

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

July 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Rev. Francis Guidice Providence 1	For the souls of our deceased FOP members 2	Prayer Requests Received 3	Pope Francis 4
Rev. Robert Giardina Providence 5	Rev. Wilfred Gregoire Providence 6	Rev. John Dreher Providence 7	Rev. Msgr. John Allard Providence 8	Rev. Michael Kelley Providence 9	Rev. Robert Bush San Angelo 10	Rev. Terry Brenon San Angelo 11
Rev. Bernard Gully San Angelo 12	Rev. Santiago Udayar San Angelo 13	Rev. William McCarthy Sioux City 14	Rev. Edward Burian Sioux Falls 15	Rev. John Helmueller Sioux Falls 16	Rev. Joseph Vogel Sioux Falls 17	Rev. Joseph Short Sioux Falls 18
Rev. Charles Dunman Sioux Falls 19	Rev. Randy Phillips Sioux Falls 20	Rev. Gregory Frankman Sioux Falls 21	Rev. Jerome Ranek Sioux Falls 22	Rev. Roger Geditz Sioux Falls 23	Rev. Rodney Farke Sioux Falls 24	Rev. John Rasmussen Sioux Falls 25
Rev. Edward Pierce Sioux Falls 26	Rev. Richard Baumberger Sioux Falls 27	Rev. Robert Hamel St Cloud 28	Rev. Todd Schneider St Cloud 29	Rev. Gerald Mischke St Cloud 30	Rev. Daniel Walz St Cloud 31	

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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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 John Kiley, 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.

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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.

Sr. Ann Sheilds to Speak at Annual Fraternity Meeting

Our annual Fraternity of Priests Conference will have the great honor of having Sr. Ann Shields, S.G.L. to lead us in the spiritual talks. This year's Conference will in Tucson, Arizona, July 26th to the 31st. Sister Ann is a member—and former superior for 22 years—of the *Servants of God's Love*, a charismatic religious community established in the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan. She is much in demand as a speaker and presenter, having spoken in many countries and at many religious gatherings throughout the world. You may have seen her at one of the many Steubenville Conferences she has been part of over the years.

She is also prolific author. She has a number of books published, including her latest, *More of the Holy Spirit: How to Keep the Fire Burning in Our Hearts*. Other titles are: *To Be Like Jesus: Inspiration from the Gospel of Luke* (2010); *Deeper Conversion: Extraordinary Grace for Ordinary Times* (2008); *Fire in My Heart: Keys to Living the Life of Love and Prayer* (2004); *Intercession: Guide to Effective Prayer* (2004); and *Pray and Never Lose Heart: The Power of Intercession* (2001). She co-authored with Fr. Michael Scanlan TOR, *And Their Eyes Were Opened* (1987). In addition, she has written numerous articles for periodicals

like *New Covenant*, *Pentecost Today*, and *Faith*, the magazine of the Diocese of Lansing. (She was also editor for *New Covenant* for many years). Add to the list a number of spiritual pamphlets and booklets she has authored. Most recently, she has been working at *Renewal Ministries*. It is there that she has become a media star! She hosts a daily radio program *Food for the Journey*, which has garnered a popular following. Podcasts of her daily broadcasts are available over the internet.

She has also been a founder, a builder, a doer, active in the life of the Church. She helped found *Renewal Ministries*. She was part of the team that Fr. Scanlan assembled at Franciscan University in Steubenville in 1975 to create a deeper environment of faith on campus, and which turned that University around. (Before she and Fr. Scanlan arrived there, the biggest claim to fame of the University was that they had a good basketball team. How things have changed!)

Through her ministry, Sister Ann has touched thousands of people. What can we priests expect from her at this year's Conference? Without stealing her thunder, here are some of themes that have impressed me in her writings and which I forecast will be part of the message this July.

First of all, I predict that Jesus

will be the center of the message. Sr. Ann knows the Shepherd! She herself is a dedicated disciple of the Master, especially recognizing the Lord in the "Breaking of the Bread." I anticipate that at this year's Conference my faith in the Eucharistic Lord will be fortified, and that I will be encouraged to prepare myself for that daily encounter by living a life of constant repentance and conversion, especially through frequent reception of the sacrament of reconciliation. (In our own monthly Fraternity meetings here in Tucson, we have recently tightened up on this discipline by making confession the first order of business before we begin.)

Next, I know the presentations will be profoundly biblical. And not only in the sense that her teaching will be thoroughly imbued with scriptural references and allusions. Some speakers have an impressive knowledge of the Bible, which they use with great effect. But Sister Ann is going to challenge us to LIVE the Scriptures! A recurrent theme of hers in her radio broadcasts is that the biblical word must be applied constantly and practically to our personal and daily lives. There cannot be a separation between our daily existence as disciples and the word of God. One of her gifts is discerning the scriptural wisdom that can be employed with great power in our

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Dear Fraternity Brothers and Friends of the Priesthood

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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!

In chapter 19 of Matthew's gospel we read in verse 6: "What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder." or in a more modern translation "Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate." In its proper context Jesus is speaking about the unity of man and woman joined together in the marriage covenant. However, there are other important areas of biblical teaching where we are not to put asunder or separate what God has joined together

Let's consider what is commonly referred to as the Great Commission found in Matthew chapter 28: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." In this passage Jesus has joined together three essential realities of the Christians life: **disciple-making, baptizing, and teaching** or ongoing faith formation. Try to envision these three activities as a tripod. It is obvious that if all three legs are not in place a tripod crashes to the ground. In the minds of many Catholics these three have been separated. In all too many Catholic parishes and Christian communities we have been faithful to baptizing, but not very successful with discipleship and ongoing formation in the faith. Today how many of those baptized in infancy reach First Communion and Confirmation and become disciples? How many eventually celebrate a sacramental marriage? We need to seek the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit to be faithful to all three dimensions of Matthew 28 and avoid separating what Jesus Christ has joined together.

As we further consider the Great Commission, Fr. James Mallon in his book *Divine Renovation* sheds an important insight on this scripture passage. When read in the original Greek there is only one command, only one verb in the imperative. What is the verb? It is: *make disciples*. The other verbs are participles: *going forth, baptizing, teaching*. This gives discipleship a special prominence in the Great Commission. Therefore our main mission

or task is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Is this the priority in our dioceses, our parishes, our religious education programs, our Bible studies and faith sharing groups etc? It is when members of the Christian community, especially parents and godparents, are disciples or at least on the road that leads to discipleship that those baptized in infancy will be brought into friendship with Jesus, continually formed in their faith, and hopefully choose to become disciples.

What changes do we need to make in our own lives and ministries in order to become more faithful in being disciples and then making disciples? May we seek the prayerful intercession of St. Andrew who in the gospel of John meets Jesus and at once brings his brother Peter to Jesus. As it is taught in the cursillo movement, we can make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ. God bless you.



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: \$ **1,388.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$3,362.00)**

Current as of April 30, 2015.

...continued from page 1

contemporary culture. I am betting the rent money that I will be energetically encouraged to read the word, study the word, pray the word **daily**.

I also foresee that prayer will be central. We will be encouraged, emboldened, inspired to pray more, to pray more persistently, and to pray with power. As priests we have the sacred obligation to pray for others; that is why the Church requires us to pray the Liturgy of the Hours daily. As a "specialist" in intercessory prayer, Sister's message will help us greatly in this task.

Her presentations will also reflect a broad-based study and learning. Sister Ann is well read in the writings of the Saints and the important authors of our Catholic tradition. She is, she is able to use those fruits of her vast reading to enliven the message. She can distill the great depth and wisdom our Christian heritage in a very understandable manner—which has moved my heart, and helped my preaching.

Look for her message to be "real," that is, relevant to our lives in the real world in which we live. She writes and speaks on the topics that touch on the Christian experience here and now. She is not afraid to tell it like it is. She is aware of the spiritual warfare we are involved in, and she is not afraid to confront the reality of evil in the world. Thus, we can also presume that we will be encouraged to make full use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives and our ministry.

And no doubt about it, she will be interesting! Her vast experience in ministry and in meeting so many people has given her many great stories. And she can turn a phrase. I don't want to give away any of her

best material by repeating some of her experiences here, but just to give you a sense of what to expect, in a recent homily I used a story of hers that involved her making a decision to surrender her life and ministry completely to God. People in the congregation gasped audibly when I told it. My preaching usually does not get such a dramatic reaction! Sister also has extensive experience as a teacher, having taught on the college level, and she knows how to carry a classroom full of students—or a room full of priests! We won't be bored!

And brothers, let's admit it. We need what Sr. Ann has to offer us. I'm sure our experience of priesthood in Tucson is not much different from your experience in other parts of the U.S. Our Tucson Fraternity is approaching our 30th anniversary. During those years, we have seen great changes in the church and in our lives. At our Tucson founding, there were 125 diocesan priests in active ministry in our diocese. Now we are 65. Our workloads and ministry burdens have increased. We each wear many more "hats." We have experienced a great and at times a bewildering variety of ministries: rural parishes, urban parishes, parish schools, building parishes, diocesan boards, retreat work, supporting Church movements like charismatic renewal, youth ministry, hospital ministry, prison ministry, elder ministry, peer ministry to fellow priests—need I go on? And we have seen great changes in our culture, which have profoundly impacted the spirituality and lives of the people of God whom we serve.

This one reason why we are in the Fraternity of Priests--to keep up with the Holy Spirit's work in our world, our church, our lives. And that is

why this year's annual Conference is important--to learn from Sister and each other to move forward in the Spirit. Sister Ann has a full schedule. It is a great blessing that we were able to have her with us. Let's take advantage of this great opportunity! The Conference is open to all members of the Fraternity—and even all priests. A suggestion to prepare for the Conference is to read one of Sr. Ann's books beforehand, or listen to some of her radio podcasts.

This will be the third time that Tucson has hosted the annual Conference. We in the Tucson fraternity takes great pride in our hospitality. We spoil you! Those who have attended the Conferences here in the past can vouch for us. Southern Arizona has a lot to offer in our desert paradise—the only place in the world with the majestic Saguaro cactus that you see in western movies. The Conference will be held at beautiful *Redemptorist Renewal Center at Picture Rocks* ("Picture Rocks" refers to the ancient Native American carvings on the rocks nearby). Don't worry about the summer heat. It is what we call a "dry heat." You will feel you are in a John Wayne Western. But the air conditioning works! And the retreat house has a swimming pool! We will also have the Bishop of Tucson, Gerald Kicanas, with us to celebrate Mass that Tuesday. This will be a powerful opportunity for spiritual and fraternal renewal. We will see you there!

Please pray for the
Fraternity of Priests
Annual Gathering
July 26-July 31, 2015
in Tucson Arizona.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

