

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

May 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Rev. 1 Pesamino Victor Samona	Rev. 2 Terry Brenon San Angelo, TX	Rev. 3 Robert Bush San Angelo, TX	Rev. 4 Bernard Gully San Angelo, TX	Rev. 5 Pope Benedict XVI
Rev. 6 Barry McLean San Angelo, TX	Rev. 7 Santiago Udayar San Angelo, TX	Rev. 8 John Helmuegger Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 9 Joseph Voller Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 10 Charles Duman Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 11 John Rasmussen Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 12 Gregory Frankman Sioux Falls, SD
Rev. 13 Roger Geditz Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 14 Randy Phillips Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 15 Jerome Ranek Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 16 Richard Baumberger Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 17 Rodney Farke Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 18 Edward Pierce Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 19 Franklin Darling Springfield, IL
Rev. 20 Gerald Brady Springfield, IL	Rev. 21 Robert Hamel St Cloud, MN	Rev. 22 Peter Kirchner St Cloud, MN	Rev. 23 David Maciej St Cloud, MN	Rev. 24 Gerald Mischke St Cloud, MN	Rev. 25 Gregory Paffel St Cloud, MN	Rev. 26 Elmer Torborg St Cloud, MN
Rev. 27 Alvin Quade St Cloud, MN	Rev. 28 Leroy Schik St Cloud, MN	Rev. 29 Todd Schneider St Cloud, MN	Rev. 30 Mark Stang St Cloud, MN	Rev. 31 Daniel Waltz St Cloud, MN		

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.

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

Name _____

Street _____

City, State and Zip _____

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

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.

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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.

The Healing Wounds of Christ

By Fr. William Cosgrove

We've all heard the phrase "a picture is worth a thousand words". I guess that's one of the many reasons why we need art as well as literature; to express outwardly the profound truth and beauty that is known by an artist or writer.

Each one of us has one or more favorite pieces of art. One piece of art that has captured the imagination of spiritual readers is Rembrandt's "the Prodigal Son". This painting is prominent in the art world not only because of who the artist is, but now also by the ability of one of the 20th century's greatest spiritual writers (Henri Nouwen) to bring the painting's message to life for us in our century. It seems that you can't go into any retreat house or spiritual director's office without seeing a copy of this great masterpiece. It has stirred the religious imagination of countless people who have read Nouwen's book "The Return of the Prodigal". For centuries masterpieces of art have always brought out the truth and beauty of the human experience and the religious sensibility of the human person.

Many years ago I received the gift of a painting of the risen Christ that profoundly moved my soul. This was a painting on the wall of a charismatic renewal center in

Texas. So unique was the painting that I gave it the name "The Glory Wounds". It is found in the Catholic Charismatic Center in Houston, Texas. The painting is unique in two ways. First, the artist paints the risen body of Christ with his wounds still on his RISEN body. Secondly, the artist chose to use two colors for the image of the wound: red, for the blood that was shed from his glorious wounds and white for the glory that is within his wounds and that flows out from his wounds.

Many times we must find ourselves reflecting on the ways we would do certain things and discover that God chose to accomplish his work of salvation in a way very different from the way we would have. For example, who among us would ever guess that once Christ would rise from the dead that he would still have the wounds of crucifixion on his body. It would seem only "right and just" that God would remove all signs and evidence of suffering and pain, crucifixion and death from the glorious risen body of Christ. But, as it says in Holy Scripture, "my ways are not your ways, and my thoughts are not your thoughts".

As I saw these two colors in the wounds of Christ's body, I found myself meditating on and

wondering what the artist might have been thinking as he painted this beautiful image of the risen Christ.

The first thing that I was reminded of was that this is the NEW risen body of Christ. This risen Christ has the power and the glory of resurrection -life. Yet, in this painting, we are reminded that Christ is the head of His body and we are His members. Together, head and members we now form the new and living body of the risen Christ. This risen body of Christ holds **both the glory and the wounds**, the "now" and the "not yet".

Who among us can doubt that in this second decade of the 21st century there are still gaping wounds that are afflicting the body of Christ throughout Europe and America? These wounds are real and in some cases go deep. What is it that one can do with the wounds that we (the church) carry in our body? We must hear the call of Jesus to Thomas as he invited him to put his hand into his nail scarred hand and into his pierced side. In so doing, is it possible that we are placing our wounds into his glorious wounds? Is it truly possibly that by his wounds our wounds are healed, as Isaiah says? Like his own scarred resurrected body, we do not eliminate the scars on our body but they are made whole. All of us who

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Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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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!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the Victory of Victories. The implacable enemy of the human race, death, has been overthrown. Now Jesus Christ is Lord!

Though we revel in this greatest of news, we are also well aware that there are many battles yet to be fought on earth, battles that are personal, social, familial and political. Yes, political!

What does the Resurrection of Jesus Christ have to do with politics? Remember, it was bad politics that led to the crucifixion of Christ. As the Church began to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord (a title given to the Roman Emperor), the Empire persecuted the Church.

Through the ages the Church has danced with a variety of political situations. In the Middle Ages the Church was the primary influence on culture and politics. There have been other times, such as during the French or Chinese Communist Revolutions, when political systems sought to suppress and even eradicate the Church.

One of the founding principles of the United States is "freedom of religion." We easily forget how unique this is. Shortly after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the Mother Superior of the Ursulines in New Orleans wrote the President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson. She asked these kinds of questions: Would their community be able to continue their work? Would their property be confiscated, such as happened during the French Revolution? The President replied.

Washington, May 15, 1804
I have received, holy sisters, the letter you have written me wherein you express anxiety for the property vested in your institution by the former governments of Louisiana. The principles of the constitution and government of the United States are a guarantee to you that it will be preserved to you, sacred and inviolate, and that your institution will be permitted to govern itself according to its own voluntary rules, without interference from the civil authority. Whatever the diversity of shade may appear in the religious opinions of our fellow

citizens, the charitable objects of your institution cannot be indifferent to any; and its furtherance of the wholesome purposes of society, by training up its younger members in the way they should go, cannot fail to ensure it the patronage of the government it is under. Be assured it will meet all the protection which my office can give it. I salute you, holy sisters, with friendship and respect...Thomas Jefferson

Currently, the Catholic Church is battling for freedom of religion in our country. The Department of Health and Human Services has mandated that the Catholic Church violate its own teachings and provide insurance that covers sterilization, abortion producing drugs and artificial contraception.

With confidence let us fight this fight! As good citizens and Catholics, with wisdom and courage, let us press on!
Jesus Christ is Lord!

Fr. Bob Franco

Fraternity Financial Report

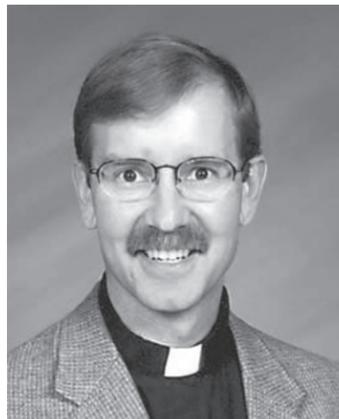
One of the objectives for the Fraternity of Priests is to inform our donors about the ongoing financial health and details of the organization. We're providing this information to help communicate our specific need and to thank those many faithful benefactors who help make our service possible. Thank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

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

Actual Donations: **\$2,619.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$2,091.00)**

Current as of February 29, 2012.



The Annual International Conference

Every year all of us members of the Fraternity have an ideal opportunity to actually practice one of the basic charisms that has been at the core of our organization from the very beginning: "to gather priests to Christ and **to one another.**"

This is accomplished through our participation in the Annual International Fraternity Conference. Last year it was an unforgettable coming together of men from nearly every corner of the world in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The teachings, times of worship and praise, the conversations and

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carry the healed scars of former surgeries know that the scars will always remain and remind us that we are "broken", "wounded", "scarred" individuals. Nonetheless, we can become whole through the glorious wounds of the Savior.

As we mark the 50 days of Easter, let us remember that the wounds of the church (the living Body of Christ) are now being restored and renewed through the glory of the risen Christ. Let us remember what the artist portrayed in that painting in the Renewal Center of Houston, where there are wounds in the body of Christ, the Lord is transforming them into His "glory wounds".

Father Cosgrove is a Fraternity Board member and writes from New York.

friendships fashioned during those days have certainly given encouragement to all of us ever since. Now we are fast approaching another wonderful opportunity to be refreshed in our committed brotherhood as we anticipate this year's Conference which will be hosted by the Marquette, Michigan Chapter of the Fraternity of Priests in the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan.

We are invited to come to Marygrove Retreat Center in Garden, Michigan from Sunday evening July 22 to Friday, July 27. This most northern part of Michigan is largely rural and away from the beaten path as well as full of awesome natural beauty. It is recommended that plans be made to fly into either the Sawyer International Airport just outside of Marquette or the Delta County Airport which is near Escanaba, Michigan. Transportation will be provided by the local Fraternity from either of these airports to Marygrove.

This local Fraternity was founded in 1986 and currently has ten active members ranging from newly ordained to retired men. They have faithfully sent members to take part in the Annual Conference and are now looking forward very much to hosting this year's gathering in the beautiful and historic diocese of Marquette which was founded by Bishop Frederic Baraga whose cause for

canonization is in progress. The current Bishop, Alexander Sample who will concelebrate Mass with us at his cathedral church on Brotherhood Day is very supportive of the vision of our Fraternity.

Always one of the highlights of the Conference is Brotherhood Day mid-week. This year a great day has been planned beginning with a boat tour of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, an amazing geological phenomenon in the midst of the verdant wild forests on the edge of the clear waters of Lake Superior. In the afternoon before Eucharist at St. Peter's Cathedral we will tour the historic city of Marquette and relax swimming or hiking, at Presque Isle Park. A festive banquet always concludes the day's activities.

You can see that this is another not-to-be-missed opportunity for the Lord to refresh the Spirit in us; mind, body and soul! For many of us who have taken advantage of attending Conferences in the past we can without hesitation say that it is better than a vacation. It centers our true vocation. If you want more information you can go to the newly established and wonderfully useful Fraternity website. Members using the new website for the first time will be asked to follow the simple instructions to create a personal login.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

