



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

February 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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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.

Editors' Note:

Our lead article helps us to "look back" and may serve us as we prepare for the year ahead. This article originally appeared in the January 2012 issue and was written by Father Bob Franco, who was chairman at the time.

A Lost and Found Jubilee

by Father Bob Franco, Cleveland Fraternity

to each other, "But I thought he was with you!"), they began to search for him among their relatives, friends and fellow pilgrims who were returning to Galilee. However, their search was in vain until they came to the Temple. It was there that they discovered Jesus, in his Father's house and among his Father's business.

Mary and Joseph are examples for us in a number of ways. First, *they recognized that Jesus was missing*. Many in our day are not awake to this fact. They do not recognize that *something* is missing. Perhaps it is the busyness of life that has hardened their innate longing for God. Perhaps it is a form of sin that has become an addiction and idol. Perhaps it is simply pride. The Lord has become a "been there, done that" stage of life. Whatever it is, many do not ask, "Where is the Lord in my life?"

Fr. Robert Barron tells the story of a videographer he encountered in the Spanish city of Toledo. He and his crew were on site filming scenes for his ten part DVD series *Catholicism*. They shared with this cameraman that the treasures the Catholic faith and culture in Spain were remarkably beautiful. The videographer remarked, "You Americans are somewhat naïve. This beauty of the Church-these are toys that we bring out to entertain our guests." Fr. Barron remarked that besides presuming the naïveté of

Americans, this videographer reduced the truth, goodness and beauty of the Church to mere toys. He, like so many others in our time, does not recognize that Jesus is missing.

Secondly, when Joseph and Mary recognized that Jesus was missing, *they energetically sought Him out*. There are many people who do recognize something is missing. However, they are searching in all the wrong places. Fulfillment is sought through careers, monetary compensation, pleasure, positions of power, et cetera. As Blasé Pascal said, "Inside each person, there is a God shaped hole. No matter what we try to fill it with, it can only be filled with God." To try to suppress our innate desire for God and substitute something else for it, just doesn't work. Only God can adequately fill the God-shaped hole in the human soul.

Finally, Mary and Joseph found Jesus *in the Temple*. When people recognize their need for God and begin to seek out the Lord, they need to be directed toward the Church, the dwelling place of God in the Spirit. In spite of its weaknesses and sins, the Church is the place where the fullness of the life and teaching of Jesus resides. We need to pray that people's faith in God *and* in the Church will be revived.

One of C.S. Lewis' early works is *Pilgrim's Regress*, which is a parody of John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. C.S.

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Dear Father John Kiley, This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests. \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

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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

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

At their request Jesus taught his disciples how to pray. At some point in our own religious formation we too received instruction on prayer. The leader or teacher probably used an acronym to help us understand the various types of prayer: ACTS. There is the prayer of Adoration, the prayer of Contrition, the prayer of Thanksgiving, and the prayer of Supplication. Lord, I adore you. Lord, I am sorry. Lord, I thank you. Lord, I am in need. These aspects of prayer can be very helpful, especially when we experience a time of dryness in our prayer lives. Certainly each disciple of Christ needs to grow in all these forms of prayer including contemplative prayer.

Even though it is the most common form of prayer, I would like to reflect on the prayer of supplication or petition, sometimes termed intercessory prayer. Each fraternity brother and lay supporter is asked to lift up in prayer a particular priest on each day of the month. As you know, the listing is on the back page of this and each monthly newsletter. This is a wonderful gift you are able to offer to the priests who are striving to live out the Fraternity vision in their lives and ministries.

I must admit that for many years I had been negligent in praying for "the priest of the day". I would receive the monthly newsletter and look at the last page and say "I need to do this each day". Finally I made the commitment to do so. Each morning as part of my morning prayer I pick up the newsletter and pray for the priest mentioned. This is so important. Only God knows where that particular priest is in his life and ministry. Only the Lord knows what joys and sorrow will be part of his day. Only Jesus knows the graces he will need on that day for an effective ministry to God's people. How often we priests have heard people say, "Father, you don't need our prayers." What a fallacy! What a lie! If any of you, like myself, have been negligent in your intercession, now is the time to begin again.

We certainly have a wonderful example today in Pope Francis. On the evening

of his election he stood on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, bowed his head, and asked for the prayers of God's people. On his visit to Turkey in November, he again bowed his head and asked the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to bless him and the Church of Rome. May we never fail to seek the prayers of each other as each of us, clergy and laity, strive to advance in the spiritual life and persevere in running the race until we see Jesus in all his glory.



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: \$ 4,559.00

Budget Surplus (shortage): (\$191.00)

Current as of November 30, 2014.

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Lewis' book outlines in an allegorical manner a modern pilgrim's journey through the philosophies and politics of the early twentieth century. Early in this pilgrim's journey he is told that it is *Mother Kirk* (the Church) alone that can enable him to cross the river and journey to the *Landlord's Island*. The pilgrim, seeing an old lady, gnarled and stooped, politely declines. After many failed attempts, the pilgrim is again instructed to return to *Mother Kirk* for assistance. This time the pilgrim welcomes *Mother Kirk's* assistance and is greatly helped on his way to the *Landlord's Island*.

Many people see the Church today as *Mother Kirk*. They see the warts and blemishes of the Church and fail to recognize that the full teaching of Jesus Christ resounds within its walls. It is only with the help of the Church that we can make our journey to our Father's house.

Catechesis: St. Luke records that "...all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers." (Luke 2:47) When we take the time and make the effort to listen to Jesus Christ as he speaks in the Church we too will be astounded by the depth and wisdom of God. As St. Paul said, "...Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." When we hear Jesus speaking through the Sacred Scriptures, Saints, Popes and Magisterial teaching through the ages we will be more than nourished and satisfied by the truth of God.

A Jubilee Response: Mary and Joseph recognized that Jesus was missing, sought him out and discovered him astounding the teachers in the Temple. How can we bring others to this recognition, search for and discovery of Jesus in the Church? *The first step*

is prayer. Jesus said, "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him." (John 6:44a) God's *prevenient grace* draws a person to Jesus. In the fifth chapter of the sixth session of the Council of Trent, it is stated:

The Synod furthermore declares, that in adults, the beginning of the said Justification is to be derived from the prevenient grace of God, through Jesus Christ, that is to say, from His vocation, whereby, without any merits existing on their parts, they are called; that so they, who by sins were alienated from God, may be disposed through His quickening and assisting grace, to convert themselves to their own justification, by freely assenting to and co-operating with that said grace. (from en.wikipedia.org)

The evangelization of our times needs to begin with prayer. We need to ask our heavenly Father to grace people in such a way that they recognize their need for Jesus, seek him out and discover the Lord as Teacher in the Church.

We also need to pray for ourselves. Devout people, alive with the power of the Holy Spirit, are the normal instruments of evangelization in any time. "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8) It is only in the Holy Spirit do we find the courage, wisdom, love and gifts to effectively evangelize any mission territory, near or far. Without the grace of the Holy Spirit, our efforts would be fruitless. Just as an engine without oil quickly burns up, so programs without the Holy Spirit serve only to weary the members of Church.

Finally, we who are evangelized need to *listen afresh to the teachings of Jesus Christ as given us by the Church.*

We must counter the tendency to live as "cafeteria Catholics", who select to believe and practice only the dessert items on the menu of faith, while neglecting the "meat and potatoes" of religious and moral truth.

The word Jubilee comes from the Hebrew word, "yobhel", referring to the ram's horn that was blown every fiftieth year, indicating a Year of Jubilee. It was during this year that slaves were set free, property was restored to ancestral owners and the land was given a rest from planting.

Scholars tell us that it is doubtful whether these social aspects of a Jubilee year were really implemented. However, in our Catholic tradition, a year of Jubilee was to mark a time of spiritual renewal and revival.

As we recall the 2000th anniversary of the finding of Jesus in the Temple, let us pray that this be a year of spiritual renewal and evangelization. There are many people, captivated by the fleeting hopes of this world, who need to be set free by Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit so grace them that they recognize the Father drawing them to Jesus.

There are many Catholics who waver regarding their whole hearted acceptance of the teachings of the Church. These Catholics need to be astounded by the answers of Jesus Christ as taught by the Church. May the Holy Spirit bring them to repent of their pride and grant them the docility to be taught again by Jesus through the Church.

Though 2012 is not an official year of Jubilee for the Church, I pray that Fraternity of Priests be an instrument of evangelization and catechesis in our day.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____
