

April 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Rev. Donald Clinton Boston 1	Rev. Richard Kelley Boston 2	Rev. Volney DeRosia Boston 3	Pope Francis 4
Rev. Maurice Larochelle Boston 5	Rev. Jurgen Liias Boston 6	Rev. Patrick Gilbert Boston 7	Rev. Paul Gilbert Boston 8	Rev. Gerard Leclerc Burlington 9	Rev. James Lawrence Burlington 10	Rev. Matthew Jones Cardiff, UK 11
Rev. Donal Gillespie Cardiff, UK 12	Rev. Barry English Cardiff, UK 13	Rev. Robert Franco Cleveland 14	Rev. James Mazanec Cleveland 15	Rev. Tom Dunphy Cleveland 16	Rev. Homer Blubaugh Columbus 17	Rev. Joseph Losh Columbus 18
Rev. Justin Reis Columbus 19	Rev. Richard Engle Columbus 20	Rev. Peter Gregor Comayagua 21	Rev. Dennis Skonseng Fargo 22	Rev. Duaine Cote Fargo 23	Rev. Msgr. Robert Laliberte Fargo 24	Very Rev. Dale Kinzler Fargo 25
Rev. Donald Leiphon Fargo 26	Rev. Michael Shea Grand Rapids 27	Rev. Mark Mitchell Grand Rapids 28	Rev. Ayub Nasar Grand Rapids 29	Rev. Donald Lomasiewicz Grand Rapids 30		

**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.

Fraternity of Priests, Inc.  
PO Box 442  
Steubenville, OH 43952-5442  
Phone: (740) 283-4400  
Fax: (740) 283-3622  
Email: [contact@fraternityofpriests.org](mailto:contact@fraternityofpriests.org)  
<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

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. \_\_\_\_\_ \$  \$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.



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

**THE VISITATION**

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

**A Surfer Saint**

by Father Robert J. Carr

As I write this, I learned that the Vatican is going to open a case for possible canonization on a Brazilian man named Guido Schäffer. What makes him even more fascinating is that he lived in our time, having died in 2009. He was a seminarian, on the edge of becoming a priest. He was also a doctor and a surfer. Yes, a surfer. While surfing off of Rio de Janeiro, he suffered an injury to his neck and drowned. He was thirty-four years old. It is a tragedy, but a blessing to learn that the Archdiocese of Rio De Janeiro already declared him a servant of God and that the Vatican is opening a canonization case for him in May.

The inspiration here is important. Like Pier Giorgi Frassati, Guido Schäffer was a young, sports oriented youth who sought to serve God fully. According to the website for promoting his message and his cause: [guidoschaffer.com.br](http://guidoschaffer.com.br), the young Brazilian taught that all our actions should show the love of God.

The inspiration of this and many other of his words leads me to remember this teaching when instructing the youth of my parish, as well as others. I must admit I can get discouraged when I do not see younger people at mass and others tell me that the most important thing

I must remember in my homilies is to keep them short. God raises people like Guido Schäffer up

to remind us that He is working even when we feel our words are not effective. I am inspired by this powerful seminarian who calls us to be focused on God always. "Love," he taught, "is to search for God all the time." It is a lesson that I will use in an upcoming Confirmation class.

We need people like Guido Schäffer to speak to a generation that does not understand God and maybe sees the way of the saint as the pious man or woman of the monastery and not the young surfer off the coast of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Let us be honest, many of us when we think of the beaches of Rio de Janeiro, which by the way is also the home of Carnival are not immediately going to think of them as the place of a powerful, youthful saint, despite being the home of World Youth Day in 2013. However, in our time, a young surfer "dude" who had a tremendous love for God and zeal for bringing people to his kingdom also participated in that sport on those beaches regularly.

He used the charismatic gifts, he attended daily mass, frequent confession and adoration. He studied and prayed with the Word of God. He prayed the daily rosary, the breviary, the office of the Immaculate Conception and three daily Hail Marys for which he prayed to Our Lady that he may reach holiness. The website also cites his spiritual

mentors; three of which are St. Paul the Apostle, St. Francis Assisi and St. Pio of Pietrelcina. He also practiced the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

When, I reflect on this man, I remember that he only died in 2009. I do not mean that to say his death is so recent, as much to say, he lived in a world similar to mine with all the technology, reality and experiences of today. An example, Brazil is one of the most technologically advanced countries in the world. Many, when they think of South America, instantly imagine a world from the 1800's. This is far from the truth in much of the continent. Someone asked me if they had McDonald's in Brazil. (Yes and they have electricity too, generated by one of the world's most technologically advanced hydroelectric plants.)

Brazilians use many of the technological tools we do and even more that have yet to reach the shores of other countries including the US. The Brazilian Catholics I am in contact with on a regular basis teach me of the latest apps to use for my evangelization work. Indeed, much of my technological work I learned from the Brazilians.

You can expect that Guido was at least familiar with this technology and used it. However, he also in the midst of it, saw the need to always be

...continued on page 3

# Dear Fraternity Brothers and Friends of the Priesthood

## EPISCOPAL ADVISORS

**Donald Cardinal Wuerl**  
Washington, DC

**Archbishop John Myers**  
Newark, NJ

**Bishop Sam Jacobs**  
Houma-Thibodaux, LA

**Bishop Paul Bemile**  
Wa, Ghana

## DIRECTORS

**Fr. John Kiley**  
Boston, MA  
Chairman

**Fr. Bob Franco**  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Vice Chairman

**Fr. Jim Hobert**  
Tucson, Arizona  
Secretary

**Fr. Larry Van Damme**  
Marquette, Michigan  
Treasurer

**Fr. Vlado Bizjak**  
Maribor, Slovenia

**Fr. Joe Looney**  
Hartford, Connecticut

**Fr. Dwight Merrick**  
Trinidad

### Editor's Box:

Please send articles, comments, and photos to the FOP Newsletter editor, Fr. Bob Carr, via e-mail to [editor@fraternityofpriests.org](mailto:editor@fraternityofpriests.org)

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

I am asking each of you, our fraternity brothers and friends, to keep in your prayers the Annual International Fraternity Conference which will be held at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, Arizona from Sunday evening, July 26, through Friday morning, July 31. Time passes quickly and the Conference is only about four months away.

In the early days of Fraternity this summer gathering was known as the "Leaders Conference" and was usually held in Rhode Island. At some point it was opened not only to the leaders of fraternity groups but also to any fraternity brother who wished to attend. I believe this was a good thing. However in recent years while the conference is always a wonderful experience of priestly fraternity, spiritual renewal, and God's grace, fewer of our leaders are in attendance. This year I want to encourage the leaders of our groups to make a serious effort to be present. As always there will be some financial assistance available to all who need it and the specifics of this will be decided at the April Fraternity Board meeting in Steubenville. This conference is a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships, to meet new brothers, to learn what the Lord is doing in our local groups and in other areas of the world. In addition the praise and worship is always inspiring. Please mark your calendars for the last week of July.

This year we are blessed to have Sr. Ann Shields from Renewal Ministries as our major presenter. She was unable to be with us for last year's conference in Trinidad/Tobago, but was very enthusiastic to be invited to share with the Fraternity of Priests. I know from hearing her in the past that she has a special gift for speaking to priests. For those who perhaps do not know Sr. Ann, the following will be helpful.

Sister Ann Shields, S.G.L., is a noted speaker and author whose activities as an internationally known evangelist have taken her to Eastern Europe, Africa, Australia,

New Zealand, the Caribbean, Central America, Israel, the Philippines, and the British Isles, as well as numerous cities in the United States and Canada. She is a member of the Servants of God's Love, a charismatic religious

community canonically established in the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan. A frequent speaker at national and international conferences, Sr. Ann has authored *Pray and Never Lose Heart*, *What Am I Living For?*, *Yielding to the Power of God*, *Fire in My Heart*, *God Answers Prayer*, *God's Severe Mercy: The Signs of the Times*.

Again I ask each of you to keep our conference in your prayers. I ask my Fraternity Brothers and especially the leaders of our groups to discern prayerfully whether the Lord is calling you or perhaps challenging you to be with us in Tucson.



### 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: **\$5,648.00**  
Budget Surplus (shortage): **\$898.00**

Current as of January 31, 2015.



...continued from page 1

focused on love of God and salvation of others. This was his passion, according to the sources, a passion he lived now in the twenty-first century and one that he calls you and I to live as well.

In an interview with Canção Nova of Brazil, his mother explained that he had a passion to save, and he even became a doctor. He also knew that salvation was necessary for the soul before the body, she explained.

It this passion that we must not lose. There is a great movement in our world to a form of universalism which says that virtually everyone will be saved. This is not Catholic teaching and if we embrace it then we will become lazy in mission. Why seek to bring people to salvation when it is a done deal anyway. It is obvious that this young servant of God did not hold that belief. Guido had a zeal to bring others to know God by doing what he could to spread His love to others, right up to his death just five and a half years ago in 2009. We have an important task to bring God's love to others and to lead them to salvation. We commit a grave error when we take it all for granted. This man's life is something that demonstrates our call and the need that we respond to it.

If there is one thing that comes forth from the basic information about Guido Schäffer it is that prayer was essential to him. He knew he needed to pray to develop the skills to serve God and to seek His help in doing the Father's work. So, it must be the same for us. Granted as members of the Fraternity of Priests daily prayer is a given. However, it is also an essential element in our service as priests. In my work, I have

come across much English language material that seems to downplay the need for rooting ourselves in the mission of salvation and instead focus on social justice, however, our prime duty is the salvation of souls. We cannot embrace the worldly philosophy of universalism that says all are saved by default. We know that each of us have to choose Christ on a daily basis. We need to choose to pick up our cross and follow Him and we need to lead others to do the same. This is our mission and continues to be so, even if others teach otherwise, the Church does not. How do we do this?

We need to recognize that in our prayer, we should request the vision and wisdom to seek to do God's work in our daily situation in life. We should seek that God may be glorified, we and others may be saved and we become the saints that each one of us were invited to be at Baptism. We cannot do this if we see our mission as outside the role of salvation. As Guido Schäffer said, salvation of the soul was necessary before the body.

As this man's case moves forward toward the declaration of a venerable, through blessed to sainthood, we can

follow him as a servant of God that he has already been declared. We can use his example to begin to teach those who have a poverty of faith; they need to know so much in a world that says there is no God but ourselves. We alone, they say, are the ultimate deities, which as we can see in the world is a recipe for disaster. We can be inspired to not let these worldly ideas become part of our spirituality, nor that of our parishes. We can, instead, embrace the idea that we have an invitation to live the gift of life that God gives to us to its fullest in the love of His embrace and to share it with others.

Let us do this powerfully in the prayer that gives us the strength to move the mountains of unbelief for the power of faith.

Can we remain motivated and inspired to do this? That is a requirement for us to do the work of God. We cannot do this without prayer. However, we must do this as Christ calls us to do it. For we may believe we need to be like quiet monks in the mountains, but He may be calling us to be like surfer dudes in Rio de Janeiro or for that matter Venice Beach, California.

### Fraternity of Priests Annual Gathering

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for the Annual Fraternity of Priests Conference. Redemptorist Renewal Center July 26-July 31, 2015 in Tucson Arizona.

We look forward to seeing our brother priests there and are grateful for the hospitality and support of the Tucson Fraternity in hosting us!

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