



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Your Vision - Have You Had it Checked Lately?

by Father John Kiley

What could be better for a New England priest than a five day spiritual retreat in warm and sunny Florida during the month of February? This is just the opportunity I had from February 7 through February 12 of this year. The retreat was wonderful but the warm and sunny Florida weather was nowhere to be found. As I told my parishioners upon my return to the parish, "As a retreat it was excellent. Had it been a vacation, it would have been bleak."

This is the second year that Bishop Robert Hennessey, a Regional Bishop of the Archdiocese of Boston, has organized a February retreat for priests at the Bethany Retreat House in Lutz, Florida. Bethany is a new retreat center for the Diocese of St. Petersburg. It opened in 2008 and offers a wonderful and restful setting for prayer and reflection. If you go there for a retreat and I certainly recommend it, be sure to pay attention to the signs at the two lakes on the property that indicate: "No Fishing, No Swimming, and Beware of Alligators". I feel blessed that I did not meet up with an alligator.

Our retreat master for the week was Monsignor David Bohr who currently serves at St. Peter's Cathedral in the diocese of

Scranton, PA. Father Bohr has had many and varied experiences working in faith formation both with the laity and with seminarians. He spent several years as academic dean of the North American College in Rome from 2004 to 2007. His new book, "The Diocesan Priest: Consecrated and Sent" published by Liturgical Press was the substance of the retreat. It would be a worthwhile addition to your library.

During the retreat we were presented with an excellent overview of the priesthood beginning with its roots in the Hebrew Scriptures and then continuing with Jesus our great High Priest, the Apostolic Ministry, and developments up to the present time especially as found in the Vatican II Document *On the Ministry and Life of Priests* and *Pastores Dabo Vobis* from the pen of John Paul II.

One of the key themes of the retreat was "vision" based on the famous quote from Proverbs 29:18 "where there is no vision the people perish". In order to minister effectively in today's Church priests need to have a full vision of priesthood based on scripture, authentic tradition, and the contemporary teaching of the magisterium. At certain periods of history priests tended to minister

out of a partial or incomplete vision. For instance following the Protestant Reformation and in reaction to it the Catholic priesthood became overly "cultic". The priest was one who said Mass and heard confessions. This "vision" while true and important was also rather narrow. Vatican II shocked many priests with the statement that: "priests, as co-worker with their bishops, have as their primary duty the proclamation of the gospel of God to all". (*Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests* - #4) This in no way downplayed Eucharist or Penance but reminded us that "faith comes from hearing". This emphasis on preaching the gospel was rooted in the evangelical thrust of Vatican II and then further developed by Pope Paul VI's document on "*On Evangelization in the Modern World*". Paul VI taught us that: "evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize" (*On Evangelization in the Modern World* #14) This evangelical dimension is an essential priority of our priesthood.

In the years immediately following Vatican II and perhaps in reaction to this overly cultic view that characterized the priesthood before the council, the emphasis was frequently placed on the priest as

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Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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A priest visited the first graders at his parish school shortly after Easter. He described how Jesus had been killed but that he rose from the dead on the Sunday after Good Friday. One of the first graders excitedly raised his hand. The priest called on him. Johnny said, "I know what Jesus said when he came out of the tomb on Easter Sunday." The priest knew that the bible does not record the moment Jesus came out of the tomb. However, curious what Johnny would say he asked, "Well, what did Jesus say when he came out of the tomb?" Johnny stood up, and with arms outstretched and head slightly tilted, proclaimed with a musical lilt, "*Ta-da!*"

I am not sure Johnny's quote is completely accurate. However, I am sure that the victory of Jesus over death deserves a greatest "*Ta-da!*" the world has ever seen. His victory over death gives our lives meaning, liberty and hope. On Holy Saturday, the words of the *Exsultet* highlight this victory of Jesus

*"What good would life have been to us, had Christ not be our Redeemer? Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful love! To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.
O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a Redeemer!"*

How we need Easter! Our lives are busy. Our world is tense and violent. We often forget our origin and destiny. Easter reminds of why we are on earth-*to live for Jesus Christ!* Knowing that he has defeated death and restored us to life empowers us to live without fear on earth. Because Jesus lives, we face tomorrow even if it means death. The shedding of his blood on the cross brings us forgiveness. His rising from the tomb means that death no longer holds us bound.

This is the only true hope we have in the world. All other hopes are either false or fading. The hope that Jesus Christ brings by his death and resurrection is real

and unfading. His victory over death gives us new life on earth and eternal life in heaven. Praise God!

It is this hope that Fraternity of Priests seeks to sustain in the hearts and ministry of each member of the Fraternity. As priests:

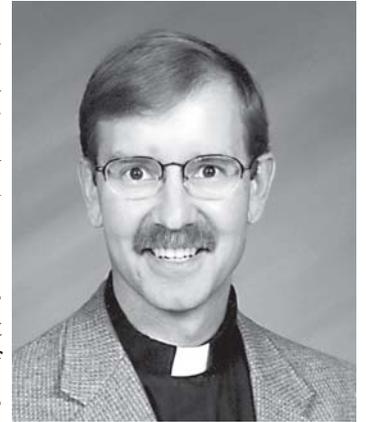
- Practice the personal disciplines of prayer, study, tithing and fasting
- Meet regularly for prayer and a brotherly sharing of their lives
- Proclaim the gospel and serve God's people in the power of the Holy Spirit *hope* resonates throughout the whole Church!

On behalf of the members of the Fraternity of Priests, I want to thank you for your prayers and donations. They sustain the hope of Christ in us.

May our Lord, who has brought us real and unfading hope, bless you and your loved ones this Easter season.

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Bob Franco



Editor's Box:

Please send articles, comments, and photos to the FOP Newsletter editor, Fr. Michael Roy via e-mail at editor@fraternityofpriests.org or fax to 508-943-2213.

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

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: **\$3,903.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$847.00)**

Current as of February 28, 2010.

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“servant-leader”. Again while true this “vision” was also narrow. Taken to an extreme the priest is present simply to serve and to “meet the needs of the people” and to coordinate ministries. What was missing and needed was a more all embracing vision. We are blessed to be moving towards such a vision today. This richer vision of priesthood coming from Vatican II, Paul VI, and John Paul II embraces and joins together many themes. The priest continues the mission of Christ Himself who is Priest, Prophet and King. The priest, like Christ, is humble servant. He is an “ambassador of Christ” involved in the ministry of reconciliation. He exercises his ministry by following in the footsteps of Christ, the Good Shepherd, and makes the shepherding ministry of the Lord present to his people. The priest acts “in persona Christi capitis” in the person of Christ the head. The priest, especially in the Latin Rite, by his celibate commitment models Christ the Bridegroom of the Church. Each of these images is very rich and deserves our further study, prayerful reflection, and application in our lives.

May I suggest that we who have been called to ordained ministry as priests reflect on the vision of priesthood out of which we currently minister to God’s people. Are we operating out of a partial vision? Where do we need to be more all embracing? A rereading of the Vatican II document “*On the Ministry and Life of Priests*” along with John Paul II’s “*Pastores Dabo Vobis*” will put us in touch with this extraordinarily rich vision of

priesthood. A yearly reflection on the Rite of Ordination especially as we celebrate our anniversaries would also enrich us and serve as a gentle or perhaps not so gentle examination of conscience.

“Vision” is important. While we strive to embrace and minister out of a fuller “vision” of priesthood in general may we also examine how each of us individually and then as Fraternities live out the original vision of the Fraternity of Priests. With the passage of time there is always the danger that we can forget the original vision or begin to accommodate the vision to the way we are currently living it or failing to live it. The Fraternity has presented us with a vision that is biblically based and rooted in the tradition of the Church and has offered us the means to live it out through committed brotherhood and the ten disciplines. In our Boston Fraternity we are currently listening to the tapes of the Fraternity Conference that launched our group in April of 1988. (Yes, we are 22 years young.) We are hearing these teachings again and striving to appropriate them.

One particular area of the vision that I would encourage each Fraternity to consider is the area of Pastoral Care. I sometimes sense that over time this dimension has weakened or may be lacking in some groups. To share our lives and ministries with each other in a spirit of honesty and openness is an essential component of our Fraternity. To pray with one another for healing and empowerment is what keeps us alive in the Spirit and renews us in our priestly commitment to Christ.

The more open we are in giving and receiving Pastoral Care from our brothers, the better we are able to care for our people pastorally and to lead them to be empowered in the Holy Spirit.

As we continue to celebrate this great season of Easter and prepare for the Feast of Pentecost may the Lord Jesus assist us in examining our lives as priests and as members of the Fraternity of Priests. May the Risen Lord pour forth His Spirit upon our Fraternities and enable each of us to grow closer to Christ, our High Priest, and to each other in His love.

Fr. John Kiley is pastor at Our Lady of Hope Parish in Ipswich, MA, and a member of the Boston Fraternity.

Annual Fraternity Conference

This year, our Annual Conference is a week earlier than usual. Plan on the week of July 25th to 30th, 2010. The Columbus Ohio Fraternity will be our hosts. We will be staying at St. Therese’s Retreat Center, Columbus. The cost for the entire week will be \$350.00 (Three Hundred, Fifty Dollars). The regular registration mailing will be forthcoming. If you would like to register ahead of time, please send your registration information and check to the Fraternity of Priests, Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio, 43952-9671. For those who are flying, use Port Columbus International Airport.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

May 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Pope Benedict XVI
2 Rev. Robert Shaldone Providence, RI	3 Rev. Wilfred Gregoire Providence, RI	4 Most Rev. George Pearce Providence, RI	5 Rev. Robert Giardina Providence, RI	6 Rev. Samuel Turillo Providence, RI	7 Rev. Francis Guidice Providence, RI	8 Msgr. John Allard Providence, RI
9 Rev. John Dreher Providence, RI	10 Rev. Joseph Heaney Providence, RI	11 Rev. Gerard Caron Providence, RI	12 Rev. Michael Sisco Providence, RI	13 Rev. Michael Kelley Providence, RI	14 Rev. Robert Bush San Angelo, TX	15 Rev. Santiago Udayar San Angelo, TX
16 Rev. Bernard Gully San Angelo, TX	17 Rev. Terry Brenon San Angelo, TX	18 Rev. Barry McLean San Angelo, TX	19 Rev. Douglas Binsfeld Sioux Falls, SD	20 Rev. Gregory Frankman Sioux Falls, SD	21 Rev. Charles Duman Sioux Falls, SD	22 Rev. Jerome Ranek Sioux Falls, SD
23 Rev. Roger Geditz Sioux Falls, SD	24 Rev. Edward Pierce Sioux Falls, SD	25 Rev. John Rasmussen Sioux Falls, SD	26 Rev. Rodney Farke Sioux Falls, SD	27 Rev. James Zimmer Sioux Falls, SD	28 Rev. Joseph Vogel Sioux Falls, SD	29 Rev. Richard Baumberger Sioux Falls, SD
30 Rev. Joseph Short Sioux Falls, SD	31 Rev. Randy Phillips Sioux Falls, SD					

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

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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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(Please print legibly)

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This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests. Dear Father Bob Franco, \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____