



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

February 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Most Rev. Peter Smith Cardiff, UK 1	Rev. James Mazanec Cleveland, OH 2	Rev. Bob Franco Cleveland, OH 3	Pope Benedict XVI 4
Rev. Tom Dunphy Cleveland, OH 5	Rt. Rev. Bryan Eyman Cleveland, OH 6	Rev. Richard Engle Columbus, OH 7	Rev. James Kelly Columbus, OH 8	Rev. Homer Blubuagh Columbus, OH 9	Rev. Joseph Losh Columbus, OH 10	Rev. Justin Reis Columbus, OH 11
Msgr. James Nugent Columbus, OH 12	Rev. Duane Cote Fargo, ND 13	Rev. Mathias Lanz Fargo, ND 14	Rev. Donald Leiphon Fargo, ND 15	Rev. Msgr. Robert Laliberte Fargo, ND 16	Very Rev. Dale Kinzler Fargo, ND 17	Rev. Ayub Nasar Grand Rapids, MI 18
Rev. George Fekete Grand Rapids, MI 19	Rev. Donald Lomasiewicz Grand Rapids, MI 20	Rev. James Bozung Grand Rapids, MI 21	Rev. Michael Shea, CM Grand Rapids, MI 22	Rev. Mark Mitchell Grand Rapids, MI 23	Rev. Charles Antekeier Grand Rapids, MI 24	Msgr. Cyril Lamontange Grenada 25
Rev. Brian Jeffries Hartford, CT 26	Rev. Will-Roger Malave Hartford, CT 27	Rev. Robert Rousseau Hartford, CT 28	Rev. Joseph Looney Hartford, CT 29			

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 Bob Franco, This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests. _____ \$ \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 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.

A Lost and Found Jubilee

By Fr. Bob Franco

A number of years ago Fr. Tom Forrest, C.Ss.R. led a Day of Renewal in the Diocese of Cleveland. He shared a vision that he had for the Jubilee Year 2012. I must admit I hadn't thought of the year 2012 as a Jubilee Year. However, Fr. Forrest pointed out that the only incident we have in the life of Jesus from the time of his infancy to the time of his public ministry (which began when Jesus was about 30 years of age according to Luke 3:23) was *the finding in the Temple*, when Jesus was about twelve years old (Luke 2:42). Thus, the year 2012 is the 2000th anniversary of the finding of Jesus in the Temple.

This, the fifth joyful mystery of the Rosary, offers us much food for thought and reflection. Here are a number of things to pray about and act upon as we live out the Jubilee Year (of sorts) of finding Jesus in the Temple.

Evangelization: When Mary and Joseph discovered that Jesus was missing (I can hear them say 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. Lewis' book outlines in an allegorical manner a modern pilgrim's journey through the philosophies and politics of the early

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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!

New Year's Day coincides with the Octave of Christmas. The traditional gospel reading for this day highlights Jesus' circumcision, which is to take place eight days after the birth of a male child. This ceremony reflected the corporate resolve of Mary and Joseph to hand on the faith of Judaism in its fullness to their son Jesus. The faith of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, of Moses and David and the Prophets would continue to be the focus of, not only their individual lives, but also of their family life.

Our New Year's resolutions are often directed toward personal improvement. Some popular resolutions include: exercise more, eat less, lose weight, quit smoking, read more, spend less, et cetera. Sometimes we include spiritual practices: pray more regularly, go to confession more frequently and the like.

These are all noble things. If you have chosen to do one of these, may the Lord grant you the strength of perseverance. If you find that you have "fallen off the wagon" so early in the year and have returned to your old ways, may the Lord grant you the grace to get up and try again.

However, like the Holy Family on the New Year's Day, I would like to suggest we pursue another kind of resolution: corporate. Most of us belong to a number of communities: family, local Fraternity of Priests group, a work community, neighborhood community, church community and others.

To make a resolution as a body is difficult. However, if we discuss things and make our commitments simple, corporate resolutions are possible. For example, a family may resolve to attend Mass each Sunday and Holy Day. A group of office workers may commit to serve the needy in some way. Or perhaps they commit themselves not to speak badly about co-workers

Local Fraternities of Priests can recommit themselves to living the disciplines of the Fraternity in a fuller manner. In the November issue of *The*

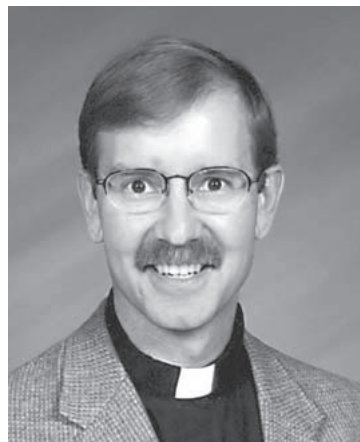
Visitation Fr. Vlado Bizjak wrote of the challenge of making Fraternity meetings. He called it a form of asceticism. The lives of most parish priests are

filled with many competing demands. Often the demand that shouts the loudest that gets our attention first. It takes discipline, commitment, resolve and even faith to say "No!" to these loud demands and "Yes!" to the Lord and one's brother priests.

As we stand in the beginning of 2012, I want to encourage you to prayerfully fulfill your resolutions. I encourage our lay supporters to pray for the Fraternity and support us financially as you are able. To my brother priests, I encourage you to review and embrace the disciplines of the Fraternity, especially our commitment to meet regularly and share our lives together. These corporate resolutions keep our priesthood rooted in Christ.

Sincerely in Christ,

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: **\$5,885.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **\$1,135.00**

Current as of November 30, 2011.

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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: _____