

July 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Rev. 1 Henry Dauphinais, MS Tucson	Rev. 2 Liam Leahy Tucson	Rev. 3 Pietro Hewlet Ukraine	Rev. 4 Jeff Johnson Upper Peninsula	Rev. 5 Raymond Zeugner Upper Peninsula	Rev. 6 Pope Francis
Rev. 7 Ted Brodeur Upper Peninsula	Rev. 8 Darryl Pepin Upper Peninsula	Rev. 9 Larry Van Damme Upper Peninsula	Rev. 10 Michael Steber Upper Peninsula	Rev. 11 Christopher Gardiner Upper Peninsula	Rev. 12 James Roetzer Upper Peninsula	Rev. 13 Benjamin Hasse Upper Peninsula
Rev. 14 Norman Clisch Upper Peninsula	Rev. 15 Fidelis Vielu Wa, West Africa	Rev. 16 Evarist Kuuwulong Wa, West Africa	Rev. 17 Michael Tanzile Wa, West Africa	Rev. 18 John Bosco Eledi Wa, West Africa	Rev. 19 Romanus Tampah Wa, West Africa	Rev. 20 Leo Dabuoh Wa, West Africa
Rev. 21 Stephen Kantubog Wa, West Africa	Rev. 22 Stephen Kangmennaang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 23 Martin Ninnang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 24 Cyracus Tang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 25 John Kpan Wa, West Africa	Rev. 26 Gervase Angsotinge Wa, West Africa	Rev. 27 Zachary Kokole Wa, West Africa
Rev. 28 Augustine Ten Wa, West Africa	Rev. 29 Matthew Tuurosog Wa, West Africa	Rev. 30 Benette Tang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 31 Sylvester Nankpi Wa, West Africa			



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

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

## The Holy Spirit is a POWER House

By Father Francis Dabre of Vasai, India

### Introduction

"Father, there is a super POWER in the Holy Spirit. I have been experiencing something that is dramatic. I feel that the Holy Spirit is POWER on earth." The young boy had just finished a renewal retreat. I began to reflect, "Yes, it is the power of Holy Spirit and it can change you from within and make you a different person." There are many examples that can testify to this claim.

### What is this POWER? In the Old Testament

Genesis 1:2b records that a mighty wind was moving over water, indicating that the power of the Holy Spirit was at work from the beginning of creation. The patriarchs felt this power in their work. The Spirit of God moved Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac. (Genesis 22:12) Moses experienced this power at Mount Sinai. (Exodus 3) What was this fire that burned and did not consume? It was the power of God, the Holy Spirit. This power gave Moses strength and confidence to lead the faithless Israelites out of Egypt toward the Promised Land. Moses faced challenges from within and without. However, he carried out his mission in the power of God.

The prophet Ezekiel prophesied that clean water and Spirit would be poured on God's people to

make them a New Creation in the living God. (Ezekiel 36:25-27) Stubborn hearts of stone would be replaced with obedient hearts by the POWER of God. Isaiah 11:2 tells us that the Spirit of the Lord comes with powerful gifts: wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, fear of the Lord and piety.

In the Old Testament we see the power of God at work in the patriarchs, prophets, kings and other main figures. They led God's people, worked mighty deeds and prophesied marvelous truths by the grace of God. The scriptures testify that this same power is present here and now. We need to have tremendous faith in the Lord so as to see God's mighty power at work today.

### God's Power in the New Testament

The mission of Jesus began with power: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me..." (Luke 4:18) This is the manifesto of Jesus. He went about building the Kingdom of God in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus healed the sick, delivered the possessed, forgave the sinner, raised the dead, performed miracles of nature (multiplied bread and fish, changed water into wine) and taught with authority: all in the power of the Holy Spirit. St. Peter summed up the ministry of Jesus by preaching that "...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth

with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those who were oppressed by the devil." (Acts 10:38) The Acts of the Apostles, also known as the Acts of the Holy Spirit, records the deeds of the early Church. Men and women were empowered by the Holy Spirit to do signs and wonders, as well as to sacrifice their lives for their faith in Jesus. This power was at work in the first martyr, St. Stephen. (Acts 7:55) All the apostles were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. They knew God was with them. They knew the Risen Lord in an intimate and powerful way.

### Is the same Powerful Holy Spirit present today?

For almost fifty years, the power of the Holy Spirit has been made manifest through the Charismatic Renewal. Even today, in India it is spreading like wild fire. This renewal is a gift from God for the Church throughout the world. Mother Church is being renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Lay people are waking up to the fact that the bible is not just to be studied in seminaries. All are called to know and live God's word. The renewal has inspired many retreats in India and throughout the world. Many are joining our prayer groups and some even respond by faith and accept Jesus by being baptized.

...continued on page 3

### 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 Bill Cosgrove,  
This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.  
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 \$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.

# Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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### Editor's Box:

Please send articles, comments, and photos to the FOP Newsletter editor, Fr. Bob Franco via e-mail at [editor@fraternityofpriests.org](mailto:editor@fraternityofpriests.org) or fax to 440-327-2204.

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

Some events in Sacred Scripture are *repeatable*. For example, Moses' crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14) is somewhat *repeated* by the crossings of the Jordan River by Joshua (Joshua 3) and later by Elijah and Elisha (II Kings 2). The New Testament event of Pentecost is one of those *repeatable* events. Pentecost seems to be the paradigm for the church in times of transition.

Acts 2:1-11 describes the original Pentecost. With signs, wonders and other manifestations, the Holy Spirit fell upon the Jews in Jerusalem. However, the initial conversion of the Gentiles (Acts 10:44-48) and St. Paul's visit to Ephesus (Acts 19:1-7) contain similar elements to Pentecost.

Such repetition in Acts indicates that Pentecost was a repeatable event not just in biblical times but throughout the Church's history. Some would see Pentecostal graces at work in the establishment of the monastic orders in the first millennium of Christianity. These graces are seen again in the founding of the mendicant orders by St. Francis and St. Dominic in the 13th century. They are also manifested in the Jesuit and other religious communities during the Counter-Reformation of the 16th century.

In the 19th century, Pope Leo XIII asked that all believers pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church as it entered the 20th century. Scriptural, liturgical and ecumenical movements sprang up in the early part of the twentieth century. Then, just fifty years ago, Pope John XXIII summoned the Second Vatican Council. He called for the Church to pray for a "new Pentecost."

Just prior to and shortly after Vatican II, the Church saw the birth and growth of new movements and communities such as: Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, the Catholic charismatic renewal, Communion and Liberation, San Egidio and others. These are signs to us that Pentecost must come to every generation for the spread of the gospel and the renewal of the Church.

The last three Popes (Blessed John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis) have said that we need a "new Pentecost for the new Evangelization". Nothing could be truer! More

than programs and plans, we need the power of the Holy Spirit! In this Year of Faith, as the church moves toward understanding and implementing the call to a New Evangelization, let us embrace this call seeking the power of the Holy Spirit.

Fraternity of Priests is gathering at Franciscan University this month. Our Annual Meeting will take place during the Priests, Deacon and Seminarian Retreat from June 17-21. We thank God for the establishment of Fraternity of Priests 30 years ago in 1983. The Fraternity of Priests has been one facet of the Visitation of God, an experience of a personal Pentecost for many priests.

To my brother priests and our lay supporters, I express my gratitude to you for all these years of prayerful support. Continue to pray for a FRESH outpouring of the Holy Spirit again in the 21st century,

Fraternally,

### Fraternity Financial Report

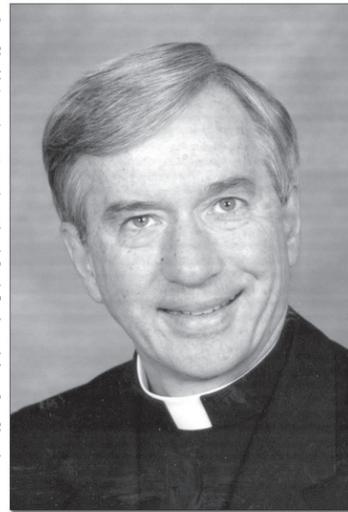
One of the objectives for the Fraternity of Priests is to inform our donors about the ongoing financial health and details of the organization. We're providing this information to help communicate our specific need and to thank those many faithful benefactors who help make our service possible. Thank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

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

Actual Donations: **\$7,510.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **\$2,760.00**

Current as of April 30, 2013.



...continued from page 1

The same power of the Spirit at work in the Acts of the Apostles is at work today in the Church throughout the world. People are experiencing healings. Many are being converted by the power of the Holy Spirit. "... what we have heard...seen...touched with our hands...we proclaim... so that we have fellowship with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ." (I John 1:1-3). We share with you this good news!

### How do we experience the Holy Spirit in our daily lives?

Jesus said, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:18-19). He who has all power and authority empowered and authorized the Church to make disciples of all the nations. Jesus breathed on his disciples, giving them Holy Spirit with the power to forgive sins. (John 20:22-23) Our Mother Church has been given full authority directly by Jesus himself. This same powerful Holy Spirit is present with us in our Church. Here are some ways we can experience this working of the Holy Spirit during this Year of Faith.

### Personal Prayer

Most people have used a mobile phone. In order to use it, the phone must be relatively near a mobile tower. When we are in range we can call and speak. However, the clarity of the conversation will still depend on the power of the signal. If the signal is strong, our voice will be perfect and clear. If the signal is weak, the voice will be weak and broken.

In relating this to prayer, Jesus is the tower and the Holy Spirit is the signal. Our conversation depends on how strong our connection is with

the Lord. Regular personal prayer is the way we stay connected with the Lord. We need to recharge daily for a better communication and voice clarity. I know many people who are well connected to the Lord because of their habit of personal prayer. We need to ask our self this question: How is my connection with the Lord?

### Before the Blessed Sacrament

Our churches are like powerhouses because they contain the Blessed Sacrament. Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." We are burdened by problems and weaknesses. Jesus wants to carry our burdens and strengthen our weaknesses. This is easily available if we sit before the Blessed Sacrament. I know many charismatic people who do this. It is an opportunity for us to experience the power of God flowing from the Most Holy Sacrament.

### The Holy Sacraments

We are made holy, sanctified by the sacraments. The sacraments are a great gift to us through the Church. For most people they are easily accessible. Priests are trained to hear confessions and bring people to the Lord. When we receive Holy Communion we welcome Jesus in a full and true manner. What great power! At times we can approach the sacraments in a routine manner. Our approach can be mechanical. We need to keep in mind the words of Blessed Mother Teresa, who would tell priests, "Celebrate this Mass as if it were your first Mass, the last Mass of your lives, as if it were your only Mass." I have experienced the power of the Lord in the Eucharist and in the other sacraments.

### Sustainability in Life of Spirit

Many people have encountered

the power of the Lord through a charismatic retreat or prayer group. They get charged up. They give up bad habits and make new resolutions. Unfortunately their good intentions do not always stand the test of time. Like the parable of the Sower, they lack good grounding. They have weeds that have not been fully eradicated. We need to be grounded and rooted in Jesus our Lord. Our new lifestyle will be sustained for the long haul only by personal prayer and wise spiritual guidance. As mentioned earlier, we need to stay connected to the Lord.

The devil will always tempt and attack us, trying to take us away from the power of the Holy Spirit. We need to remember the powerful and personal experiences we have had of the Holy Spirit. We need to treasure these encounters with the Lord and share them with others.

We also need to remember that our experiences are part of the process of growing in the Lord. They are not the end. Jesus said, "So be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48) We are not perfect. However, we are on the way to perfection. We rely on God's power to become like Jesus. We must fully depend on God.

Jesus is the Super Power, giving us the Holy Spirit and leading us to our loving and compassionate Heavenly Father. Jesus does not hang on to this power, but shares it with us that we might be fully alive in Him. Jesus gives us this power that we might have life and have it in abundance. (John 10:10)

Fr. Francis Dabre is from Vasai, India and is a current member of the Board of the Fraternity of Priests.

Please send us your prayer intentions: \_\_\_\_\_

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