

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

December 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				For the souls of our deceased FOP members	For prayer requests received	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. Gregory Frankman <i>Sioux Falls</i>	Rev. Jerome Ranek <i>Sioux Falls</i>	Rev. Roger Geditz <i>Sioux Falls</i>	Rev. Robert Hamel <i>St Cloud</i>	Rev. Todd Schneider <i>St Cloud</i>	Rev. Gerald Mischke <i>St Cloud</i>	Rev. Daniel Walz <i>St Cloud</i>
Rev. James Statz <i>St Cloud</i>	Rev. Gregory Paffel <i>St Cloud</i>	Rev. Mark Stang <i>St Cloud</i>	Rev. Peter Kirchner <i>St Cloud</i>	Rev. Leroy Schik <i>St Cloud</i>	Rev. Aaron Nord <i>St Louis</i>	Rev. Martin Mannion <i>St Louis</i>
Rev. Edmund Griesedieck <i>St Louis</i>	Rev. David Novak <i>St Louis</i>	Rev. Albert Danter <i>St Louis</i>	Rev. Charles Tichacek <i>St Louis</i>	Rev. James Dyer <i>St Louis</i>	Rev. Anthony Dattilo <i>St Louis</i>	Rev. Jerome Nowakowski <i>Toledo</i>
Rev. Gerald Knueven <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. Edward Littlemann <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. Thomas Oedy <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. Nicholas Weibl <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. Norbert Howe <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. James Brown <i>Toledo</i>	Rev. Domenico Pinti <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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Please cut and return this form with your donation.

Do you know anyone who would like to receive our Newsletter?
(Please print legibly)
Name _____
Street _____
City, State and Zip _____

Dear Father Bob Franco, This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests. 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.

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



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Brotherhood in Michigan

By Fr. Ray Zeugner, Upper Peninsul of Michican Fraternity

I am happy to offer some reflections on the Fraternity of Priests in the Diocese of Marquette. In the early 1980's, our bishop called for all of his priests to be in priest support groups. His reasoning was in line with the notion that 'priests need priests.' As various groups sprung up, I joined one in which the main focus was meant to be that of praying together.

Initially, there were about eight of us in our group. We tried to meet every couple weeks for prayer, meals, an occasional over-nighter, and we used Father John Powell's book "Fully Alive" to help us in facilitating our meetings. But over time, we got tired of using such books and found ourselves complaining about and criticizing our bishop, other priests, parish programs, etc. Eventually our time together became less attractive.

While serving as the diocesan liaison to the Charismatic Renewal I attended a liaison meeting at Steubenville where the priests were invited to a presentation on the Fraternity of Priests. Although I attended the presentation, I was not particularly moved to act on it and went back to my priests' support group which was on the brink of falling apart. I presented to them the Fraternity vision and

arranged for one of the founders to come to our diocesan retreat center. Although all of the priests of our diocese were invited, only about eight showed up for Father Ken Gallagher's presentation. At the end of presentations on the Visitation message, Father Gallagher looked at us with his military discipline-look and remarked, "I wish you men would show some sort of response!" We must have appeared to have blank faces. He said, "I am leaving the room now, and I want you to ask yourselves: "Is the message of God's Visitation true or not? - Do you feel called to it?"

As Father Gallagher left the room, we all looked at each other and all agreed: Yes! So, I was appointed by the brothers to lead and facilitate our new Fraternity of Priests group. I am so grateful even to this day for all the basic teachings sent to us from the Fraternity of Priests and Father Richards coming to us for an annual visit. The brothers have been meeting twice a month since the 1980's. Some travel long distances for our prayer, teachings, sharing, confession, meals, and camaraderie. I personally am grateful for the teaching on praise and use of the charisms, for until we became a Fraternity of Priests group I did not have other priests

with whom I could share this.

Something that stands out in my mind was a Fraternity meeting at Christmas when our bishop traditionally attends. At that meeting I gave the teaching on "Relationship comes before Mission." In seminary, we were trained that mission came first. At the end of the teaching I looked at the bishop and asked, "Is it really time for our relationship with God and the brothers to come before mission?" His response was "Yes, Ray, right on!" What helped me to understand this was when one of the brothers commented on how a married couple may spend more time at work than at home in their marriage, but the marriage is of greater priority. This helped me to set priorities and to commit myself to the Fraternity disciplines. I love the Fraternity and the brothers. Now retired and living in Florida, I still call them during their meetings in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Finally, I would like to offer two closing comments from my observation over the years. 1. It is important for the brothers, especially with new members, to go back to the basic teachings of praise and to use of charisms. 2. We must bring the visitation message into the parishes with a call to a use of the power of the charisms for the evangelization and building of the church.

Dear Fraternity Brothers and Friends of the Priesthood

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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!

Last month I reflected on the notion of commitment. It is the engine that makes living as a member of Fraternity of Priests visible. Now the question is: *Just what are we committed to?* There are three areas of commitment that frame the life of a member of Fraternity of Priests: *personal, fraternal and pastoral.* In this letter I will reflect on the personal commitments made by members of the Fraternity.

The four personal commitments made by Fraternity members are: *pray an hour a day, to read Sacred Scripture and journal, to fast weekly and to tithe.* Each of these commitments is an expression of one's personal relationship with the Lord.

Priests are already obliged to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Most priests celebrate the Eucharist daily (and, due to pastoral necessity, more than daily.) Additionally, all priests need time alone with the Lord. This relationship is to be personal and transformative. This is what the hour of prayer is about.

I remember the mosaic that filled the apse of the sanctuary at St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland. The mosaic depicted the presentation of Mary. However, the passage of Sacred Scripture was from Psalm 16:5a, "The Lord (is) my allotted portion and my cup." This passage reflects a truth about the priesthood. Our lives are not bound up with the acquiring the things of this world. The Lord is to be our inheritance and destiny. Therefore members of the Fraternity put their relationship with the Lord ahead of the work of the Lord. Praying an hour day (one may include part of the Divine Office in that hour) keeps a priest focused on the One who called him.

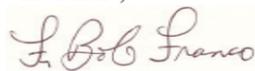
Reading Sacred Scripture keeps priests grounded in the touchstone of revelation. Spending time with the bible apart from the Liturgy of the Hours and Mass helps renew the priestly mind, deepens an understanding of Jesus Christ and feeds one's soul. Journaling helps a person recognize God's work in their lives and respond.

The final two personal commitments are *fasting weekly* and *tithing.* Fasting can be a hidden sacrifice offered for specific intentions. It can also make one more spiritually attune to the movements of the Spirit. Tithing blesses others, brings order to personal finances and reminds priests again that "the Lord is my allotted portion and cup." Depending on where one lives in the world, tithing could be a great sacrifice or simply the bare minimum leading to giving even more.

As we approach Thanksgiving let us intentionally call to mind the reasons for our gratitude. Someone once said, "Happiness will not make us grateful. Gratitude will make us happy." So let us "in all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (I Thessalonians 5:18)

Finally, on behalf of the members of Fraternity of Priests, I want to express our gratitude for your prayers and support. Your sacrifices and generosity truly bless us.

In Christ,



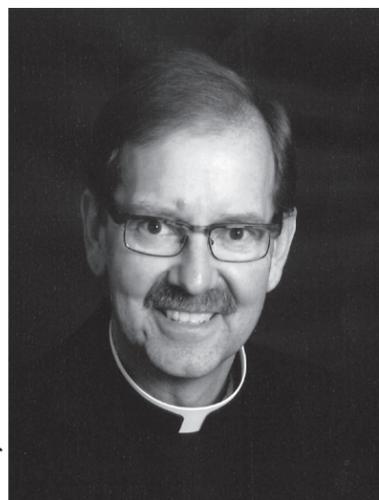
Fr. Bob

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: \$ **1,000.00**
Budget Surplus/Deficit: \$ **(3,750.00)**

Current as of September, 30, 2016.



Called to Grow

By Fr. Bob Franco

"What is God's plan for my life?" It is a question that most of us have asked ourselves at some point in our lives. Often we may think of this question in terms of our vocation: married, single, ordained or religious life. Yet within our vocation, God has a plan for how we fulfill that vocation. It can best be summarized by the word growth.

Tolkien's popular Lord of the Rings series begins with four hobbits affectionately known Frodo, Sam, Pippin and Merry setting out on a mission with very slim chances of fulfillment. Their enemies are powerful and cunning. Their resources seem scant. Their journeys are fraught with trouble, disaster, miraculous escapes and acts of providence.

However, they do fulfill their mission. And then they return to their homeland, the Shire, only to find that it had been taken over by servants of the enemy. Frodo and his friends realized that the enemy's main weapon against the Shire was fear. During their mission Frodo and company had faced fear on a much greater scale with the ultimate stakes hanging in the balance. They would not be cowed by these new rulers of the Shire. They made and plan, rallied their fellow hobbits and retook the Shire with relative ease.

It was clear that Frodo, Sam, Pippin and Merry had grown during their journeys. They had left shire somewhat callow. They returned courageous, wise and good.

This is the plan of God for us. We are to grow and mature as

we walk with Jesus Christ. Early in our walk with Christ we may have been overwhelmed by certain situations. We may not have known how to handle things. However, as we mature, we handle those same situations with grace and wisdom. We come to know the right way to do things. We learn to handle challenges that initially would have been beyond our pay grade. This is God's plan-growth.

We are being prepared for eternity. God is preparing us to reign with Jesus Christ. Yes, we are seated with Christ now. (Ephesians 2:6). However, it is only when we endure with Christ that we are able to reign with Christ. (II Timothy 2:12a) God is about making us faithful and mature disciples of the Lord so that we can receive true riches.

This is why our understanding of the Communion of Saints is so rich. Saints do not only make it to heaven. They are given an ongoing ministry on earth, interceding and assisting us so that we too would fulfill our mission in the Lord. This does not detract from the glory due our God. It actually expresses it. God is magnanimous, big hearted. He has no "ego" to be fed. He shares his wisdom, power and love with us, desiring our growth. In the parable of the ten gold coins, Jesus said that the Master rewarded those who increased their coinage with cities! He found that they were trustworthy in small things. The reward would be greater things. (Luke 19:12ff) The Lord wants to trust us with true wealth. (Luke 16:11-12) For those

who keep growing, the Lord shares with us his divine nature (II Peter 1:3-11).

I was baptized over 60 years ago and experienced baptism in the Spirit over 41 years ago. I am grateful to God for bringing me to where I am today. I also acknowledge that I have a long way to go, and probably could be farther along if I had not, at times, resisted his grace at work in my life. Thank God for the Sacrament of Penance! Let us keep pressing onward!

Let us pray to continue to grow in the graces of the Holy Spirit. Exercising his gifts and bearing his fruit, we will glorify the Lord Jesus and build up his body, the Church. We will fulfill God's plan for us because we will maturing and growing.

Next month we begin Liturgical Year A, and we will study the Gospel of Matthew. According to the prologue of the book published in the New American Bible Revised Edition, even before it was considered canonical, it was the most quoted of early evangelical literature. It is the powerful book written to Jewish Christians that shows that Jesus is indeed the Messiah and that his words are powerful roots to life. Beginning the last week of this month, we again return to the powerful words of St. Matthew long considered a door to life in Christ.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

