

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

October 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. Donie McMahon <i>Port-of-Spain</i> 30	Rev. Dwight Merrick <i>Port-of-Spain</i> 31					For our Holy Father, Pope Francis 1
Rev. Eugene Bettinger, OCarm. <i>New Jersey</i> 2	Rev. Brendan Murray <i>New Jersey</i> 3	Rev. Lewis Papera <i>New Jersey</i> 4	Rev. John Primich <i>New Jersey</i> 5	For the souls of our deceased FOP members	For prayer requests received	Rev. Tom Devery <i>New York</i> 8
Rev. William Cosgrove <i>New York</i> 9	Rev. Alan Shnob <i>Ogdensburg</i> 10	Rev. Joseph Muldoon <i>Ottawa</i> 11	Rev. John Brennan <i>Pittsburgh</i> 12	Rev. Thomas Sparacino <i>Pittsburgh</i>	Rev. Thomas Kredel <i>Pittsburgh</i> 14	Rev. Paul Zywan <i>Pittsburgh</i> 15
Rev. James Holland <i>Pittsburgh</i> 16	Rev. John Sweeney <i>Pittsburgh</i> 17	Rev. Nicholas Mastrangelo <i>Pittsburgh</i> 18	Rev. Joseph Luisi <i>Pittsburgh</i> 19	Rev. John Lynam <i>Pittsburgh</i>	Rev. Tony Gargotta <i>Pittsburgh</i> 21	Rev. Thomas Galvin <i>Pittsburgh</i> 22
Rev. Stan Gregorek <i>Pittsburgh</i> 23	Rev. Robert Boyle <i>Pittsburgh</i> 24	Rev. Daniel Mahoney <i>Pittsburgh</i> 25	Rev. Thomas Federline <i>Pittsburgh</i> 26	Rev. Kenneth Oldenski <i>Pittsburgh</i>	Rev. John Theodore CSSP <i>Port-of-Spain</i> 28	Rev. Ian Taylor <i>Port-of-Spain</i> 29

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)
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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

Dear Father Bob Franco,

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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

From Maintenance to Mission

By Fr. Jim Hobert, Tucson, Arizona Fraternity

“From Maintenance to Mission” was the theme of our recent Fraternity of Priests Conference in Kansas City this past August. The phrase is from the book by Fr. James Mallon, *Divine Renovation* (Toronto: Novalis Publishing, 2014) which was referred to throughout the conference. It refers to the reality that many of us priests face: we spend most of our energy and efforts in keeping our ministries going and serving the people who come to us (“maintenance”), rather than going out into the world in the New Evangelization and bringing people to conversion in Christ (“mission”). Mr. Peter Herbeck of Renewal Ministries was the principal speaker.

Fr. Bob Franco gave the opening talk titled, “Best Practices of Fraternity Meetings.” He reminded us of our Fraternity purpose: “To gather priests to Christ and to one another to proclaim God’s visitation.” As priests we are called to bring people to Jesus. But to do this, we ourselves have to be holy and fruitful in our work. It was for this reason that Fraternity was formed out of the Charismatic movement and the annual Priests/Deacons conferences in Steubenville. The “Kingdom Disciplines” were developed as the “trellis,” the scaffolding for our priestly lives: 1. Pray an hour a day. 2. Attend

Fraternity meetings faithfully, not missing without reason. 3. Read scriptures daily, and keep a journal. 4. Tithe 10%. 5. Fast weekly. 6. Accept the leadership and teachings of the Fraternity. 7. Present personal and spiritual matters to the Fraternity for discernment. 8. Have zeal for covenant relationships with the Lord and brother priests. 9. Proclaim the Visitation Message. 10. Empower God’s people with the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Franco pointed out that commitment is the engine that drives this life—commitment to our personal holiness, and commitment to our brothers. While some of us are very committed, others are “part-time” members. “Being too busy” is the excuse we often use for our lack of commitment. Bob gave a relevant acronym for the word “busy”: **B**eing **U**nder **S**atan’s **Y**oke. Fr. Dwight Merrick, in his homily on Thursday, backed this concept up with the wisdom: “Doing many good things can be the enemy of doing the right thing.” We were challenged to reflect on how faithful we have been our mission as Fraternity. Have we been faithful in seeking to gather our brother priests to Christ? Have we been encouraging the lukewarm members of our Fraternities to greater commitment? Have we reached out to brother priests who are hurting?

In his first talk, Mr. Herbeck

outlined for us the tactics of the enemy. Citing Biblical and Papal teaching, he analyzed how God is being pushed out of society’s horizons, where we are encouraged to make our own truth. Our thinking is: “I want happiness. To be happy I need to be free. If the Church or other authority tells me what to do, than I am not free.” This leads to the obliteration of all boundaries—even the natural boundary of gender. The devil then enslaves us through our fear of death. The antidote to this fear is resurrection and eternal life. But when people believe God is dead, then the Culture of Death becomes the solution to all problems, as seen in the one billion abortions since 1973, and legalized euthanasia in Canada and other countries. The population decline in the developed world shows that cultures are dying. We are willing our decline. And this decline is basically a crisis of faith.

The obliteration of the family is part of the decline. The end game is to destroy the Church. Statistics were shared that showed as the family, goes, so goes the Church. Family decline and Church decline go and in hand. More openness to life and more children equal more God. Stronger marriages equal stronger belief in God. Are we close to the end as the devil assaults these most fundamental institutions, family and Church? We

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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!

Last month I wrote about the need priests have for priests. The African proverb says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others." That letter was the beginning of series of letters that will further outline the why and how of Fraternity of Priests. The next five letters will include thoughts on:

- The Trellis of Fraternal Life
- The Engine of Fraternity: Commitment
- Members and Personal Commitments
- Brothers and Communal Commitments
- Service and Pastoral Commitments

"Go with others" is not as simple as it sounds. We are all different. Priests, who share the same vocation with a similar period of formation, differ greatly from each other. We come from different backgrounds, possess different strengths, weaknesses and talents, and have different habits, dispositions and viewpoints. "Go with others" looks great on paper. However, forming brotherhood among priests is not as easy as it appears

There are many things that help priests form brotherly relationships. The sacrament of Holy Orders initiates priests into the order of presbyter. God's grace, lavished upon us through the sacraments and prayer, impel us to charity, unity and brotherhood. In addition to these tools, Fraternity of Priests offers a way of life that makes "go with others" possible and focused.

I like to refer to this way of life as a trellis. Each member of the Fraternity commits himself to embracing certain practices that will help them to grow in holiness, brotherliness and service to the Church. These commitments form a *trellis* that makes growth possible.

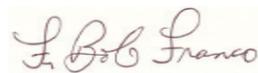
Living things grow. However, with a little cultivation, living things become more mature and fruitful. Grapes will grow. Yet grapes grow better if they are planted near a trellis or pergola. They will climb and bear fruit. The commitments of Fraternity members enable priests to grow fruitful. They weave into their lives practices that keep them in touch with the Lord, their brother priests and the mission of the Church. Some of these practices are personal: prayer, fasting and tithing. Other practices are fraternal: meeting with brother priests and sharing one's life. Finally, some

of these practices are pastoral: approaching ministry empowered by the Holy Spirit. These practices are the trellis of Fraternity.

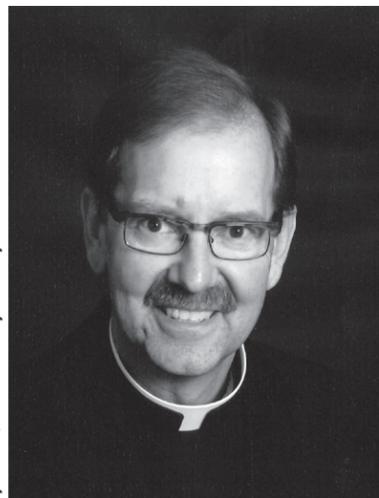
Members of the Fraternity embraces the practices in order to become mature and fruitful men of God, impelled by the Holy Spirit to serve God's people in a fruitful manner. Pray that we attain this goal!!!

I want to take a moment to thank Frs. Earl Dekat and Roderic Giller OSB for their wonderful hospitality at Kansas City last month. Their hard work and planning made our Annual Fraternity Meeting a wonderfully edifying event.

I encourage my brothers in Fraternity to plan on attending next year's Annual Fraternity Meeting, to be held Sunday evening, July 30th through Noon, August 4th at the La Salette Shrine in Attleboro, MA. Our presenter will be Ralph Martin, host of EWTN's The Choices We Face, president of Renewal Ministries and a member of the faculty of Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, MI. 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: \$ **1,335.00**
Budget Surplus/Deficit: \$ **(3,415.00)**

Current as of July 31, 2016.

...continued from page 1

are seeing the dire effects in the Millennials generation. When they come of age, Church attendance will go into sharp decline. But there is a solution: the Holy Spirit. God's work for us priests is far from over.

In his second presentation, he quoted scripture to show us how the devil wants us to slip to a "quieter" Gospel. The "god of this world" (2 Cor 4:4) has blinded many to the light of the Gospel. The solution? Spirit-filled Gospel preaching that breaks the devil's yoke. However, our society today has lost the sense of sin. Steve Dawson, founder of *St. Paul's Street Evangelization*, states that the biggest obstacle to people's receiving the Gospel is their conviction that they are going to heaven, no matter what they do. Much of contemporary preaching accommodates this attitude. Mr. Herbeck pointed to the saying attributed (incorrectly) to St. Francis of Assisi: "Preach, and if necessary, use words!" The trouble is, 99% of the time, we decide words aren't necessary! We don't speak up to invite others to know Jesus. St. Francis himself boldly called people to repentance and conversion.

In his third presentation, Mr. Herbeck cited Proverbs 1:7: "Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom". The saints believed that fear of the Lord is the key. This fear comes from preaching the truth. This is opposed to the spirit of our modern culture, where the attitude is: "God affirms my feelings, and the Church should, too." But this biblical teaching is that feelings are not our master. The martyrs' fear of the Lord was their strength: they refused to "sell out" to culture. That

is why our recent Popes have been saying, "Fear not!" and have been teaching us to be fearlessly open to the Holy Spirit--there is no greater freedom than to be guided by the Holy Spirit! Mr. Herbeck urged us to carry Christ's cross, the price of our social nonconformity. To be a Christian is to come to Jesus on Jesus' terms. Unfortunately, most people today what to be Christian on their own terms. Baptism in the Spirit is to live in Jesus' new world order. The days ahead will be more difficult than the days behind. There will be pruning and purification of the Church—a good thing. In preaching the truth we will face conflict. The problem is, we want to be accepted and liked. We must be aware of our tendency to avoid conflict, and seek the Holy Spirit who strengthens us.

In his final talk, Mr. Herbeck, discussed the importance of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for our world. The Holy Spirit gives the experience that Jesus is Lord. Thus, our mission is twofold: to love God and neighbor (Mk 12:28-31), and to go and make disciples (Mt 28:18-20). The priesthood is the key for the people of God to understand and live out this mission, guided by the Spirit. He quoted then Cardinal Ratzinger in *New Outpourings of the Holy Spirit*: "The priest himself should be a 'pneumatic' [spirit-filled] Christian,...a person who has been roused and is being driven by the Holy Spirit." This a high call and a high responsibility! Pope John Paul II told us in *Ecclesia in America*, "America, you must learn to speak the name of Jesus!" Pope Francis challenges us to talk about Jesus even at the bus stop. Teresa

of Avila wrote that God appreciates the one soul we save more than anything else we do. St. Vincent Ferrer wrote, "Salvation of souls is what God wants. I'll take souls, you can have the rest!" St. Vincent de Paul prayed for a spirit of zeal for the salvation of human beings—the only things worth anything on this planet, the only things the devil is after. It was suggested that we priests offer a votive Mass in honor of the Holy Spirit every month.

Mr. Herbeck concluded with a discussion of Fr. Mallon's book, the theme of which is to make disciples—people who have encountered the Lord and decided to follow Him. But the disciple must then become an apostle, one sent out to make other disciples. As Pope Francis says: we are *missionary* disciples. It begins with the pastor, who must have this missionary vision, and the passion to share it with the people. Next, a leadership team is formed to help the pastor in the mission. Then, people must be invited to an encounter with Christ (Fr. Mallon uses the ALPHA retreat program).

The consensus among the priests who attended was that this conference was a renewal of our priesthood, and a ministry-changing experience. You are invited to listen to the talks in their fullness, which are now available on the *Fraternity* website.

"Where there is love, there is also understanding and forgiveness."
- Pope Francis

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____