



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

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

## A Come, Let Us Worship the Lord!

By Fr. John Kiley

On the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, we priests who serve in the dioceses of the United States will begin leading our people in worship using the new English translation of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal. (Other English speaking countries may have a different timetable.) This new translation has been a long time in coming and like most changes in the Church has generated some controversy. On a personal level I recognize the need for a new translation in view of the fact that what we have been using since the early 70ties is inaccurate in some places and rather bland in others. I have read over much of the new translation as it became available and recognize many positive aspects. On the other hand I see sentences and phrases that are rather awkward. In an ideal world and Church I think we could have done better. This, however, is the text we have been given and so I accept the text and will pray it as reverently as possible and help the people of the parish to do the same.

As we prepare to use the new translation, **this time of transition offers us a marvelous opportunity to deepen our appreciation of the Eucharistic Sacrifice.** We can evaluate how well we pray and celebrate the Mass and how

effectively we are helping our people to grow in their understanding of the Mass and to enter more reverently into the praise and worship of God. This is an opportunity we must not miss. It may not be given to us again in the near future.

An excellent starting point would be a rereading of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council. In the opening paragraphs (#1 and #2) the Council Fathers state their desire to renew and foster the liturgy in order to "intensify the daily growth of Catholics in Christian living; to make more responsive to the requirements of our times those Church observances which are open to adaptation; to nurture whatever can contribute to the unity of all who believe in Christ; and to strengthen those aspects of the Church which can help summon all of mankind into her embrace.". They also remind us that through the liturgy "the work of our redemption is exercised". While the liturgy is not only the Mass, the Eucharistic celebration is certainly the highpoint. A prayerful rereading of this key Vatican document will assist us in understanding the mind of the Council Fathers with regard to the importance and renewal of the liturgy. It will also help us

distinguish between authentic and inauthentic developments that have taken place in liturgy since the Council.

As always we must begin with ourselves. Since we priests are the ones who preside at Eucharist, how well we reflect Christ is very important to the worshipping community. There is a magnificent paragraph (#93) in the 2002 General Instruction on the Roman Missal (GIRM) that is well worth our reflection. "A priest, who possesses within the Church the power of Holy Orders to offer sacrifice in the person of Christ, stands for this reason at the head of the faithful people gathered together here and now, presides over their prayer, proclaims the message of salvation to them, associates the people with himself in the offering of sacrifice through Christ in the Holy Spirit to God the Father, gives his brothers and sisters the Bread of eternal life, and partakes of it with them. When he celebrates the Eucharist, therefore, he must serve God and the people with dignity and humility, and by his bearing and by the way he says the divine words he must convey to the faithful the living presence of Christ." **What an awesome gift and responsibility we have been given "to convey the living presence of Jesus Christ" to others!**

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# Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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### Editor's Box:

Please send articles, comments, and photos to the FOP Newsletter editor, Fr. Michael Roy via e-mail at [editor@fraternityofpriests.org](mailto: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!

As Lent leans toward Easter I am reminded of the last chapter of C. S. Lewis' Narnia tale called The Silver Chair entitled *The Healing of Harms*. Having completed their mission, Eustace and Jill witnessed the death of the aged King Caspian as he debarked from his final voyage. Without their even realizing it, Eustace and Jill were transported to Aslan's land, high above all worlds. Standing beside the Lion and next to a river, the body of Caspian appeared at the bottom of that crystal clear stream.

Aslan ordered Eustace to drive a ten inch thorn into his paw. A large drop of blood from the Lion's paw washed over King Caspian. His features quickly changed. King Caspian's shrunken and gray-bearded face became youthful and joyful. In a moment King Caspian was on the bank of the river greeting each of them.

Eustace was reluctant to embrace Caspian. He looked at Aslan and asked, "Hasn't he...died?"

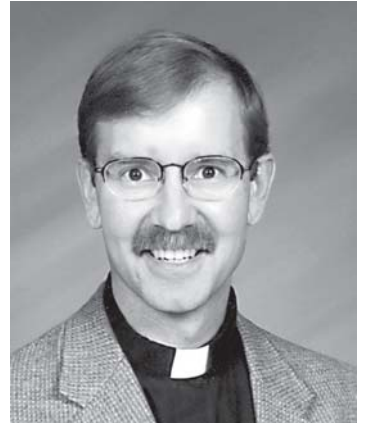
"Yes," said the Lion in a quiet voice, almost...as if he were laughing. "He has died. Most people have, you know. Even I have. There are very few who haven't."

Eustace was quickly convinced that Caspian was neither dead nor a ghost, but fully alive in his true homeland, and warmly greeted him.

As the old saying goes, death and taxes are inescapable. Though clever people find ways to avoid taxes, the best we can do with death is postpone it. The good news is this: Jesus Christ "destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel." (II Timothy 1:10b) And by his own death Jesus "free[d] those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life." (Hebrews 2:15) This is the heart of the gospel message. Jesus Christ did not come to earth do a little 'home improvement.' He came to bring us to our true homeland.

As we celebrate the life giving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we would do well to remember His ultimate purpose. Jesus Christ is the bridge from our world-

*the land of the dying-to the world to come - the land of the eternally living.* In light of this truth, please pray for the ordained priesthood of Jesus



Christ. In the midst of our busyness we can easily lose this focus. May our first desire be to lead people to God's bridge-Jesus Christ.

On a different note, I take this opportunity to remind my brother priests to make arrangements now to participate in our Annual Fraternity Meeting in Ljubjana, Slovenia from Monday, July 25 through Friday, July 29. For those who wish, there is also an opportunity to visit Medjugorje the following week. If you need of registration information, please contact Visitation House or visit [www.fraternityofpriests.org](http://www.fraternityofpriests.org).

May our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ fortify our virtue of hope that we may face life without fear!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Fr. Bob Franco*

## 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: **\$00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **( \$00)**

*Current as of February 28, 2011.*

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Another important dimension of liturgy for us to consider is the place of silence in the Mass. Over the years there have been complaints that people are kept so busy at Mass that there is no time to pray. This may come from some who wish to pray their own prayers during Mass rather than pray the Mass. On the other hand, do we use as well as possible the periods for silent prayer that are available? A few questions to consider: Do I give the community time to reflect on their lives during the Penitential Rite? When I invite the community to prayer (Let us pray) is there time for them to pray? Do I make sure that there is a brief time of quiet after each of the readings, after the homily, and after communion as the GIRM asks for? The GIRM also suggests a period of silence before the Liturgy of the Word begins. Am I encouraging my people to hear what God is saying to them as they participate in the Mass by teaching them how to listen in silence and in expectant faith?

What about music? The GIRM again in paragraph #39 says this: "The Christian faithful who gather together as one to await the Lord's coming, are instructed by the Apostle Paul to sing together psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (cf. Col 3:16). Singing is the sign of the heart's joy (cf. Acts 2:46). Thus St. Augustine says rightly, 'Singing is for one who loves.' There is also the ancient proverb: 'One who sings well prays twice.'" I would suggest that we reflect with our musicians and with our people on how well we praise God in song at our liturgies. Of primary

importance are the texts that are sung. Music is meant to enhance our prayer. If Eucharistic worship is centered on God, shouldn't the texts we sing be focused on the Lord? Lately many of the texts in our worship aids are focused on us, the community. We can end up telling God how great we are, rather than "How Great Thou Art". I try to share with the musicians in my parish that while texts that emphasize the community are acceptable if used in moderation, **most of what we sing at each Mass should be focused on God.** Also what about Gregorian Chant? The Constitution on the Liturgy and other Church documents stress the importance of teaching our people to sing parts of the Mass in Latin with Gregorian Chant. I find it interesting that when I have had the opportunity to visit places such as Paris or Rome the faithful there are able to sing the Ordinary of the Mass in chant. In international assemblies it seems that it is those from the English speaking world that are out in left field. If chant has not been part of our Eucharistic liturgies could we put it on the agenda for the near future, at least teaching our people the Kyrie and the Agnus Dei in simple chants? Setting aside a time with our music people to study the 2008 document issued by the USCCB "Sing to the Lord *Music in Divine Worship*" would be very valuable. This document sums up and brings up to date many of the documents on music in the liturgy issued by our bishops since the Vatican Council.

These are only some of the dimensions of liturgy that I will be working on with the parish staff

and community as we strive to deepen our life of worship. I believe that some homework in the area of liturgy is in order as we prepare for November 27. The ultimate goal, of course, is to foster "full, active, and conscious" participation in the sacred liturgy as we offer ourselves to God the Father, in union with Jesus Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Annual Fraternity Gathering Slovenia 2011

Hopefully many Fraternity Members have already made some plans to attend our next Annual Conference from July 25<sup>th</sup> thru the 29<sup>th</sup> in Ljubljana, Slovenia. There is an active Fraternity there that has graciously extended an offer to welcome their Brothers from around the world. The location will make it easier for our Brothers from Africa, the Ukraine and Asia to attend.

Slovenia is the northern most of the Balkans bordering Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia and the Adriatic Sea. It is a beautiful country with all the modern amenities of Europe.

Due to an extraordinary gift, the Fraternity is able to offer a substantial reimbursement for travel expenses to all members who request this. Following the Conference there will be an excursion to Medjugorje for those interested. Register now. Please check our web site as mentioned in the Chairman's Letter on the previous page.

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Please send us your prayer intentions: \_\_\_\_\_

# THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

## 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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 \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_