

May 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 For our donor's prayer intentions	2 Pope Francis
Rev. James Bozung <i>Grand Rapids</i>	3 Rev. Charles Antekeier <i>Grand Rapids</i>	4 Rev. George Cyril Fekete <i>Grenada</i>	5 Rev. Msgr. Cyril Lamontagne <i>Grand Rapids</i>	6 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	7 Rev. Robert Rousseau <i>Hartford</i>	8 Rev. Joseph Looney <i>Hartford</i>
Rev. Will-Roger Malave <i>Hartford</i>	10 Rev. Paul Halovatch <i>Hartford</i>	11 Rev. Francis Karvelis <i>Hartford</i>	12 Rev. Harold Knueven <i>Indianapolis</i>	13 Rev. Paul Landwerlen <i>Indianapolis</i>	14 Rt. Rev. Dr. Bryan Eyman <i>Indianapolis</i>	15 Rev. Earl Dekat <i>Kansas City</i>
Rev. Thomas Cawley CM <i>Kansas City</i>	17 Rev. Roderic Giller OSB <i>Kansas City</i>	18 Rev. William Halbing <i>New Jersey</i>	19 Rev. Paul Lehman <i>New Jersey</i>	20 Rev. Joseph Meagher <i>New Jersey</i>	21 Rev. John Gordon <i>New Jersey</i>	22 Rev. Paul Cannariato <i>New Jersey</i>
Rev. Eugene Bettinger <i>New Jersey</i>	24 Rev. Brendan Murray <i>New Jersey</i>	25 Rev. Lewis Papera <i>New Jersey</i>	26 Rev. John Primich <i>New Jersey</i>	27 Rev. Timothy Graff <i>New Jersey</i>	28 Rev. Stephen Toth <i>New Jersey</i>	29 Rev. Paul O'Donnell Duggs <i>New Jersey</i>
Rev. Msgr. John Demkovich <i>New Jersey</i>	31					

### 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.

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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.

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

This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.

Dear Father John Kiley,



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

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

## Mary is a Gift to Priests

by Father Bob Franco, Cleveland

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary has been woven into liturgical calendar of Catholics. We begin the New Year honoring Mary as the Mother of God. We celebrate both Mary's Immaculate Conception (December 8), her birth (September 8), her Assumption into heaven (August 15) and her reign with Jesus Christ as Queen of heaven and earth (August 22). The liturgy even makes place for some of Mary's interventions throughout the history of the Church (Guadalupe- December 12, Lourdes- February 11, Fatima-May 13).

All of these public celebrations of the Blessed Virgin Mary summon individual Christians to a personal piety that honors our Lady. This article is a witness of my personal devotion to our Lady. It is a journey that demonstrates Mary's motherly care even if this son of hers wandered away from her.

Growing up in the late 1950's and early 60's, devotion to Mary was something that was simply part of my life. I learned to pray the Rosary as a child. I somehow knew that May was a month connected with Mary. There were some years when I made it a point to pray the Rosary and attend Mass daily during the month of May.

However, with the cultural upheaval of the latter 60's, my devotion to God and the Blessed

things. They were ignorant or even prejudiced against things like the Church, the sacraments and especially Mary. Their convictions influenced me. I saw that many of them had great zeal for Christ. I also witnessed that many Catholics at the OSU Newman Center seemed reticent to witness to their faith. Many, as is still typical of college students, were much more interested in Saturday night's activities than Sunday Mass.

During this time I began to wrestle with the thought of entering the seminary in my home diocese of Cleveland. I also thought of taking a year off from college to discern where God was calling me.

My father came to my aid at this point. When I explained my quandaries and my desire to take a year off from school, his answer was a firm, "No." He explained, "You're going to go to school next year. You can go back to OSU if you like. You can try another college. You can enter the seminary. But you are going to go to school next year." He was afraid that if I took a year off I may never return to school at all.

In another story, too long for this article, I was led to enroll in Borromeo College of Ohio, the college program of the seminary system in the Diocese of Cleveland. I entered with great zeal for Christ and lots of questions about certain teachings

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# 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](mailto:editor@fraternityofpriests.org)

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

**C**hrist is Risen! He is truly Risen! This is the way Christians of the Eastern churches greet one another during the Season of Easter. They are reminding each other of the greatest and most important event in the history of the human race: Jesus Christ, the Divine Son of the Eternal Father, who died on the cross for our sins, truly rose from the grave glorious and immortal.

A traditional Byzantine icon depicts the resurrection of Christ in a stunning manner. The risen Lord is portrayed bursting forth from the grave, leading Adam and Eve and a host of others from the land of death into eternal life. Jesus Christ is the New Adam, reversing by His life, death, and resurrection the sin of the first Adam.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is at the very center of our faith. St. Paul reminds us that if Christ did not rise, we are still in our sins. He also teaches that our hope in Christ is not just for this life, but for the eternal life in heaven that Christ has won for us.

At the Easter Vigil and the Masses of Easter Sunday we were invited to renew the vows of our baptism. If we accepted that invitation and joined with the community of faith in rejecting sin, selfishness, and Satan and dedicating ourselves anew to the Lord Jesus, it has to be evident in our daily life. At the heart of our faith we find the two great commandments: love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength and love your neighbor as yourself. Do we really love our neighbor? Then it must be seen in the way we treat and speak about others. It must be seen in acts of justice and charity towards the poor. Do we really love God? Then it must also be seen in our worship of God each week, in our daily prayer time, in our love of the Word of God in scripture, in our desire to learn more about our faith. If love is real, it has to be visible.

We know that authentic love is difficult and sacrificial. This is why the risen Christ

sends us the Holy Spirit that we can be people of love on this earth while we await the perfect state of love in Heaven. During the Easter Season that we have begun, take time each day to praise and thank Jesus for all that He has done for us. Without His death and resurrection we would spend an eternity separated from God. Because of His death and resurrection we can have great hope for heaven.

I wish you and your family and loved ones a very happy Easter Season as we continue to celebrate the resurrection and prepare for the great feast of the Holy Spirit, the Feast of Pentecost.

In Christ,



Fr. John

## 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: \$ 1,468.00

Budget Surplus (shortage): (\$3,282.00)

Current as of February 28, 2015.

*...continued from page 1*

of the Catholic Church. Things were further complicated when I learned what some of those teachings were. I was under the mistaken impression that the Immaculate Conception referred to the conception of Christ in the womb of Mary. When I learned that it referred to the truth that Mary was conceived without sin I was a bit dumbfounded. "Doesn't scripture teach that 'all have sinned' (Romans 3:23). How is that Mary is conceived without original sin???"

This and other questions were slowly sorted out during my years in the college and graduate studies for the priesthood. Just as I was coming to an understanding of the Immaculate Conception, I had to write a history paper on a Protestant reformer. I chose to write about the early Anabaptist reformer Menno Simons. I quickly learned that he had little to do with the Mennonite movement in the United States.

I also learned that he had some quirky theology that was criticized even by other Protestant reformers. Menno Simons taught that Christ brought his own "flesh" from heaven when he was conceived in the womb of Mary. In other words, Mary was more of a surrogate mother than the true mother of Jesus Christ.

As I pondered why Menno Simons would make this kind of speculation, it dawned on me that this may have been his way of eliminating the need for the Immaculate Conception. For Jesus to be human, yet without sin, he could not have taken his flesh from a sinful woman. In Menno Simon's mind, Jesus brought his own untainted humanity from heaven. The Church teaches that Mary was immaculately conceived, free

from the stain of original sin. She is the New Eve, the true Ark of the Covenant, who would give the Son of God his humanity. Providentially, I completed my paper on Menno Simons on December 8, 1981. I would be ordained a transitional deacon 11 days later.

I worked out my theological issues by the time I was ordained. However, personal devotion to our Lady was somewhat lacking. In 1984, shortly after our local Fraternity was formed, I traveled with one of my brother priests to the World Wide Retreat for Priests in Rome. Side trips after the retreat included Assisi and Medjugorje, a village in Bosnia Herzegovina where Mary was reputed to be appearing to youth. We ended up taking both side trips.

Though I do not have any strong opinions about the apparitions at Medjugorje, it was there that I recommenced praying the Rosary on a daily basis. Devotion to Mary has grown in my life over the years. I often invoke our Lady's intercession for many different projects and issues, both pastoral and personal. I sometimes pray Blessed Mother Theresa's Express Novena: nine consecutive Memorares for special intentions.

I recently led my parishioners through the 33 Days to Morning Glory Consecration to Mary program as outlined by Fr. Michael Gaitley MIC. Our group of forty or so parishioners began this at home 'retreat' during the summer of 2014. The date of our consecration was August 15.

It was a time guided by our Lady's gracious care. During these 33 days, I oversaw the annual charismatic conference in my diocese and

Please send us your prayer intentions:

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participated in the Annual Fraternity Meeting, held in the island country Trinidad and Tobago. The day after I returned from Tobago my 86 year old mother was taken to the emergency room. It was determined that she needed emergency abdominal surgery. My mother was assigned a surgeon who was the brother of a member of Fraternity of Priests in Indianapolis. The surgery was successful. However, given my mother's age and less than robust health to start with, she was never able to regain the ability to breathe on her own. After much prayer, pondering and family discussion we placed mom in hospice on August 14, 2014. She was alert as I celebrated Mass with her and our family that evening, the Vigil of the Assumption of Mary. The following day I celebrated the early Masses on the Solemnity of the Assumption. My parishioners and I made our consecration to Mary that morning. The rest of the day was spent with the family at the hospice. That evening, while our family was at dinner, my mother passed into eternity. August 15 was the day the Lord took my earthly mother and gave me His mother in a more profound way.

As members of the Fraternity of Priests, as well as devoted laity, may we never be afraid to call upon our Lady. She interceded for the original Pentecost (Acts 1:14) and continues to pray that we experience the New Pentecost needed to carry out the New Evangelization. Her motherly care, the gift of Jesus from the cross (John 19:26-27) can only assist our life of service. Her intercession will empower us to "do whatever he (Jesus) tells" us. (John 2:5)