

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

January 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. Dale Branson <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. Alexander Mills, OSB <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. James Hobert <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. Isaac Fynn <i>Tucson</i>	For the souls of our deceased FOP members	For prayer requests received	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. Liam Leahy <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. Joel Almendras <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. Henry Dauphinais, MS <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. Mark Long <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. Ray Ratzenberger <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. Pietro Hewlet <i>Ukraine</i>	Most Rev. Vitalij Skomarsovski <i>Ukraine</i>
Rev. Lance Harlow <i>Vermont</i>	Rev. Sylvester Nankpi <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. Martin Ninnang <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. Leo Dabuoh <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. Cyrus Tang <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. John Bosco Eledi <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. Romanus Tampah <i>Wa, West Africa</i>
Rev. Stephen Kangmennaang <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. Evarist Kuuwulong <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. Peter Paul Langnedomah <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. Gervase Angsotinge <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. Stephen Kantubog <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. Bennette Tang <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. John Kpan <i>Wa, West Africa</i>
Rev. Fidelis Vielu <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. Matthew Tuurosong <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. Robert DeGrandis, SJ <i>Washington DC</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.

Fraternity of Priests, Inc.
PO Box 442
Steubenville, OH 43952-5442
Phone: (740) 283-4400
Fax: (740) 283-3622
Email: contact@fraternityofpriests.org
<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

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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 care-fully and wisely, and not to ask for money that is not needed.

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

This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.

Dear Father Bob Franco,



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Reflections on the Fraternity of Priests

By Father Robert J. Giardina, Providence Chapter

In 1980, the theme of Steubenville Conference for Priests, Deacons and Seminarians was, "Who Shepherds the Shepherds." Priests from the Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island had been coming to the annual conference for several years. There was a feeling and a question among us, "How do we take and use all that we had experienced?" Fr. Mike Roy expressed what we were feeling, "We come here every year and we get all revved up and we say, 'Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.' Then we go home and it is 'As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world with end. Amen'."

So a group of us met in the Fire Side Room of the Keelan building to discuss what we should do. We agreed to wait upon the Lord and listen to His word and get back together in September. The summer passed very quickly we all gathered at Fr. John Allard's house on the lake. We shared what the Lord had been telling us. We agreed that through no fault of their own the Bishops' administrative duties made it very difficult to shepherd their priests and that it was up to our brother priests to pastor one another.

Fr. John Dreher shared with us a prophetic vision he had of a globe with little fires springing

up all over the United States, the Caribbean, Africa, Eastern Europe, India and Samoa.

We began by first inviting all our brother priests to join us for a "Life in the Spirit Seminar", and then we gathered once a week for support and prayer 1:30pm to about 4:00pm. We talked about what it meant "to gather priests to Christ and to proclaim the Visitation message." Rhode Island is a small state so we could easily make that commitment. We met for Charismatic prayer and worship. We then took a break to socialize and then minister to our brothers as they needed. We committed ourselves to the "Kingdom Disciples" and to one another.

For 3 years we met as the "Priests Community." In 1983, Fr. John Dreher shared with the assembled brother priests at the Steubenville Conference what we were doing. The Fraternity of Priests was born. To me the most important of the Kingdom Disciplines and the reason we exist is the 8th Discipline; "To have a zeal for personal committed relationships with the Lord and our Brothers."

I feel this means that God has given us spiritual gifts so that we will be able to feel the pain when one of our brothers is suffering and needs ministry. I thank God every day that I have had brothers who

reached out and supported me. My brother priests have always been there for me. Without my brother priests I don't know where I would be 40 years later.

What brother among us would not be willing to help his brother hear confessions or cover a mass if we were asked? The greatest danger, I see to the priestly ministry is being "a lone ranger". We need one another. Trying to be a "lone ranger", trying to do it all alone, we are vulnerable to the world, the flesh and the devil.

We heard it many times, "Relatio before Misso." This is how we go forth and proclaim the Visitation Message. Would that people could say about us what they said in the early church, "See how these Christians (brother priests) love one another."

This year in Kansas City we reviewed the Kingdom Disciples again. What became even clearer to me is the need for "Committed Brotherhood". I often hear priests complain about the lack of fraternity among brother priests. In my mind, it always comes down to one word, maybe for some it is a scary word, "commitment". In order to reach out to other priests one has to know it takes commitment. "Am I committed to reaching out to a brother in need?" "What if the other priest is not ready to have someone reach out to him?"

A commitment to a brother takes a

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Dear Fraternity Brothers and Friends of the Priesthood

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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!

Following up on the personal commitments Fraternity of Priests, men in the Fraternity make commitments of a *brotherly* nature. In some ways, these are the most challenging and fruitful.

There are the four commitments made by members of Fraternity of Priests that express our brotherly relationships. The first is "to attend meetings faithfully, not missing without reason and notice." This is one of the hardest commitments to follow through on. Busyness (Being Under Satan's Yoke) creeps in and makes us fearful of making time for meeting with each other. Yet when we make time to be with our brother priests, it is then that we can truly be refreshed and encouraged. One of the axioms of the Fraternity is: *relatio before missio* meaning that our fraternity relationships take priority over our work. We are to put Fraternity meetings on our calendar and schedule other duties and activities around them.

The second brother commitment is "to accept leadership and teaching of the Fraternity". Although we do not have many formal teachings (these ten disciplines/commitments comprise most of them), we strive to be loyal to the Magisterium of the Church.

Our third brotherly commitment is that we "present personal and spiritual matters to the Fraternity for discernment." Another Fraternity axiom is that each member *should keep his life in the light with at least one brother* in his local Fraternity. This helps priests grow in liberty and wisdom. Evil grows in darkness. It is rendered powerless when exposed to the light.

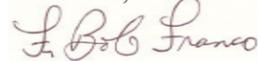
The final and fourth brotherly commitment is "to have zeal for covenant relationships with the Lord and my brothers". Having zeal for one's brother priests in Fraternity is expressed by what we do and what we do not do. Simply put: we honor and encourage each other. And conversely we do not put each other down with negative humor or gossip.

As we approach the great Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord, let us remember that God became man in Jesus Christ to become our brother. He desires *fraternity with us*. God went to great length to reconcile with world to himself through Jesus Christ. And Jesus, who was laid in a manger as a newborn, has become our food in the Eucharist. As he has loved us so completely, let us strive to love one another by learning to lay down our lives for each other.

Speaking on behalf of the members of the Fraternity of Priests throughout the world, I want to express our thanks for your faithful prayers and generous donations in 2016. Though you do not see how your prayers of intercession assist the priests you pray for, I do not think we can imagine what our lives would be like if people did not pray for us! We are deeply grateful for your prayers, as well as for your financial contributions.

I wish God's blessings and peace be with you and your loved ones this Christmas season.

In Christ,



Fr. Bob

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: \$ **4,750.00**
Actual Donations: \$ **4,876.00**
Budget Surplus/Deficit: \$ **126.00**

Current as of October 31, 2016.

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certain amount of trust, discernment and courage. It is easy to make excuses, commitment is hard. Yet, when we are able to get past those issues we can touch the lives of our brothers even the ones who label us. It might be slow going at first. It's like swimming in the ocean. Some people run into it without hesitation others walk in slowly allowing their body time to adjust to temperature and still other only put their feet in.

Yes, we are "Charismatic" and didn't we receive the "Gifts" or "Charisms" of the Holy Spirit in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders. Peter Herbeck spoke to us about using these "Charisms".

In his book, "*Welcome the Spiritual Gifts*"; he reminds us on page 5 "Every baptized Christian has been given a charism or multiple charisms to build up the Church and to further her mission in the world." He quotes 1 Corinthians 12:7. He further quotes the *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity #21*. "The Second Vatican Council speaks of the ministries and charisms as the gifts of the Holy Spirit which are given for the building up of the Body of Christ and for its mission of salvation in the world (64). Indeed, the Church is directed and guided by the Holy Spirit, who lavishes diverse hierarchical and charismatic gifts on all the baptized, calling them to be, each in an individual way, active and co-responsible." (*Christifideles Laici #21*)

To those who ask, "Are you a Charismatic?" I say, "Aren't we all? I am willing to use the Charisms given to me. I once heard David DuPlesse say, "You New England

folks are like "Frozen Fillet Mignon". It is a great cut of meat but it needs the Fire of the Holy Spirit for the rest of us to enjoy it and benefit from it. That is what we seek to do. The question has often been raised how we move from "Maintenance Ministry" to "Spirit-Led Ministry?"

Peter Herbeck wrote a little book I found very helpful, "St. Francis Used Words!" In the section entitled "Lessons for Our Time" he made the following suggestions for preaching the Gospel: "Just deliver the mail!" "Reject the false dichotomies." "Fear God, not men." "Words are necessary!" "Rely on the Holy Spirit." "Accept the truth." There is much food for thought in these ideas. The main point that Peter was trying to make was, "Always preach the Gospel and if necessary use words!" A quote attributed to St. Francis, but St. Francis never said it. It fact if anything can be said about St. Francis he always used words and in some cases very strong words, when he addressed an open letter to "Rulers of the People," as Peter Herbeck pointed out to us who were gathered for this year's Annual Conference.

It brought to mind many good memories. Since the Providence Fraternity of Priests began 13 Committed Brothers including an Archbishop have departed this life to join the Communion of Saints in Heaven. The message has always been the same, "to gather priests to Christ and to one another to proclaim..." It has been my experience that before we can even approach a brother priest to offer him the gift of Fraternity, we must always pray for him in advance. It is always so easy for the devil to put obstacles

in the way and tempt the priest to "go it alone" like the lone ranger.

I had just celebrated my 25th Anniversary of Priesthood. It was September 2001, three months after "Pop" Randall, Fr. John Randall's father, died at the age of 105. I was before the Blessed Sacrament in prayer and I heard the Lord say "Bob, I am sending you to St. Charles Borromeo Church in Providence. A bishop will ask you to go there. But you are not to tell anyone until it happens." Fr. Jake Randall was the pastor of a poor Spanish speaking inner city parish for 26 years and began Perpetual Adoration in the Church. I told the Lord, "I don't speak Spanish." The Lord said, "Do not be afraid for I will be with you." The Lord began to prepare my heart.

The following April Bishop McManus asked me, "How do you feel about St. Charles in Providence?" I surprised him by saying, "I'm open to it!" For almost nine years, it was my most challenging assignment. God even sent Fr. Frank Giudice, a member of our Fraternity to be in residence with me. I spent many hours in the Adoration Chapel. The Lord taught me to walk in faith and not to live in fear. In Spirit-led ministry there is no room for fear we walk in faith. I thank God for my faith and my brothers in the Fraternity of Priests.

May you have a Blessed Advent and Holy Christmas Season!

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

