

August 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Prayer Requests Received	2 Pope Francis
Rev. 3 Henry Dauphinais, MS Tucson	Rev. 4 Liam Leahy Tucson	Rev. 5 Pietro Hewlet Ukraine	Rev. 6 Tad Brodeur Upper Peninsula	Rev. 7 Darryl Pepin Upper Peninsula	Rev. 8 Larry Van Damme Upper Peninsula	Rev. 9 Michael Steber Upper Peninsula
Rev. 10 Christopher Gardiner Upper Peninsula	Rev. 11 James Roetzer Upper Peninsula	Rev. 12 Benjamin Hasse Upper Peninsula	Rev. 13 Norman Clisch Upper Peninsula	Rev. 14 Fedelis Vielu Wa, West Africa	Rev. 15 Stephen Kantubog Wa, West Africa	Rev. 16 John Bosco Eledi Wa, West Africa
Rev. 17 Romanus Tampah Wa, West Africa	Rev. 18 Stephen Kangmennaang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 19 Martin Ninnang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 20 Cryacus Tang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 21 Evarist Kuuwulong Wa, West Africa	Rev. 22 Gervase Angsotinge Wa, West Africa	Rev. 23 Matthew Tuurosong Wa, West Africa
Rev. 24 Benette Tang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 25 Sylvester Nankpi Wa, West Africa	Rev. 26 John Kpan Wa, West Africa	Rev. 27 Peter Paul Langnedomah Wa, West Africa	Rev. 28 Robert DeGrandis, SJ Washington DC	Rev. 29 Giles Dimock OP Washington DC	Rev. 30 Michael Nault Winnipeg
Rev. 31 Maurice Jeanneau Winnipeg						



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

The Fraternity of Priests in My Life

By Father Darryl Pepin of the Marquette, Michigan Fraternity

When I was in major seminary, a small group of five of us seminarians had formed a Jesu Caritas support group. One of our members had heard about Charles de Foucauld and Jesu Caritas and expressed an interest in forming a group. On a set evening, he had set up a small meeting and about ten seminarians were present. From that meeting, five of us choose to form a group. We met monthly, usually at a parish or retreat house away from the seminary. Our group had the blessings of the seminary's formation director who inquired from time to time how we were doing. Sadly, as men moved on from seminary either by way of ordination or just leaving, the group disbanded. But it was an integral part of my formation and spirituality! Having a group experience and sharing faith and personal time with each other was a good experience! After I was ordained a transitional deacon, I was assigned to our cathedral parish where the parish household consisted of four priests and a religious brother. Our diocese offered a workshop/retreat on how priests need priests with the possibility of forming priestly support groups was discussed. Many small groups were formed at that time, but sadly without some sort of input or support, many did not last too long.

My own support group consisted of seven priests and myself—a deacon. We used various programs to provide input for our spiritual growth and education, things like "Genesis II," "Fully Alive," etc. While each of the programs we used had some benefits, when we would come to the end of the program, the question was always "What's next?" We would scour the books and journals of the time looking for something to help us, but in the end, we just left the teaching part out and continued to meet. What happened was not pretty! Our group started to dissolve into a gripe/complaint session about what was wrong with the Church (remember this was the late 70's and early 80's!) and alcohol also began to flow quite freely at our meeting. With one of our members taking care of the support group "booze box" as we traveled from place to place. We did try to move on but, somehow, were not completely successful and "stuck in a rut."

Then in the summer of 1986 or 1987, one of our members, who was at the time our diocesan liaison for the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (Fr. Raymond Zeugner), attended priests' conference at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. He came back all on fire about this new idea of forming a "fraternity of priests"! Gee, was this something

we might want to try? Is there hope to save our group with this new idea? What did it entail? What did we have to do? How could we learn more? One thing led to another and in the fall of that year we had invited someone from the Fraternity (Fr. Ken Gallagher) to come to our diocese to speak to us about it. We booked our diocesan retreat house (Marygrove in Garden, Michigan) and invited all the priests of the diocese to attend the retreat/workshop. I think there were 14 or 15 in attendance, many of whom had scarcely any experience with the charismatic movement.

After the first couple of sessions, a few priests said that this was not for them and left. But the majority stayed and listened and prayed. It finally got to the point where Fr. Ken, who was more than enthusiastic in his teachings, looked at us and asked, "Guys! Is this something you want? Your faces are blank stares and I cannot sense anything coming from you! Tell you what! I'm going to ask three questions and then leave the room. After you take some time discussing and praying about the questions, come and get me!" The three questions were: 1 – Do you believe the Fraternity of Priests is of God? 2 – Do you feel personally called to the Fraternity of Priests? 3 – Do you wish to establish a Fraternity of Priests in this Diocese? When he

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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.

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Editor's Box:

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!

On Wednesday, May 21, I was present at the Annual Convocation for the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. The main speaker was Bishop Chris Coyne. Bishop Coyne is a former priest and seminary professor from the Archdiocese of Boston who is now serving as auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of Indianapolis. One of his themes was the necessity of working for unity among the priests of a diocese. He acknowledged the differences in priests ordained before, during, and right after Vatican II and priests ordained more recently. Even though there are differences in the theology and understanding of priesthood, both groups have a love for Christ, for the priesthood, and for God's People. We need to capitalize on these points of unity. He also pointed out that both groups are rather heroic. Those with many years in the priesthood have persevered when many of their brother priests and even close friends have left the priesthood. The more recently ordained have entered seminary in a rather hostile culture and many times without the support of family and friends. We need to acknowledge and capitalize on this heroism in the service of the Lord and of His Church.

Later in the day Cardinal Sean O'Malley, in his presentation, emphasized the importance of daily prayer, a serious yearly retreat, and the necessity of being part of a priests group. The Cardinal challenged us to spend two hours with the Lord each day. This would include Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, spiritual reading, and an extended time of personal prayer. He reiterated several times the need to be part of a priestly fraternity group.

I would like to raise this important question: how are we doing in recruiting new members for our groups. Also are you, our lay friends and supporters, encouraging priests you know to search out and join a group for priestly support and fraternity? At our International Conference in Trinidad Fr. Joe Looney will be making a presentation on recruiting new members. Also in our Boston Fraternity we recently had a "Come and See" afternoon. Our members contacted some priests they know personally in order to invite them. Two new priests participated

and several other indicated they could not be present on that particular afternoon but would like to "Come and See" in the near future. In our group we have also welcomed three new members over the past year.

The Lord has given us a great gift and grace in the Fraternity of Priests and we need to share that gift especially with our recently ordained priests and find ways of helping our seminarians to become aware of the importance of priestly fraternity and that we, the Fraternity of Priests, exist and are there to welcome them. I look forward to seeing many of you in Trinidad at the end of July

Fraternally,



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: **\$ 3,474.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$1,276.00)**

Current as of May 31, 2014.

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walked out of the room, we just kind of looked at each other! We really didn't know what to say or do. But slowly, one by one, each one present assented how we did feel this was "of God." Some said they felt called. Others were not so sure.

When it came to the question of wanting to establish a fraternity, most agreed. Many of those who agreed were members in my former support group. There were some who said that this was not for them. And some, who had been in other support groups, expressed an interest in forming a fraternity. Fr. Ken was called back and informed of our discussion and decision and that evening we celebrated Mass where Fr. Ken laid hands on each of those who desired to form a Fraternity of Priests. Thus, began the Marquette Fraternity of Priests.

Since that time we have had members come and go. We've also had men to "come and see" but who felt that this was not for them. One of our members even confided in our group that he was leaving active ministry due a struggle he had in the early priesthood. He asked what we were going to do with him? Across the board, each member of the group affirmed that he needed to stay a member of the Fraternity, especially at this time! He was so glad to be accepted even though he had such a struggle in his history. He confided to me once that had it not been for the Fraternity's love and acceptance he would have probably not been able to live with himself. (Sadly, he passed away a few years ago, due to a health issue he suffered.)

Our fraternity also has had the joy of welcoming younger members of

the clergy into our ranks as well! Over the years, seminarians and deacons who were assigned to members were invited and encouraged to attend our meetings. Introducing them to the Fraternity way of life caused them to want become members as well. Our group now numbers eleven members ranging in age from 78 to 30.

For myself personally, I cannot tell you how life-giving the Fraternity has been for me! Prior to becoming a fraternity, our group seemed very superficial. We gathered to work though some program and have a good time. Oh we prayed, but it was like going through the motions. Now, not only do we take time for praise and worship, we take time for quiet time (entering the Throne Room.) Teachings assist us in growing spiritually as well as a fraternity and they help us in our parish ministry. We have good, wholesome camaraderie without negative talk or griping. And most importantly for me, where once I probably went to confession once or twice a year, now I am on a twice a month schedule which has helped me grow tremendously in my own spiritual path of striving to become a holy and spirit-filled priest.

I am sure many could share similar stories, but let us remember it is in the sharing of these stories that we can reach out to our brother priests and help them on their path to becoming holy and spirit-filled priests too! Spread the Good News! Be the Fraternity! Live the Fraternity! Share the Fraternity!

Father Daryl is a Fraternity member from Michigan.

Supporting Each Other, An Essential Element of Our Ministry

One of the unique stories we hear from time to time is that many never consider priesthood because they never received an invitation. Well, what about the Fraternity of Priests? How many do not come to meetings because they never received the invitation. This is important in our day when many are living alone and or may not be able to share their experiences as priests do in the Fraternity. Both Fr. John and Fr. Darryl speak to us about the need for mutual support among priests and the reality of inviting other priests to the fraternity.

The opportunity is there, because the need is there. In Fr. John's column, he spoke about the address of Bishop Coyne, the Indiana auxiliary and former Boston priest also mentioned that many of the priests of his Midwest diocese who fell into problems did so from a position when they going it alone in their ministry, without any support. This is one of the reasons why the fraternity is so important. We need to be there with each other in front of the Lord in order that we can experience and give the support we need to carry on the difficult tasks we have as priests in the twenty-first century. — ed.

"We know well that with Jesus life becomes richer and that with Him it is easier to find meaning in everything. This is why we evangelize."

—Pope Francis
Evangelii Gaudium #266

Please send us your prayer intentions: