



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

July 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. 1 Augustine Tan Wa, West Africa	Rev. 2 Evarist Kuuwulong Wa, West Africa	Rev. 3 John Kpan Wa, West Africa	Rev. 4 Sylvester Nankpi Wa, West Africa	Rev. 5 Stephen Kantubog Wa, West Africa	Rev. 6 Matthew Tuurosong Wa, West Africa	Rev. 7 Pope Benedict XVI
Rev. 8 Leo Dabuoh Wa, West Africa	Rev. 9 Gervase Angsotinge Wa, West Africa	Rev. 10 Peter Paul Langnedomah Wa, West Africa	Rev. 11 Cyracus Tang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 12 Martin Ninnang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 13 Stephen Kangmennaang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 14 Michael Tanzile Wa, West Africa
Rev. 15 John Bosco Eledi Wa, West Africa	Rev. 16 Luke Kale Wa, West Africa	Rev. 17 Fidelis Vielu Wa, West Africa	Rev. 18 Benette Tang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 19 Robert DeGrandis, SJ Washington, DC	Rev. 20 Giles Dimock, OP Washington, DC	Rev. 21 Maurice Jeanneau Winnipeg
Rev. 22 Michael Nault Winnipeg	Rev. 23 Francois Paradis, OMI Winnipeg	Rev. 24 Stan Jaworski Winnipeg	Rev. 25 Michael Roy Worcester	Rev. 26 John-Paul Gagnon Worcester	Rev. 27 George Dunkley Worcester	Rev. 28 Larry Hess Allentown
Rev. 29 Ferre D'cruz Alexandria, LA	Rev. 30 Harold Imamshah Alexandria, LA	Rev. 31 John Pardue Alexandria, LA				

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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Prescription for Good Health: Diet, Exercise and the Fraternity

By Fr. Von DeRosia

When I was nine years old, I went to a Catholic Boys Camp. I hated it: the boys were constantly swearing, telling lewd jokes (neither of which I heard at home); the “boys being boys” mentality. I was what my uncles called, “the Rosary Kid”; quiet and reserved – more into music than sports. The big highlight of the first summer for me – that which made camp worthwhile – was a camp counselor named Tony.

Tony was awesome – he told funny stories and he taught us how to juggle. What drew me to Tony the most, though, was that he was a seminarian. After camp, I corresponded with him, and my parents invited him to our house for lunch. It was then that I knew that I was going to be a priest! You see, the priests I had known growing up were all good, holy men of great wisdom and larger than life. It was in meeting Tony that I realized that priests are not born with a Roman Collar around their necks! There was a process to becoming a priest. Now, I could aspire to this great calling. While Tony never completed his seminary training, his influence stayed with me the rest of my life, including the ability to juggle.

Throughout the years, the call to the priesthood waxed and waned, but always remained

within me. Despite the troubles and awkwardness of high school, I knew when I graduated that I was going to be a priest. I went to the University of New Hampshire (UNH) as a music performance major, knowing full well that I would never have to make a living from this major. I went to sleep every night in high school and college listening to some tapes of Bishop Sheen. From him, I learned the necessity of a daily holy hour, and began spending time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. By the end of my time at UNH, I knew God was calling me to be a priest in the Diocese of Manchester.

I loved seminary, not so much though that I’d want to go back! My experience at the University of St. Mary of the Lake - Mundelein Seminary was a time of great growth in human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation. I grew tremendously in my knowledge about God, but also my knowledge of God. Friendships developed that have lasted throughout my priesthood. It was here that I learned how honestly to share what was happening within my soul with others in the journey to God’s heart.

When the infamous sex abuse scandal of 2002 began, I was in the middle of Third Theology. Everyone was trying to figure out how to make heads or tails out of

what was happening in the Church. Shortly thereafter, a young, dynamic priest friend started having some struggles with depression. After being hospitalized, he called me to talk about how isolated he felt – you see, the presbyterate was suffering from the effects of so many priests being removed and disavowed, and was divided over the way things “should have been handled”. As new priest, he felt he had nowhere to turn, no one with whom he could talk without the anger coming out. Amidst the other turmoil in his life, this led to a downward spiral.

It was from that conversation that I made a very important decision for my priesthood – I promised myself that I would do what was necessary to keep myself healthy, and that I would not allow myself to get isolated.

As soon as I was ordained, this plan for staying healthy started – I joined a gym, I made an appointment for a physical, I went to Catholic Charities and got counseling to help with the transition into priesthood, I made sure to keep close contact with my friends from seminary, and I began looking for a support group. I spoke with several priests about their groups, but nothing seemed to fit.

After some initial resistance, I visited the Boston Fraternity of Priests. As a musician who grew

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This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests. Dear Father Bob Franco,

\$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 care-fully and wisely, and not to ask for money that is not needed.

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Editor's Box:

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!

Shortly after Easter, the bishops of the United States published a wonderful document called Our First, Most Cherished Liberty (see www.usccb.org). This document summons the Church in the United States to vigorously defend religious freedom as outlined in the First Amendment.

Here are some quotes:

• **Regarding the HHS Mandate**, Bishop Lori of Baltimore said, "This is not a matter of whether contraception may be prohibited by the government. This is not even a matter of whether contraception may be supported by the government. Instead, it is a matter of whether religious people and institutions may be forced by the government to provide coverage for contraception or sterilization, even if that violates their religious beliefs."

• **Regarding the fact that Religious Liberty is more than Freedom of Worship:** What is at stake here is whether...the state alone will determine who gets to contribute to the common good and how they get to do it. The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America stated, "Most troubling, is the Administration's underlying rationale for its decision, which appears to be a view that if a religious entity is not insular, but engaged with broader society, it loses its "religious" character and liberties."

• **Regarding our response** to current threats to our liberty, retired Cardinal Roger Mahoney said, "I cannot imagine a more direct and frontal attack on freedom of conscience than this ruling today (the HHS Mandate). This decision must be fought against with all the energies the Catholic community can muster."

The bishops have called for **A Fortnight for Freedom**. These fourteen days, from June 21 (the Memorials of St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, martyrs for religious freedom) to July 4, Independence Day, is to be a "special period of prayer, study, catechesis and public action that would emphasize both our Christian and American heritage of liberty."

The document ends with an urgent plea to pray for religious liberty:

*Almighty God, Father of all nations,
For freedom you have set us free in Christ Jesus (Gal 5:1).*


We praise and bless you for the gift of religious liberty, the foundation of human rights, justice, and the common good. Grant to our leaders the wisdom to protect and promote our liberties;

By your grace may we have the courage to defend them, for ourselves and for all those who live in this blessed land. We ask this through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, our patroness, and in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Let us, as individuals, parishes, dioceses and as a Fraternity, participate in the **Fortnight for Freedom**, by our prayer, study and public actions.

Also, please pray for Fraternity of Priests, as we meet next month in Marquette, Michigan for our annual meeting.

Sincerely,



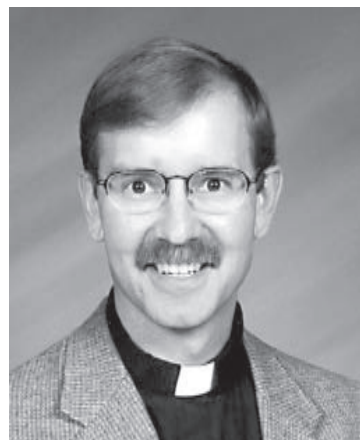
Fraternity Financial Report
One of the objectives for the Fraternity of Priests is to inform our donors about the ongoing financial health and details of the organization. We're providing this information to help communicate our specific need and to thank those many faithful benefactors who help make our service possible. Thank you!

Monthly Donation Budget: **\$4,750.00**

Actual Donations: **\$ 10,676.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **\$5,926.00**

Current as of April 30, 2012.



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up in the charismatic renewal, I appreciated the praise and worship. As someone formed by Bishop Sheen (even after his death), I loved the Adoration aspect and the commitment to one uninterrupted hour of prayer each day. I learned of the commitment and brotherhood of the Fraternity, but ... as much as I knew I couldn't isolate myself, I also didn't want to have to "lose" my day off every week to go to the Fraternity. Did I mention that it was every week?! Who can spend such time in the busy world of priestly life and ministry?! After a couple of months, going every other week, and then every week, I found it rewarding and really not as hard as I imagined. So I made the commitment!

What a difference this has made for my life and priesthood: the constant call to conversion; the grounding in holiness; the fellowship; the confessions (almost every week). Being part of the Fraternity has not allowed me to become isolated!

The time of prayer at the beginning of each gathering has helped me to keep my priesthood rooted in Jesus Christ. As I shared the word from the Lord that I had received in prayer and found that it was confirmed by the word my brothers had received, I began to trust that I was able to recognize the voice of Jesus. This was true not only in our weekly gatherings, but throughout my prayer time and ministry, His voice became familiar to me. I have so often been guided, affirmed, and called to conversion by my conversations with Christ, as He spoke through my pen.

Over the last eight and a half years, I have found that the Fraternity

Please join us in prayer for the Fraternity of Priests
Annual Meeting in Marquette, Michigan, July 22-27, 2012.

"God our Father, give these priests holiness of life, brotherly love and power to serve your people. Use this time of brotherhood to renew your priests and bring blessings to your holy church, through Christ our Lord. Amen."

has allowed me to be myself. These men know me – everything about me. They have heard my confessions. They have helped me to deal with the pressure of priesthood, and lately the added responsibility of being a pastor. They have helped me discern what God's Will is in each situation. They have prayers for me and prayed over me. They have called me on the carpet, with great love, when I have been off base. They have made sure I was held accountable, and I have done the same things for them.

Most of all, they have kept me honest. St. Teresa of Avila says that self-knowledge is absolutely necessary if we are to grow closer to Almighty God. The many times that I have been successful at fooling myself into thinking either that I am holier than the Curé D'Ars, or more base and degenerate than Judas, my brothers have been there to slap me down or lift me up, depending on what I needed most at that moment, with the honesty of who I am in Christ and who Christ is in me.

I am ever thankful for my brothers in the Fraternity and all for that the Fraternity of Priests stands for. Now, as I celebrate nine years

as a priest in Jesus Christ, I rejoice that He has given me such grace and support through the Fraternity.

Fr. DeRosia is a member of the Boston Fraternity.

Recognizing One of Our Brothers

Father Joseph Muldoon, who has been a member of the Fraternity of Priests from our earliest days, has this past June received from Pope Benedict the title "Chaplain to His Holiness." This title of honor was given on the recommendation of the Archbishop of Ottawa, Most Rev. Terrence Prevdergast, S.J. whom Fr. Joe has served as his Episcopal vicar.

The title of Monsignor is meant to honor a priest who has given long and faithful service to the Church. For those of us who know Msgr. Muldoon, we readily acknowledge he is deserving of this honor.

Please send us your prayer intentions:

