



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

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

January 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Rev. 1 Darryl Pepin Michigan	Rev. 2 Benjamin Hasse Michigan	Rev. 3 Christopher Gardiner Michigan	Rev. 4 Timothy Ekaitis Michigan	5 Pope Benedict XVI
Rev. 6 Daniel Moll Michigan	Rev. 7 Leo Dabuoh Wa, West Africa	Rev. 8 Zachary Kokole Wa, West Africa	Rev. 9 Evarist Kuuwulong Wa, West Africa	Rev. 10 John Kpan Wa, West Africa	Rev. 11 Sylvester Nankpi Wa, West Africa	Rev. 12 Benette Tang Wa, West Africa
Rev. 13 Augustine Ten Wa, West Africa	Rev. 14 Matthew Tuurosong Wa, West Africa	Rev. 15 Luke Kale Wa, West Africa	Rev. 16 Gervase Angsotinge Wa, West Africa	Rev. 17 Peter Paul Langnedomah Wa, West Africa	Rev. 18 John Bosco Eledi Wa, West Africa	Rev. 19 Cryacus Tang Wa, West Africa
Rev. 20 Martin Ninnang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 21 Stephen Kangmennaang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 22 Romanus Tampah Wa, West Africa	Rev. 23 Michael Tanzile Wa, West Africa	Rev. 24 Stephen Kantubog Wa, West Africa	Rev. 25 Fidelis Vielu Wa, West Africa	Rev. 26 Robert DeGrandis Washington, DC
Rev. 27 Giles Dimmock, OP Washington DC	Rev. 28 Stan Jaworski Winnipeg	Rev. 29 Francios Paradis Winnipeg	Rev. 30 Maurice Jeanneau Winnipeg	Rev. 31 Michael Nault Winnipeg		

## 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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Dear Father Bill Cosgrove,  
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 care-fully and wisely, and not to ask for money that is not needed.

“Father, now that I am involved in the basic ecclesiastical community and reach out to those who are lonely, I have learned something about the renewal. It means becoming fruitful.” I perceived that the young man was growing in wisdom. And this is a wisdom we need to recapture. Often we are more of a believing community and less of a doing community. We are good in giving teachings and talks to others. However, we lack the doing side of our faith. We need to have an integrated approach. We need to ask ourselves, “Am I a doer of God’s works or simply a listener of God’s works?”

### Jesus went about doing good

In his humanity, Jesus Christ did things to make his ministry fruitful. These we must imitate.

1. *Contact with God the Father:* Though Jesus had oneness with the Father that is beyond our full grasp (John 10:30), he prayed to the Father. He gave the example of doing this early in the morning (Mark 1:35). Jesus also prayed before he made important decisions. Luke 6:12 records, “In those days he departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God.” When he came down the mountain Jesus chose the twelve apostles. He also prayed before the multiplication

## Bear Fruit in Jesus

By Fr. Francis Dabre

of loaves and fishes, before calling forth Lazarus from the tomb, at the Last Supper and in the Garden of Gethsemane. Just as our mobile phones and devices need to be recharged daily if they are to work to capacity, so we need regular recharging with God the Father. If Jesus did this, how much more do we? Part of our fruitfulness means cultivating personal time with God. Let us ask ourselves: Do I spend time alone with the Father recharging my personal life?

2. *Preaching the Word:* Jesus was given a mandate to “... proclaim liberty to captives...” (Luke 4:18) He preached with power. People “were hanging on his words.” (Luke 19:48b). Among other things, here are three things that made his preaching effective:

First, Jesus Christ preached with his life. He did not make demands on others without embracing them himself. Jesus not only spoke of welcoming sinners. He welcomed them. Jesus did not merely speak about seeking the lost. He sought them out, going from one town and village to another, sending disciples before him to prepare his way. We need to ask ourselves this question: is my life a sign or a counter sign of Christ? Do I embrace the constant call to holiness? (I Peter 1:13-16)

Secondly, Jesus used parables

when he preached. These images spoke to the people where they were at. People could ponder their meaning and apply them to their lives. Does our preaching connect with the memories and imaginations of our listeners? Do we work to connect the message of the Lord with the daily lives of the people we minister to?

Finally, Jesus incorporated miracles with his preaching. He allowed the gifts of the Spirit to be manifest in his service of God’s people. Though we may not have these same gifts, do we seek manifestations of the Spirit in our ministry to God’s people? St. Paul wrote at length that the gifts of the Spirit are given for some benefit. (I Corinthians 12:7) By opening ourselves to the gifts of the Spirit and by encouraging others to be open to these gifts, our preaching will become more fruitful.

Jesus Christ has called his Church to proclaim the Kingdom of God to the ends of the earth. Our preaching is to make the risen Lord present. It is to pave the way for people to seek out baptism and receive God’s saving grace. Part of being bearing fruit in Jesus will be effective preaching.

3. *Doers of the word:* Jesus taught that, “Not everyone who says to me ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the

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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. Bob Franco via e-mail at [editor@fraternityofpriests.org](mailto:editor@fraternityofpriests.org) or fax to 440-327-2204.

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

The month of December is upon us and with it comes all the preparations that one must make for the feast of Christmas. However, most of the preparations people make are the external ones. We decorate our homes and trees. We put up holiday lights, bake cookies, purchase and wrap our Christmas gifts. Though these things are necessary, they can often become distractions to more important preparations. The Church gives us the season of Advent to make the internal preparations necessary to welcome Christ. In American culture, we no longer allow for a season of internal preparation for the season of Christmas. Yet, in our journey through the four weeks of Advent, we repeatedly hear this call. John the Baptist cries out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His path."

The first area of our life we need to prepare is our heart. During Advent we acknowledge our sins. We seek to have a repentant heart that cries out for God's mercy. We know that God responds to a heart that is contrite and humble. When we are contrite God promises that He will give us a new heart. In that new heart we will discover God's gift of courage. Our hearts become confident and filled with Christ's peace.

The second area of our lives that we need to prepare is our home. I am not speaking about physically decorating our homes. We need to make our homes places where Christ is warmly welcomed. Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today, salvation has come to this house..." (Luke 19:9a) Our homes, built on his saving word, demonstrating hospitality, humility and gospel values, will be those homes where Christ abides.

The third area of our life we need to prepare is our mind. A prepared mind is one that remembers the marvelous deeds of the Lord. It remembers that deeds of the Lord in Sacred Scripture and the lives of the Saints. It also remembers that deeds of the Lord in one's own lives. The message of the Lord is to transform our minds to be like that of Christ. It is this transformed mind that will bear the fruit of peace.

The final area of our lives that we should

prepare is our spirit. We are different from the animal kingdom. We have been created to rejoice in the Lord. The Blessed Virgin Mary said to her kinswoman Elizabeth, "My spirit rejoices in God my savior." (Luke 1:47) By prayerful waiting on the Lord we will grow in that joy.

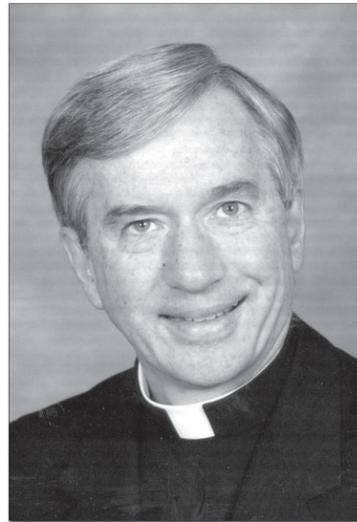
We are to prepare more than externally during this Advent season. We must ready our heart, home, mind and spirit. In these ways we will be ready for Christmas.

Speaking to and for the members of Fraternity of Priests, I wish you the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in overflowing measure to empower you to grow during this Christmas Season and in the New Year.

In Christ,



Father Bill Cosgrove



## 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: **\$5,100.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **\$ 350.00**

Current as of October 31, 2012.

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Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven." (Matthew 7:21) Jesus did the will of his Heavenly Father, doing good to all he came in contact with. His goodness attracted many people. His example reminds us that "faith without works is dead" (James 2:26). Seeking out the will of the Father and desiring to carry out that will by being a blessing to others, will make us bear fruit for Jesus.

## The Year of Faith

The Year of Faith is a catalyst to become more fruitful for Jesus Christ. It is a time to pray, "Increase our faith." (Luke 17:5b)

1. *An opportunity:* There are plans for the Year of Faith being implemented at every level of the Church. These plans are opportunities for us to deepen our relationship with our Divine Lord. This year is a gift from God to grow in our faith through study and learning. Though many of us are not recent converts, we recognize our need to become more deeply converted. Lethargic in our faith, we need to be re-evangelized in Jesus. The Year of Faith is an opportunity for both laity and clergy to allow the grace of God flow more fully into our lives, making us fruitful in the Lord.

2. *Sacraments:* Romans 6:4 tells us that we were buried by baptism into the Lord's death so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we too might walk in newness of life. Having received this new life, Pope Benedict encourages us to carefully nourish it through the celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. (Porta Fidei 9). The

grace of God flows to who receive the Eucharist, both clergy and laity. However, because priests celebrate Mass with great frequency, there is a danger of approaching this august sacramental encounter with the Lord in a merely ritualistic manner. Priests must personally enter into the celebration, praying the Mass attentively with their whole self.

3. *Making Personal the Year of Faith:* Besides being involved in the Year of Faith activities planned at diocesan and parish levels, both clergy and laity need to make their own personal plans at approaching the Year of Faith. What am I going to do on the personal level? What reading do I need to do to feed my faith: the Sacred Scriptures, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the documents of Vatican II? Do I make time to spend before Blessed sacraments? Am I preparing myself well for liturgy so that I may be an active participant and not a spectator? Am I making use of the Sacrament of Penance and available to hear confessions? All the sacraments are to be celebrated and not merely recited. This is the difference between listless ritual or anointed encounter with the Lord.

We are called to be fruitful in the Lord. Jesus is our example. By making use of the means through which we receive his grace (prayer, the sacraments, service, the gifts of the Spirit, et cetera) we will joyfully bear the fruit of the Spirit. Let us hear the call of God in this Year of Faith and become his fruitful people. May God bless us all!

Rev. Dabre is a member of the FOP Board of Directors and writes from Vasai, India.

## Prophetic Words

Fr. John Kiley, Boston

### On Vocations

My sons, As you strive to be faithful to me... I ask you to prepare also for the future of the Church. Let me show you in prayer those whom I am calling to follow in your footsteps in the priesthood. Let me show you those...young people that I call to serve the Church. Pray especially for those I point out to you. Actively encourage them... Give them even now opportunities to serve. Your ministry is certainly to serve present needs, but also to prepare for the glorious future that I will bring about.

### On the Ministry of the Word

My sons, I have called you to priesthood, but always remember that you were ordained first as deacon. You were given the Book of Gospels and ordained as a preacher of my Word. Stir up within you through the Holy Spirit the graces I gave to Philip the deacon. Be men of the Word, loving the Holy Scriptures, and ready and able to lead people to Jesus and to baptism by opening the scriptures to them.

### On Being Hope in Dark Times

My sons, I call you as priest and I call all my faithful people to be people of hope. Events...will continue to occur that will lead many into the depths of despair. If you seek it, I will give you gifts of peace and joy that people will find remarkable. These gifts...will give you countless opportunities to lead many to Christ. Seek and pray each day for these gifts.

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