

| December 2013 | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
| Rev. John Helmueller Sioux Falls | 1 Rev. Joseph Short Sioux Falls | 2 Rev. Jerome Ranek Sioux Falls | 3 Rev. Roger Geditz Sioux Falls | 4 Rev. Randy Phillips Sioux Falls | 5 Rev. Prayer Requests Received | 6 Pope Francis | 7 |
| Rev. Rodney Farke Sioux Falls | 8 Rev. John Rasmussen Sioux Falls | 9 Rev. Edward Pierce Sioux Falls | 10 Rev. Richard Baumberger Sioux Falls | 11 Rev. Robert Hamel Sioux Falls | 12 Rev. Todd Schneider Sioux Falls | 13 Rev. Alvin Quade Sioux Falls | 14 |
| Rev. Peter Kirchner Sioux Falls | 15 Rev. Greg Paffel Sioux Falls | 16 Rev. Gerald Mischke Sioux Falls | 17 Rev. Mark Stang Sioux Falls | 18 Rev. Martin Mannion St Louis | 19 Msgr. Edmund Griesedieck St Louis | 20 Rev. Albert Danter St Louis | 21 |
| Rev. James Dyer St Louis | 22 Rev. Gerald Knueven Toledo | 23 Rev. Jerome Nowakowski Toledo | 24 Rev. Edward Littelmenn Toledo | 25 Rev. Thomas Oedy Toledo | 26 Rev. Nicholas Weibl Toledo | 27 Rev. Norbert Howe Toledo | 28 |
| Rev. James Brown Toledo | 29 Rev. Dale Branson Toledo | 30 Rev. Domenico Pinti Toledo | 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.

Please cut and return this form with your donation.

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Do you know anyone who would like
to receive our Newsletter?
(Please print legibly)

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.

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

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



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Staying the Course

By Father Vlado Bizjak Slovenian Fraternity

Last year I presented Jure, the seminarian from Slovenia who served in Tucson, Arizona during his year of pastoral practice. He gave an excellent testimony to us. This past summer, he was ordained a priest. We joined him

as he celebrated his first mass at his home parish. He now serves as an assistant priest in a big parish with 8500 Catholics. Now, I want to present the second part of his testimony. I think it could be a good encouragement for us as he discovered the importance of living in community among priests. This can help us understand how one can be a tool in Jesus' hands for other priests; especially those who may be alone and whose ideals, they once embraced, have faded out and are lost over the years. He can show us that one can receive back more as he wants to give the others. How small signs like a smile or good will can be a great sign of God's love for others.

Further, I can add my personal testimony from Rome where I

lived the past year. After some months living in Rome, I entered a spiritually difficult period where I felt doubt of God's love. In one moment, God seemed to me as a tyrant who wants me to work

for him and my service seemed, to me, forced by him. I felt like I was trapped in a cage without an exit. All the bad feelings surfaced, anger, sadness, sinfulness etc. But the Lord was merciful with me. It was so simple.

My college companion, a priest from Norway lived on the same floor. After the morning mass he said to me that he received some extra money and he invited me to dinner. That is nothing special, you might say. Yes, nothing special. However, there was a shower of grace hidden in this act of simple kindness. I was holding tears back during the breakfast as I was broken by the experience of God's love. All the anger and sadness that seemed so big before, suddenly seemed so little and senseless during this moment.

I was wondering how I could be so silly before, to allow those feelings and convictions to rule over me. But this happens if one is left alone and he doesn't live in community, in the exchange of God's love.

Therefore, let us allow Jure to speak to us about his experience of priestly fraternity. How important can this be for his own vocation and for that of others: sharing life among themselves:

God's love for humanity and for myself was unmistakable all throughout my stay in Arizona. God showered me with blessings through friendships and with the ministries in which I was involved. Everything about my stay was a blessing in disguise and it all helped me to improve my relationship with God, because I came to accept that He knows best. I realized that when I place all my trust in God that greater things can happen; He guides my life in a path that brings me to happiness. He knows just what I need and when I need it.

The group helped me to enhance my ability to trust in God, to let him take control. I realized a lot of things about myself: information that, in a sense, I already knew, but was confirmed in the time I spent in the group. In particular, I noticed that people enjoy my presence because I bring them laughter and joy. So, I came to the conclusion that I need to dedicate more of my time expressing God's love with the people that I encounter. I realized that showing God's love to others is something that people need, because they feel lonely and they often need someone to talk to, someone to give them faith, comfort and guidance.

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Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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

In this newsletter I would like to review another one of the "Kingdom Disciplines" that we commit to as members of the Fraternity of Priests. We are to read Scripture daily and keep a prayer journal. As priests and laity we must be rooted in the Word of God especially as it comes to us in Sacred Scripture. We are certainly familiar with the famous statement of St. Jerome that "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." Nothing could be clearer.

I am frequently amazed when I still meet people who tell me they were discouraged from reading the Bible by a priest, religious sister, or religious education teacher. That was certainly not my experience. I remember vividly a day when I was a junior in a Jesuit high school and we had a substitute teacher. This Jesuit priest encouraged and challenged us to get a Bible and read it regularly. I saved up \$3.75 (a sizable amount in 1960) and purchased a Bible. Not having anyone to guide me I began in Genesis and somehow got lost in Leviticus. That was the end of my Bible reading for a while except for the Gospels. Praise God that Vatican II, building on the teachings of several Popes, encouraged everyone to be immersed in Sacred Scripture and opened the treasures of the Bible especially at Mass in the Liturgy of the Word.

Now what about our daily reading of Scripture and keeping a journal? One of the temptations I frequently face and often fail to overcome is reading scripture in order to prepare a homily or a teaching and neglecting to read scripture for its own sake. I tend to have an ulterior motive in my reading. I need to recommit to opening the Scriptures simply to be immersed in God's Word. I wonder if I am the only one to face this temptation.

What about our journaling? As we prayerfully reflect on the Scriptures, we want to hear what God is saying to us in His Word. I like to read a passage and focus on three questions: what does this passage say? - what does it mean? - and what does it mean to me in my life right now. Committing our reflections to writing certainly helps, especially when we go back and read what the Lord has been saying to us over a period of weeks or months. Then, of course, we have to put this Word into practice.

Let's examine ourselves on this "Kingdom Discipline" and recommit, if necessary.

Allow me also to encourage our lay supporters and friends to make time each day for prayerful

reading of Scripture and to consider participating in a Bible Study if you do not presently do so. We have a priceless gift from God in the Scriptures. Daily reading of the Bible is so important that Father Larry Richards in his video series entitled "Be A Man" says: "No Bible, No Breakfast - No Bible, No Bed".

God bless each of you as you serve the Lord.



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: **\$2,015.00**
Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$2,735.00)**

Current as of September 30, 2013.

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People seek approval and they seek someone to give them a little push and confidence in order to be successful in life. We all have these emotions and we all have insecurities that can weigh us down, but God provides us with the words to uplift others and to give them the support they need. I became aware of many aspects of my life that needed correction; I came to understand what I needed to improve. This group provided so many learning opportunities that made me aware of my shortcomings. In this realization, I was able to work on improving myself in order to bring out the best in myself. The biggest realization I had was how important it is for a priest to have this resource readily available to him in order to grow in faith, hope and love in order to better serve God.

It became evident that knowing theology and understanding the faith is only a part of what makes a priest an important instrument of God's love here on earth. We have to put this theology into practice. We have to stress the importance of our faith with all the people we meet. It isn't enough to be a mediocre priest and just go through the motions; we must be able to draw people to Christ. It doesn't do much good to study and read books and gain all the knowledge about our faith if we don't share it with our fellow man. We are the shepherds that God put on this earth to lead them directly to Him. This is an act that can become a challenge, because it can be clouded by our humanity.

Please send us your prayer intentions:

We can often guide the sheep astray by our imperfections, anger and weakness. Often we can lead people away from Christ with our actions, but it is our goal to show Christ to people Christ, and to lead them back to Him. It isn't enough to know all there is to know about the Catholic faith, if our actions express the opposite of God's love. I pray that I will be a happy and joyous priest who reflects God's true love with a smile, and through my faithful service to others. When we gathered, we shared Christ's love among each other as brothers and we put it into practice when we parted and went on our way back to our parishes.

I learned a lot about relationships and how everyday life works. Everything about the group helped me to put into perspective the way I acted around people and how I'm supposed to show God's love wherever I go. This group helped me to put my life into perspective. It helped me to analyze and to point out the flaws and the blemishes of my own spiritual life. It helped me to look deep into myself, and to better myself for the greater glory of God. It is important that I make my whole life an offering to Christ, and that everything I do, is for His honor. I noticed that it's not an easy task, but it isn't anything unmanageable with the help of God.

I learned so many things from my brothers. These lessons are ones I will be able to use all throughout my life. I will be forever grateful for the memories we made. It was one of the best experiences of my stay in Tucson; it really helped me deal with

being far away from home. Having someplace to belong definitely helps to deal with the setbacks that life throws at us, it is God's way of showing us we are not alone. The greatest gift that God bestowed upon His children is His love for us; the love we get from Him nourishes our soul and gives us the strength to carry about our daily life.

I grew in love, faithfulness and dedication to Jesus Christ and, most importantly, I felt the Love of Jesus in them. I learned to have a different outlook on life, and to be motivated by love, to look to Jesus for inspiration and guidance, and to walk in His path. The goal is to serve our Father's people in a humble, sincere and loving manner, to notice when people need help, to give comfort and support, to take the lowest and last place, to do the lowly tasks, to be unashamed to be the servant, to go forth into the world as His messengers just as He had done in obedience to His Father.

Jesus gave His life for me, so he deserves no less from me. Being Holy and Christ-like is impossible without suffering, so when we struggle to be the best, there is no doubt in my mind that we would benefit from a group like the one I attended, not just for the fellowship but also for the spiritual and emotional support it provides.

It is a constant reminder that we need to take up our cross, and to surrender our life to God. Overall the group helped me to see Jesus Christ in every person I encounter, to love and serve them, that is my vocation.