. Parents would ask for spiritual help for their children: for children to have their marriages blessed in church; for children to come back to church and turn their lives to the Lord; for grandchildren to be baptized; for sons and grandsons to hear the call to priesthood; for children to find a place of worship and a good community of believers.

Not surprisingly, spouses were frequent subjects of prayer. People prayed for: the conversion of spouses; for the salvation of an ex-spouse; for a spouse to call on God to bring joy to his final days. There were many prayers of grief and loss concerning spouses who had died, but were still greatly missed. Elderly parents were

also subjects of prayer. These hit home to me, as my parents are 90 years old. One woman prayed for the peaceful death of her mother, 101 years old. Others prayed for strength to care for parents with dementia.

You also prayed for world events, including: Peace in the Middle East; "for the destruction of the spirit of anti-Semitism;" for an end to terrorism. You prayed for the President; for members of the Supreme Court, especially concerning the controversial HHS Mandate; for U.S. service men and women. You prayed for your cities and towns. Not surprisingly, Pro-Life issues were the subjects of many prayer requests, as people prayed for women in pregnancy, and for the mothers of aborted babies. You prayed for the victims of natural and human disasters. For example, many prayer requests came in when the shooting of 26 small children and adults occurred at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. One person prayed for rain in Kenya. This came with many prayers for rain from those who live in our farming communities. Other requests were for: prisoners, especially those on death row; for a soup kitchen run by the Edmundite Fathers; for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

The many prayer requests for priests was both inspiring and humbling for me. People prayed for the new Pope (Francis) both before and after he

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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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Do you know anyone who would like to receive our Newsletter?
(Please print legibly)

Name _____
Street _____
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Editor's Box:

Please send articles, comments, and photos to the FOP Newsletter editor, Fr. Bob Carr, via e-mail to editor@fraternityofpriests.org

Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted. Any submissions will help make each issue better!

My Fraternity in Cleveland buried one its founding members, Fr. Tom Dunphy on March 16, 2017. The original team at Steubenville of Frs. Ferry, Dreher, Kosicki and Wade came to Cleveland in November of 1983. After two Friday afternoon meetings Frs. Mike Scheid, Tom Dunphy and I were commissioned to begin the Fraternity of Cleveland. We started in January of 1984.

I met with Fr. Dunphy for 33 years and came to know him as a man who sincerely loved the Lord and the people he pastored at St. Martin of Tours Parish in Valley City, Ohio. Among his more notable qualities were his cheerful demeanor, his inability to worry and his focus on Jesus. All his parishioners had this scriptural phrase memorized: *Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus!* (from Hebrews 12:2)

Shortly after our Fraternity began, Fr. Tom was transferred. He went from being the chaplain for a vibrant charismatic covenant community and large Catholic nursing home to being the parochial vicar for a sickly pastor of a county parish of around 300 families. The transition was not easy. The pastor was cantankerous and the parish was on autopilot. It was quite a change.

Fr. Tom poured himself into his new assignment with a combination of zeal and resentment. His efforts to get everyone "saved" led him to develop ulcer like symptoms. However, the Lord came to the rescue. One day during his prayer time he heard the Lord say, "Tom, you are to love these people. I will save them."

That prayer time changed the trajectory of Fr. Tom's service to the parish. He relaxed, laughed and served the people of God. Within a year, the older pastor passed away and Fr. Tom became pastor. In the thirty plus years that followed St. Martin's grew to a parish of over 1500 families. The old church was beautifully renovated. Then a new church was built, along with a hall,

meeting rooms and office area. The cemetery was expanded and improved. Parking lots grew.

Fr. Tom's real focus was the people. He served the dying, the newborn and everyone in between. Adult education

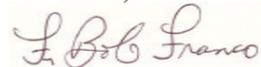
programs and youth ministry grew. The parish staff grew along with the parish. Year after year Fr. Tom had disproportionately more weddings than just about any other priest. His love of his people was returned in many ways including having a new street across from the church named Dunphy's Way!

The hidden but real foundation for Fr. Tom's ministry was the Fraternity disciplines. He was a man of prayer, scripture and faithful attendance to Fraternity meetings. Fr. Tom sought to bring his people alive in the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Tom was still serving as the pastor and only priest at St. Martin's at the age of 86. After a short illness, the Lord called him to eternity on March 11.

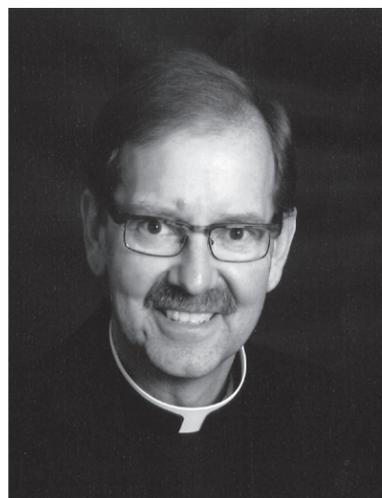
The Lord promised Jeremiah, "I will appoint for you shepherds after my own heart" (Jeremiah 3:15). The Lord's heart is one of love. Fr. Tom Dunphy knew that. *God, grant us more of these shepherds!*

In Christ,



Fr. Bob

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!



Fraternity Financial Report

Monthly Donation Budget: \$ 4,750.00

Actual Donations: \$ 4,952.00

Budget Surplus/Deficit: \$ 202.00

Current as of February, 28, 2016.

...continued from page 1

was chosen. Many of you prayed that there would be more faith and hope among priests; that God send the Church "on-fire holy priests" and "Holy Spirit-filled and -led priests." There were many prayers for the members of Fraternity of Priests. You also prayed for the priests like me who write these articles for the newsletter (I'm not sure if these were prayers of intense gratitude, or of intense suffering). There was a request for a priest who had been accused of misconduct—and also for his accuser. There was another prayer for a priest who was in moral turmoil and who had made an immoral advance toward a woman—the victim herself requested the prayer. People often would pray for the priests of their dioceses. There was even a prayer that more people would pray for priests. You made requests for specific priests, some of whom I knew, which brought back memories for me. It was apparent that priests have deeply touched the lives of many of you. There were prayers: for vocations; for missionaries; "for increased faith for all religious brothers and sisters;" for deacons. You prayed that new Fraternity groups would form.

People would also ask prayers for their parish communities. One person noted that their parish was divided, named the pastor, and asked for wisdom for him to guide the parish through the challenges. Another prayed "for all parishes that have closed, and their people." Others prayed for those going through the RCIA program and receiving the Sacraments. There were many prayers for the Charismatic Renewal movement and for the success of Life in the Spirit Seminars. An example:

"for a great out-pouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church and mankind to bring a great spiritual awakening for repentance, conversion, and vocations to the priesthood, religious, and laity." Many priests and religious sisters would sent in their requests.

Not surprisingly, many of the requests concerned physical suffering. There were prayers for: a bone marrow transplant; a slowing down of Macular Degeneration (the person added, "I want to see"); Lyme disease. There were prayers for those with cancer, and for the elderly. People in nursing homes themselves sent in requests. One prayed for help in adjusting to aging issues. Another elder prayed "for a good month." It was inspiring to see many people add to their requests, "God's will be done" or "You know, Lord Jesus." As I prayed for people over the course of the year, I could see a progression. A request would be sent in for a healing. Later, there would be a prayer of thanks for a successful surgery—or prayers for the person who died.

The suffering was not just physical. Many were under heavy financial pressure. People prayed to be approved for government benefits from Medicare or the Veterans Administration. One prayed for "protection of family resources so we can support family and church." There were legal crises. There were many prayers for students facing the pressures of studies and exams. Some prayed to be delivered from depression and suicidal thoughts. One wrote: "I am in a horrible crisis of faith. I feel God has betrayed me and abandoned me."

It was not all negative. There were many prayers of Thanksgiving: for healings and miracles received; for

jobs obtained; for weddings and the blessings of new sons- and daughters-in-law; for the passing of a doctoral exam; "for my 44 years as a priest." One prayed poignantly, "Thank God for the extra time he gave me on earth." Many prayed for spiritual growth: "That Jesus becomes first in our lives;" "for God to bless me with the Holy Spirit;" "for the gift of faith;" "for on-going conversion;" "for unconditional love and forgiveness;" "for an understanding of my gifts;" "Grant me a Marian heart and soul;" "for growth in Franciscan littleness." One request I could relate to was: "to be a safe driver." You prayed for a better prayer life: "That my prayer life will double;" "growth in Eucharistic love;" "for good desires to go to prayer;" "for transportation to church." I liked this one: "I have just completed a great journey of prayer." You also prayed to serve better: "For my sacristan duty;" "for adoration ministry;" "for my hospital work."

You prayed for spiritual events: "For the grace of a good retreat;" "for an encounter with Christ during Holy Land pilgrimage;" a priest prayed that he would have a good sabbatical. Many prayed for a holy Lent, or a blessed Easter. Requests increased during Christmas holidays. You also prayed for God's guidance: for "the right direction for my life;" "for making a decision to get married;" for a good transition from one spiritual director to another. Finally, you prayed for the Church itself, that it would stand firm in its values, protected from evil forces.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

