



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

October 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Rev. 1 Will-Roger Malave Hartford, CT	Rev. 2 Joseph Looney Hartford, CT	Rev. 3 Paul Landwerlen Indianapolis	4 Prayer Requests Received	5 Pope Francis
Rev. 6 Harold Knueven Indianapolis	Rev. 7 Thomas Cawley, CM Kansas City	Rev. 8 Roderic Giller, OSB Kansas City	Rev. 9 Earl Dekat Kansas City	Rev. 10 Paul O'Donnell Dugan New Jersey	11 Msgr. John Demkovich New Jersey	12 Rev. William Halbing New Jersey
Rev. 13 Paul Lehman New Jersey	Rev. 14 Joseph Meagher New Jersey	Rev. 15 John Gordon New Jersey	Rev. 16 Lewis Papera New Jersey	Rev. 17 Paul Cannariato New Jersey	Rev. 18 Eugene Bettinger New Jersey	19 Rev. Brendan Murray New Jersey
Rev. 20 Jeff Kegley New Jersey	Rev. 21 John Primich New Jersey	Rev. 22 Timothy Graff New Jersey	Rev. 23 Stephen Toth New Jersey	Rev. 24 Tom Devery New York	Rev. 25 William Cosgrove New York	Rev. 26 Alan Shnob Ogdensburg
Rev. 27 Joseph Muldoon Ottawa	Rev. 28 Thomas Sparacino Pittsburgh	Rev. 29 Thomas Kredel Pittsburgh	Rev. 30 Paul Zwyan Pittsburgh	Rev. 31 James Holland Pittsburgh		

'Best Practices' from the Hartford Priestly Fraternity

By Father Joe Looney

Fr. Joe Looney, of the Hartford Fraternity, explains some successful practices from this New England chapter. — .ed

Books

One priest asked a confrere what was the capacity of his church. The second priest replied, "Well, it sleeps about 800." This is a line from the new Ave Maria Press book, The Story of a Catholic Parish Rebuilt: Awakening the Faithful, Reaching the Lost, Making Church Matter (2013). It relates in both serious and humorous ways how Fr. Michael White and his lay assistant Tom Corcoran rebuilt their parish, The Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland. Most members of the Hartford Fraternity have read this amazing story of the renaissance of the Church of the Nativity, from dysfunction with 1400 members to dynamic new life with 4000 members. Many of their practices may help to stem the growing loss of our members. It really makes you think. How best can our parish grow in an increasingly secular culture? Fr. White has some good strategies.

An interesting counterpoint to Rebuilt is another new Ave Maria Press book, From Willow Creek to Sacred Heart: Rekindling My Love for Catholicism, by Chris Haw, 2012. He tells his own story of being a baptized Catholic, drifting from our Church and then finding himself enchanted with the Willow Creek style of Christianity. Afterwards, he comes to appreciate his Catholic faith while living in an inner city parish in Camden, New Jersey.

DVD Series

The last best practices article mentioned the value of Fr. Robert Barron's ten part DVD series: Catholicism. In our parish, we showed it on Sunday nights after a 5:00 p.m. pot-luck supper. "Feed 'em and Lead 'em." It comes with a book and a workbook. In my parish, we were so inspired by the entire series of DVDs, especially #7 on the saints, that we continued seven more Sunday evenings with another series of DVDs on the lives of seven more of our saints. We can learn so much from the lives of our saints, our champions and virtuosos of faith. One of our favorites was the life of St. Philip Neri, the Apostle of Rome, whose

"oratories" may well be ancestors of the Fraternity of Priests. This past July, on the last Sunday night, we kicked off the season of 'Sunday Night Saints' with a two hour DVD on the life of the newly canonized St. Damien DeVuster. We may be suffering because we are missing the challenge that our saints bring to us.

The Rosary

Another practice we would like to recommend is the recitation of the rosary, after our prayers of intercession, at our weekly meetings. Praying the Rosary together contrasts this traditional practice with our charismatic prayers of praise and our active listening for messages we hope to receive. The devotion also welcomes Mary into our midst, just as She was with the apostles on the day of Pentecost.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation
Fr. Paul Halovatch says that he hears confessions after every Mass. On Sundays, he goes to the confessional after greeting people at the door of the Church. In many parishes we hear more confessions at these times than we do on Saturdays. Saturdays before the Vigil Mass doesn't

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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.
Franciscan University
Steubenville, OH 43952-9671
Phone: (740) 283-4400
Fax: (740) 283-3622
Email: contact@fraternityofpriests.org
<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

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Dear Father John Kiley,
This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.
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Editor's Box:

Please send articles, comments, and photos to the FOP Newsletter editor, Fr. Bob Carr, via e-mail to editor@fraternityofpriests.org

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

Since its founding in 1983 the Fraternity of Priests has been an outstanding blessing and vehicle of God's grace in the lives of many priests. Most of you may know that the Fraternity was an outgrowth of the annual Priests Conferences held each June at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. The Fraternity was a way of "taking the conference home". In June we celebrated our 30th Anniversary by holding our International Conference in tandem with what is now the Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians Conference at Franciscan.

One of the most important characteristics of the Fraternity is that we strive to provide "pastoral care" to one another. This was one of the main themes of the Fraternity Conference that launched many of our groups. In recent years as I have met with and spoken with some of our brothers this dimension seems to be lacking or at least minimized in some Fraternities. A meeting should include a time when we gather in small groups to share in confidence our joys and struggles in living out our vocation and ministry. We commit to live in the light and be open with our brothers. We try not to hide our sins or failures. We strive to be an "open book" to at least one brother. Let me encourage each Fraternity to review how faithful the brothers are to this aspect of Fraternity life and, if necessary, to embrace again this dimension of our brotherhood.

Many years ago, in 1978 to be exact, Father Francis Martin gave an outstanding talk at the Steubenville Priests Conference on what he termed "the Normal Christian Life". He stressed that one of its dimensions is "living in a network of committed relationships", having people in our lives who are helping us to be saints. How necessary this is especially in our own day and age. This applies not only to us who are priests, but also to you, our lay sisters and brothers, our friends of the priesthood. Let me also

encourage you to be part of a prayer and sharing group or at least to have one or two brothers and sisters in Christ in your life to encourage and challenge

you to be faithful to Jesus. The Christian life is never a "do-it-yourself project". Christ died to gather into one the scattered children of God as we read in the 11th chapter of John's gospel (John 11:52) and to give us brothers and sisters to help us on the journey. As St. Paul would remind us "Let us bear one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ". (Galatians 6:2)

In His Love,



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: **\$ 930.00**
Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$3,820.00)**

Current as of July 31, 2013.

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seem to be an effective time. We have found that after the Masses is a great time to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation especially for those who come to daily Mass and who desire the availability of regular confession. If nobody comes, the priest has time after Mass for thanksgiving. Of course, it is good to post in the bulletin that confession is always available by appointment.

Phone Tree

Fr. Bob Rousseau has a phone tree in St. Augustine Church in North Branford, CT. He can record a message and send it immediately to all the phone numbers of parishioners who want this service.

For information on this, call him at 203-464-7073. He introduced me to the International Catholic Stewardship Council which will be held this year from Sept.22-25 at the Anatole Hotel in Dallas, TX. For information call toll free 800-352-3452. Bob also introduced me to the McKenna Tithing Ministry which has sent volunteer speakers to promote tithing in over 1300 Catholic Parishes, mostly on the East Coast. For information on this call Lisa Roher 717-732-3485.

Inside the Fraternity

Another item we have found helpful in the 27 years of the Hartford Fraternity is changing leaders. We have changed leaders four times. Now Fr. Bob Grant is our leader. He recently returned

from a six-month sabbatical at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio TX, tel. 210-341-1366. Bob's cell phone is 203-725-7757. He speaks highly of his recent sabbatical with the Oblates.

Fr. Dennis Connell M.S.A., recently ordained and one of our Fraternity's newest members, highly recommends the DVD The Greatest Miracle: Angels All Around for teaching children. Fr. John Mariano, also recently ordained and a new member of our Fraternity, emphasized the importance of meeting our congregants at the door of the Church after Masses.

Fr. Frank Karvelis, our patriarch at the age of 89, still drives to our meeting every Monday. He suggests that our International Fraternity adopt Sts. Cosmas and Damian, twin brothers and martyrs, as our patron saints for the International Fraternity. Every credible group in our Church seems to have patron saints. We adopted Sts. Cosmas and Damien as the patron saints of our Hartford Fraternity.

Fr. Bill Malave suggests taking a minute of silence after all the altar vessels are returned after Holy Communion. He suggests asking our people to use this time to be open to listening to God for inspirations.

Dynamic Catholics

Matthew Kelly, founder of Dynamic Catholics, says "Be Bold. Be Catholic." He sells his two books, Rediscover

Catholicism and Four Characteristics of a Dynamic Catholic, and several other life changing books to parishes for \$2.50 or \$2.00 (if you order 500 or more). Several of us have given them to our people as they leave Church on Christmas or Easter. They are great assets to Evangelization. Call Dynamic Catholics at 513-221-7700 or DynamicCatholic.com.

Now is a great time to be Catholic. God is visiting His Church. PRAISE HIM!!! ALLELUIA!!!

For Your Reflection

We may be only earthen vessels, but we strive daily to reflect the treasure we hold.

There is a reason for this. St. Paul reminds us that through our weaknesses Christ's power becomes perfection. Our weakness can glorify God for, as we strive to holiness, we demonstrate that we are not holy on our own, but rely completely on God Himself for everything. God forbid that we could boast of our own perfection. We would be as far from Him as it is humanly possible. Yet, our weakness shows God's love, mercy, power and strength. So we are always earthen vessels seeking to be transformed into something greater. However, remember it is only the potter who transforms the earthen vessels, not the vessels themselves. It is God's grace that drives us, not our own willing it or power.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

