

# THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

January 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Rev. Alexander Mills Tucson, AZ 1	Rev. Mark Long Tucson, AZ 2	Pope Benedict XVI 3
Rev. Domenico Pinti Tucson, AZ, 4	Rev. Liam Leahy Tucson, AZ 5	Rev. Ray Ratzberger Tucson, AZ 6	Rev. Henry Dauphinais M.S. Tucson, AZ 7	Rev. James Hobert Tucson, AZ 8	Rev. Isaac Fynn Tucson, AZ 9	Rev. Dale Branson Tucson, AZ 10
Most Rev. Vitalij Skomarovski Ukraine 11	Rev. O. Pietro Hewlet Ukraine 12	Rev. Stephen Kantubog Wa, West Africa 13	Rev. Evarist Kuuwulong Wa, West Africa 14	Rev. John Kpan Wa, West Africa 15	Rev. Sylvester Nankpi Wa, West Africa 16	Rev. Benette Tang Wa, West Africa 17
Rev. Matthew Tuurosog Wa, West Africa 18	Rev. Augustine Ten Wa, West Africa 19	Rev. Zachary Kokole Wa, West Africa 20	Rev. Gervase Angsotinge Wa, West Africa 21	Rev. Peter Paul Langnedomah Wa, West Africa 22	Rev. Fidelis Vielu Wa, West Africa 23	Rev. Cyracus Tang Wa, West Africa 24
Rev. Martin Ninnang Wa, West Africa 25	Rev. Stephen Kangmennaan g Wa, West Africa 26	Rev. Romanus Tampah Wa, West Africa 27	Rev. Michael Tanzile Wa, West Africa 28	Rev. John Bosco Eledi Wa, West Africa 29	Rev. Luke Kale Wa, West Africa 30	

## 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.*

Please cut and return this form with your donation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know anyone who would like to receive our Newsletter?  
(Please print legibly)

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 carefully and wisely, and not to ask for money that is not needed.

This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.  
 \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Father Bill Cosgrove,



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

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

## Trinidad Carries Fraternity Message Abroad

by Fr. Dwight Merrick

Twenty-one years ago the Fraternity of Priests founded a local brotherhood of priests in the Archdiocese of Port of Spain in Trinidad and Tobago. Though this brotherhood has touched many priests and lay people in Trinidad, it is still seems to be one of the best kept secrets in our archdiocese.

The founding of the Fraternity of Priests in Trinidad was a natural outgrowth of a FIRE Rally that took place in 1987. This rally inspired many Catholics, lay and clergy alike, to take their faith more seriously. A number of priests embraced the way of life outlined by the Fraternity of Priests.

Though the Fraternity of Priests is countercultural, it has not only endured in Trinidad. It has flourished. The Fraternity began under the capable leadership of Fr. John Theodore. He was followed by Fr. Cuthbert Alexander. Fr. Dwight Merrick succeeded him and when his term of office had expired, the now Msgr. Cuthbert Alexander is again serving as the local leader of the Fraternity.

Many of our members have been with us since the Fraternity's inception. Others have joined at various points over those years. In the earliest days Fr. Compton, Fr. Rodriguez, Fr. Donie McMahon,

Fr. Hezekiah, Fr. Ventour, Fr. Ging and Fr. Cyril Ross (since deceased) joined Fr. John Theodore to form the Fraternity in Trinidad. Other priests joined the brotherhood right after Ordination. These include Fr. Moses (since deceased), Msgr. Alexander, Fr. George Lewis, Fr. Taylor, Fr. Merrick and Fr. Khan. Over the years we have been blessed with the membership of Fr. Vincent O Carm. and several others who joined us as they passed through our shores.

Many others local priests have shared briefly with us including Bishop Mendez (now deceased), Fr. Cockburn, Fr. Nathasingh and Fr. Julien. And still other priests join us whenever they are in the island include Fr. De Four, Fr. Bernier, Fr. Immamshah and Msgr. Kosak from our neighbouring Caribbean dioceses. Finally, our local Fraternity has welcomed visitors to our shores from the various religious congregations and orders.

Staying the course is always the most difficult task for a member of the Fraternity of Priests. It requires a deep commitment to swim against the tide of the individualism and "lone ranger" mentality that is so prevalent among Diocesan priests throughout the world. At present the active members of the Trinidad

Fraternity include: Msgr. Alexander (leader), Fr. Merrick (assistant), Fr. Taylor, Fr. Lewis, Fr. Graham, Fr. Compton, Fr. Theodore, Fr. Rodriguez and Fr. Donie McMahon, (who has been abroad for some time now.) There are also several less committed members and well-wishers of the Fraternity who sometimes join us on our retreat every November. Over the years the names and faces of the Fraternity of Priests have varied.

As members of the international organization called Fraternity of Priests, our brotherhood extends far beyond our local group. Over the years many of us have made friends from all over the world. Trinidad hosted the Annual Fraternity Meeting in August 2001, which brought together over forty priests from Caribbean and non-Caribbean countries. Priests from the United States, Ghana and India were part of that meeting. A number of priests from our local Trinidad Fraternity have attended the Annual Meeting in a variety of places in the United States.

With a mission to spread the spirituality and practices of the Fraternity, a number of priests from the Trinidad Fraternity have travelled to far off places to help found

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# Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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

The season of Advent has always been a time of waiting. It grew out of the Jewish anticipation of the Messiah. The hymns of the Advent season highlight the theme of waiting. "Come, O Long Expected Jesus" and "O Come O Come Emmanuel" have themes that reflect this patient waiting. Did I say "patient waiting"? For most people (I include myself here) those two words seem like an oxymoron. How does one wait *patiently*? It is not easy.

God is patient. Among other things, He patiently waits for us to respond to His invitation to accept Him into our hearts.

We are made in God's image. And the Lord desires that we imitate His patience. We are to be patient with God as He works out His plan of salvation in our lives. We are even to be patient with ourselves as we allow God's grace to transform us from "glory to glory". (II Corinthians 3:18).

As Advent people we wait on God to work out His plan of salvation in the world. And it seems that God has ordained to work out that plan SLOWLY. We humans tend to rush things. Mothers cannot wait for their children to be born into the world. Children cannot wait for Christmas. However, God, in His wisdom, has ordained to act in a gradual way...slowly, steadily, surely. Slow motion often brings out the beauty of things. And if we slow down, we will be able better able to detect the beauty of God's ways.

As I write these words I cannot help but think of the shortage of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. I join the psalmist in praying, "How long O Lord?" (Psalm 6:3) Yet I know that the psalmist also teaches us that "a thousand years in your eyes are like an evening come and gone." (Psalm 90:13). God has time and eternity to see His plan

unfold. If He's in no hurry, we too must wait patiently.

However, waiting patiently does not stop us from still praying for the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into the vineyard. It does not stop us from searching out men and women who only need to hear an invitation. Our patience is one of 'active waiting'. This is seedtime for the future vocations. This is the time of planting the possibilities for the future of the church. We water these seeds with fervent prayer.

The Fraternity of Priests is grateful that your hearts are joined to our hearts as we intercede and actively wait on the Lord to bring us a new harvest of vocations. We are also grateful for your prayerful support of Fraternity of Priests throughout 2008.

As we patiently and actively wait for the coming of the Lord, I wish you and your loved ones a joyful and merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Father Bill

## Fraternity Financial Report

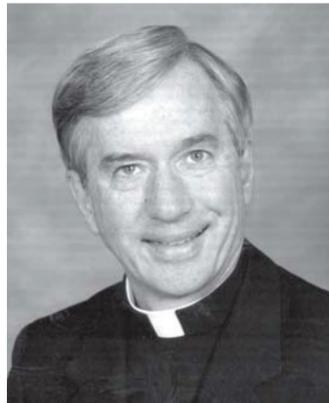
One of the objectives for the Fraternity of Priests is to inform our donors about the ongoing financial health and details of the organization. We're providing this information to help communicate our specific need and to thank those many faithful benefactors who help make our service possible. Thank you!

Monthly Donation Budget: **\$4,750.00**

Actual Donations: **\$3,620.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$1,120.00)**

Current as of October 31, 2008.



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Fraternities on the international level. Desiring to spread the need of brotherhood among priests that is more just "support", Msgr. Alexander preached the Fraternity message in Tanzania and Kenya. Frs. Merrick and Lewis ministered in Ghana helping to strengthen existing Fraternities there. Fr. Ian Taylor has served Fraternity of Priests in a variety of places around the world including the US Virgin islands, India and the country of Samoa, where he recently founded the Fraternity there. With the most recent travels of Fr. Graham and Fr. Merrick to India in October, it suddenly dawned on us that almost every able bodied member of the Trinidad Fraternity has had the privilege of helping to spread the good news of Fraternity of Priests in other dioceses and continents.

The Fraternity of Trinidad continues to encourage priests, especially the newly ordained, keep their lives in a proper order. The Fraternity teaches priests to make sure God is first in their lives by calling them to make a daily holy hour, as well as embrace other practices that nurture a priest's relationship with the Lord. Priests also need to care for their priesthood through a priestly brotherhood like the Fraternity. Fruitful ministry will take place if priests develop their relationships with God and brother priests.

The Fraternity of Priests in Trinidad seek your prayers and support. Please pray, not only for us, but for all the priests in Trinidad and the world. The present shortage of priests in most parts of the world should be enough to emphasize just

how crucial it is to cover all priests with prayerful support. Pray that we may live out the ideals we embraced

on the day of our ordinations. Pray that we live out the ideals of the Fraternity of Priests.

## A Christmas Thought

### The Incarnation: Hard to Swallow?

Some people struggle with the Christian belief called the Incarnation, the belief that God became man in the person of Jesus Christ. It does not fit in with their notion of God. They question, "How can God-the almighty, the omnipresent, the all knowing somehow lower Himself to become a man, a baby no less!" The thought of God becoming a messy, dependant, weak, vulnerable human being is hard to swallow. It violates their notion of God.

The words of late Fr. Romano Guardini's on the Incarnation bear repeating here.

If this is incomprehensible, lay aside your understanding. **Remember that love does such things.** This is the mystery of God's love for human beings.

The Incarnation of the Son of God ought to form one's notion of God, not fit into it.

## Get Out Your 2009 Calendar

### Fraternity of Priests Conference --April 26-29, 2009

The local Fraternity of Priests in the Archdiocese of Hartford is sponsoring a Fraternity Conference at St. Edmund's Retreat Center on Ender's Island in Mystic, Connecticut. This is conference will cover the basic spirituality, history and vision of Fraternity of Priests. The conference is especially geared to priests who are interested in Fraternity of Priests, have recently begun attending a local Fraternity or would like to start a new Fraternity in their diocese. For more information, please contact Fr. Joe Looney at 203-266-5211.

### Annual Fraternity Meeting -- August 2-7, 2009

This year's annual conference will be at the Notre Dame Mission Center in Ipswich, Massachusetts. This international gathering of priests is open to any member of the Fraternity of Priests. This unique gathering of priests does three things:

- + provides a retreat like atmosphere of prayer punctuated with inspiring talks
- + affords the Fraternity time to elect board members and carry out other business of the Fraternity
- + has a built in fellowship day for participants to see the Boston area and enjoy each other's company

Please mark your calendars now for the powerful, Spirit-filled week. More information will be forthcoming.

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

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