

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

June 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Rev. Msgr. Edmund Griesedieck St. Louis, MO 1	Pope Benedict XVI 2
Rev. Martin Mannion St. Louis, MO 3	Rev. James Dyer St. Louis, MO 4	Rev. Albert Danter, PhD St. Louis, MO 5	Rev. Jerome Nowakowski Toledo, OH 6	Rev. Thomas Oedy Toledo, OH 7	Rev. Nicholas Weibl Toledo, OH 8	Rev. James Brown Toledo, OH 9
Rev. Edward Littellmann Toledo, OH 10	Rev. Gerald Knueven Toledo, OH 11	Rev. Norbert Howe Toledo, OH 12	Rev. Domenico Pinti Tucson, AZ 13	Rev. Dale Branson Tucson, AZ 14	Rev. James Hobert Tucson, AZ 15	Rev. Liam Leahy Tucson, AZ 16
Rev. Ray Ratzenberger Tucson, AZ 17	Rev. Henry Dauphinais, MS Tucson, AZ 18	Rev. Isaac Fynn Tucson, AZ 19	Rev. Pietro Hewlet Ukraine 20	Rev. Christopher Gardier Michigan 21	Rev. Benjamin Hasse Michigan 22	Rev. Raymond Zeugner Michigan 23
Rev. Norman Clisch Michigan 24	Rev. Raymond Hoefgen Michigan 25	Rev. Larry Van Damme Michigan 26	Rev. Michael Steber Michigan 27	Rev. James Roetzer Michigan 28	Rev. Darryl Pepin Michigan 29	Rev. Romanus Tampah Wa, West Africa 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.

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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 Bob Franco, 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.



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Fraternity - A Sign of God's Providence

By Fr. Vlado Bizjak

Experience is, I would say, one of the key words in the Christian life and also in our lives within the Fraternity. Thank God that fraternity is a living thing and we have the chance to learn so much from the experiences we share in one another's lives. Jesus came both as a teacher of the principles to live by and by his lifestyle, he was an example for his followers. Jesus, himself didn't write anything and almost half of the Gospels are a presentation of his Passion and Resurrection. His last three days among us are a powerful witness of what He taught us by his life.

Some of the priests who were with us last year in Slovenia for the Annual conference might remember that I was searching for a place where one of our seminarians could have a practical experience of pastoral ministry. I thought that an experience of good priestly life in a parish with one of the brothers in the Fraternity would be of some help to him; finding a deeper motivation for his vocation and a greater trust in his abilities. I thank God and our brother Fr. Jim Hobert from the Tucson, Arizona Fraternity who accepted him into his parish for six months.

He came back home just before Easter and I think that his testimony deserves to be reported in the Newsletter. It is a testimony of how a genuine priestly life and the spirit of

the Fraternity can help a candidate to the priesthood embrace his vocation with new power. It is yet another proof and source of encouragement for us to see once again how practical everyday life can be the best school of priestly fraternal life and a way to sanctification.

Here follows, in his own words, the testimony if the seminarian Jure Sojč from the seminary in Maribor, Slovenia where I, Fr. Valdo Bizjak, am the spiritual Director.

**International Love**

God's plan for me was much greater than anything I could have ever dreamt for myself. I was under the impression that I had my life all figured out and organized, but God made me realize that my ways weren't His ways and that He had something else in mind for me. He schooled me on how to be open-minded about the plan He had for my life, and showed me how to allow Him to change my plans. It became evident that I had to abandon my net, and follow Him. He interrupted my well thought out life and led me to make the best mistake of my life. He led me to a city in Arizona called Tucson. Some of the friends I made there were part of a support group that I later became a member of. This group met in the afternoon from two to six in the evening and it was one of the best things that happened to me during my time away. This was

a brand new experience; I had never lived through anything quite like this. In the beginning I was a bit skeptical about going since I didn't know anybody and I wasn't from anywhere near Arizona. In the beginning I felt like an outsider like somehow I couldn't relate with the Priests, but God always knows what is best for us, and little did I know I would get much more than I bargained for.

My initial reaction to the group was that I was very different from the rest of my peers. I was the only foreigner and I felt completely out of place. It was strange, because I was the youngest member and I wasn't used to prayer in tongues. All the negativity melted away as I got more acquainted, they were so welcoming that eventually I felt right at home. The structure reminded me of the relationship that Jesus had with His disciples. They too would take time to talk and be in fellowship with each other. They were all there for each other like brothers, family, willing to help each other, to console and comfort each other. Jesus' disciples were all there for each other even in times of uncertainty. This is how I felt, being part of a group made me feel like I belonged somewhere, that I too had a place. I later realized that this type of support is really important, because you can share your experiences with others. It is

...continued on page 3

# Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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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](mailto: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!

The word "Visitation" holds a special place in the thinking and practice of the Fraternity of Priests. One of our foundational teachings is called the Visitation Message. The headquarters of the Fraternity is called Visitation House. However, in both usages, the word "visitation" does not primarily refer to Mary's visit to her kinswoman Elizabeth.

Ruth began her to return to the land Israel when she heard that "the Lord had visited his people and given them food." (Ruth 1:6) Jesus raised the son of a widow from the city of Nain. (Luke 7:11-17) The people who witnessed this event excitedly exclaimed, "God has visited his people." These signs of God's powerful and providential care were referred to as visitations.

It is primarily in this sense that Fraternity of Priests uses the word "visitation". We believe that God has visited us in our day with supernatural grace to renew and equip the Church. At the bidding of Blessed John XXIII, we prayed for the Second Vatican Council, asking the Lord that, "by a kind of new Pentecost, renew Your marvelous works in this our time." Shortly after the Council there was the reappearance of the charisms (spiritual gifts) of the Holy Spirit on a scale that had not been seen for many generations. More importantly, this visit by the Holy Spirit brought many people into a more personal and transformative relationship with Jesus Christ. In retrospect, God was beginning to equip his Church with supernatural charisms as society was beginning slough off its Christian culture.

Fast-forwarding to our present time we see that we need this visit from God more than ever. The ascendant secular culture is redefining how people, even Catholics, approach life. Mass attendance has declined. Family life is in disarray. The Judeo-Christian values that permeated our laws and outlook are being systematically challenged and purged from the public square.

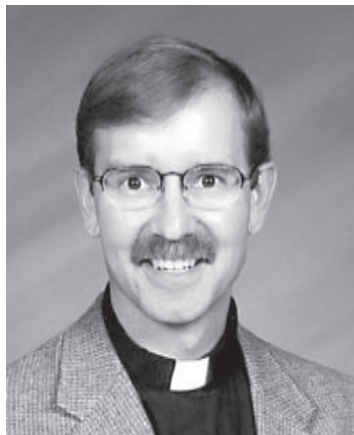
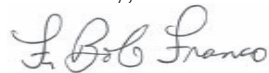
Though the Fraternity of Priests uses the word "visitation" in a broader biblical sense, there is a relationship with the visitation of our Lady to her kinswoman Elizabeth, which

the Church celebrates on May 31. When Mary brought the newly conceived Word made Flesh into the household of Elizabeth, the child in Elizabeth's womb, John the Baptist, leapt for joy. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, John the Baptist recognized the presence of Jesus. Assisted by Mary's prayers, may the Holy Spirit so move us that we too can recognize Jesus and courageously, joyfully point Him out to others.

Fraternity members: now is the time to register for our Annual Fraternity Meeting, which will be held in the diocese of Marquette, located in Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula. Please respond to the mailing or visit our website.

Faithful supporters: your prayers, sacrifices and donations are greatly appreciated. May the Lord and our Lady, visit you with great grace!

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: **\$2,905.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$1,815.00)**

Current as of March 31, 2012.

...continued from page 1

a good opportunity to share your doubts and your problems. It was something that I knew they could easily understand. It gave me hope to realize that I am not alone in this journey, but true happiness and unity with God required for me to be prepared to take up my cross, and it was something I had to do daily. To know that my brothers could relate to my experiences was truly a comforting occurrence. It was easy to share, because we talked about our life occurrences and prayed together. After a while I forgot that I was a foreigner. It was good to know that others were living the same as I, and that we could share our experiences with one another and not feel so alone.

To start the meeting we would begin like all good Catholics begin any task: Prayer. We started singing hymns and songs of prayer to the Lord, which helped break the ice and invite the Holy Spirit into our hearts to prepare ourselves for the evening. The songs varied with theme and were always a good way to praise God. This was an important part of the meeting because it helped us to remain integrated. In order for the song to reach its full effect we had to sing in harmony, as one voice praising God. Every situation was a learning opportunity; in order to pray together and grow together we had to do it with one voice, and in unity. It helped the group union and it strengthened our relationship as a group. God finds pleasure when we come together as a family and invoke his name in reverence and complete surrender in his presence. Prayer is an important

task in our life in order to live a Christ-centered life. If our life revolves around Him, if we live like this, there isn't anything that He wouldn't make available to us.

Sharing about our lives was a truly humbling experience. I learned a lot about my fellow brothers in Christ, but more so about myself. The group provided much more than support, it was an opportunity to enjoy each other's presence, and to discover Christ in each other through fellowship and friendship. Personally it opened my eyes to see Christ in every person that I encounter, I truly saw Christ in every person that I talked to and came across. In the Parish that I was living with, I encountered many different people, each with their own personalities. I was able to see God in each one of them, and see that they had a community that was centered in Jesus Christ. They all worked together to run the Parish and each of the ministries thrived with the Holy Spirit for the glory of God. The support group helped me to gain insight on what it's like to live in the community. Hearing all the different opinions and experiences of my brothers alleviated some of the doubt I had about everyday issued of living out a religious vocation. The most important realization was to see that everything is possible through Jesus Christ. To imitate Christ we must live as He did and love others as we love ourselves, this is His greatest commandment.

The meeting would end every evening with dinner, this gave everyone an opportunity to share their experiences and learn on a more intimate level with

specific individuals rather than as a group as a whole. This provided another opportunity that differed from the group interaction. It was more intimate in order to establish personal friendships and connections. This was truly a blessing because it helped to enhance my stay here because they truly welcomed me like a brother. As time progressed I felt more comfortable and each week became easier. Before I knew it this group became an activity that I looked forward to each week. Every aspect of our gathering helped me to understand that God had great things planned for all of us, and that He takes very good care of His disciples. I place my cares on God's shoulder, because I know if I do His will, He will take care of me. My trust is in the Lord because I know He will provide for all my needs, I know this to be true because time and time again God blessed me with much more than I needed, my needs were always met. Time and time again Jesus showed me His great love for us, and all that He asks in return is for us to love Him. I know there isn't anything God wouldn't do to see His people happy so He showers us with His graces, we just have to be open to receiving them. These meetings helped me to realize that God is always working in our lives, He never leaves our side, and it is us who fail Him. God speaks to us in many ways, and we have to learn to be silent and listen to what He is telling us.

Father Bizjak is a Fraternity Board member and writes from Slovenia.

Please send us your prayer intentions:

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