

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

March 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. Dwight De Jesus <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. Harold Imamshah <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. Daniel Cook <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. Ron Matthews <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. Ferre D'cruz <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Dcn. Norman Gremillion <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Pope Benedict XVI
Rev. Greg Downes <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. John Pardue <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. Silverino Kwebuza AJ <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. William Okot AJ <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. William Baker <i>Allentown, PA</i>	Rev. John Mraz <i>Allentown, PA</i>	Rev. George Winne <i>Allentown, PA</i>
Rev. Larry Hess <i>Allentown, PA</i>	Rev. Patrick Gilbert <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. Paul Gilbert <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. Gerry Fraser <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. Maurice Laroche <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. Paul McManus <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. Donald Clinton <i>Boston, MA</i>
Rev. John Kiley <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. Volney DeRosia <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. Paul Gousse <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. Richard Kelley <i>Boston, MA</i>	Rev. Paschal Petcavage OSB <i>Cleveland, OH</i>	Rt. Rev. Dr. Bryan Eyman <i>Cleveland, OH</i>	Rev. Tom Dunphy <i>Cleveland, OH</i>
Rev. Robert Franco <i>Cleveland, OH</i>	Rev. James Mazanec <i>Cleveland, OH</i>	Rev. Peter Gregor <i>Honduras</i>				

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.

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This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.

Dear Father Bill Cosgrove,

VOLUME XVIII

ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY, 2009



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Fraternity Member Serves Bolivian Missions

by Fr. Bob Franco

Fr. Timothy Graff, former board chairman of Fraternity of Priests and leader of the New Jersey Fraternity, began a three year commitment in August, 2008 with Maryknoll serving as a missionary priest in Bolivia. I recently caught up with him to see how things were going.

Where are you?

Right now I am in Cochabamba, Bolivia, working in the southern end of the city in a new area of barrios called Nueva Vera Cruz. It is a new area of the city with many immigrants coming from other parts of Bolivia looking for work. Presently, because of the poverty and scarcity of jobs half of the adults of working age are working overseas to support their families. They work mainly in Spain, Argentina and the US.

Did you need to attend language school?

I was in language school for 3 months here in Cochabamba. It went well. I lived with a family for the complete immersion experience. It was good to meet other missionaries from around the world who will be working here and in other parts of Latin America.

What has been the most interesting thing you have learned so far?

Ministering in another language and culture is much more challenging than I thought it would be. I had a rudimentary knowledge of Spanish when I came down but the language here is different than what I was used to back in the States. Also, I am working with people who often have had little experience of the Church since they were from rural areas, very different from Newark. Also, the role of the Church with the society is very interesting. The parish is very involved with the local problems of the barrio and in working with the local civic leadership in trying to make life better for the people. We had a parish council meeting last week to plan for the next year. Along with the usual issues of the parish were other problems: dealing with domestic violence, the lack of potable water, the lack of a police presence in the barrio and the absence of any medical care. It is interesting to see the involvement of the Church in all aspects of people's lives.

How did you decide you wanted to give some time to the foreign missions?

I had been working with an increasing Spanish speaking population in the parish where I was, and the Archdiocese of Newark is almost 50% Spanish speaking at this point.

I knew that I would never have a real understanding of the experience of the people until I had lived that experience for myself. Also, the timing was right in my own life. The plan is to return to my Archdiocese after three years better prepared to serve the new immigrants moving in there.

Tell us more about your ministry in Cochabamba.

I am presently serving in a chapel (part of a parish) that serves about 5 barrios in the Southern Zone of Cochabamba. In addition to the usual sacramental work, we are also very involved in the lives of the people. It is the poorest area of the city with many new immigrants coming in all the time from other areas of Bolivia looking for work.

What do you like best about the work you are doing now?

I really like getting to know the people and their lives. We have young people all over the barrios and have a large before and after school program for 160 children. (Children attend school for a half of day here.) They receive help with schoolwork and a hot meal (usually the only one they will eat that day). There is a social worker and psychologist on staff to work with families. Entering into the lives of the

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Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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Please send articles, comments, and photos to the FOP Newsletter editor, Fr. Bob Franco via e-mail at editor@fraternityofpriests.org or fax to 440-934-4500

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

Though we are a few weeks into the New Year already, it is worth looking at our approach to this year of grace. Many people begin the New Year by saying "goodbye and good riddance" to the previous year. It seems as if there was so much bad news in the world that most people do not believe that there is a silver lining among the clouds.

Yet, if we are attentive, we know that many things are cyclical. No one predicts with great accuracy the onset of dark times or when they will end. In the mean time, we wait and seek to survive. The darkened landscape seems littered with the scars of trials, be they economic, political or personal. What once seemed so stable is no more.

I was reminded of these concepts when I received a belated Christmas card from one of the Fraternity supporters. She prayed that "All of you will be renewed in your walk with the Lord and that **all things that are not important would fall off and away** and that you will be refreshed and restored to your first love..."

As Christians we hold to a worldview that is rooted in eternity. Yet, it is easy for us to get caught up in the trivial and unimportant. Since most of us suffer from information overload, we find it hard to discern the truly important from the really trivial.

We need to see things as God sees them. In a sense, we need a kind of *third eye* this in order to discern things from God's vantage point. With this discernment we have vision and clarity of purpose. Without it everything becomes equally important.

On New Year's Day I asked my parishioners to "**make time**" for the Lord. No one seems to "find time" for the Lord, so I told them, "Make time for the Lord!" Secondly, I asked them to "**take time**" for themselves.

I even asked them *to hold me accountable* for taking a day off each week *away from the rectory*.

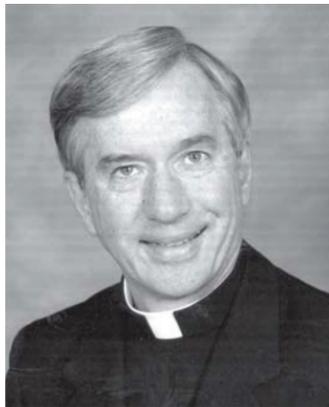
There are many of us who seem to have lost the habit of enjoying a "Sabbath rest" My day will be Friday. I have carved it out on my calendar and I need to plan my day off with a place to go and people to see in a way that will guarantee that I will be out of the parish. Thirdly, I asked them to "**give time**" to others in listening to their cares and concerns. Oftentimes the only thing people want or need is someone who will just listen.

We all have the same amount of time in 2009. It does matter what I do with it. I hope that each and every one of us will "make time", "take time" and "give time" until we enter into time without end...eternity.

Fraternally,



Father Bill



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: **\$5,377.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **\$ 627.00**

Current as of December 31, 2008.

...continued from page 1

people allows me to see their own experience of the Lord and how their faith is lived out every day in the midst of so much poverty and despair. I was at a meeting last week and the people remarked that simply by our presence there they have a sense of hope that they did not have before. Although they have a deep faith that they share with me every day, somehow we are able to be a source of hope for one another.

Have there been any surprises since you went to Latin America?

I discovered that there are just two main seasons here: wet and dry, also called "mud and dust." Also, the people have a deep faith. After they have lived through so much danger and pain, their faith is so evident. The people have the great challenges that always come from poverty: dissolution of family life, trouble with drugs and alcohol, et cetera. Yet the importance of family is always strong. Parents will make great sacrifices for their children. We have a family having a child baptized tomorrow and both parents are moving to Argentina next month for work. Their four children will stay with other relatives during the next few years as the parents try to provide for them. That kind of sacrifice is hard to relate to but they see it as their only option at this point.

Have you had much priestly fellowship since you began your mission work?

There are about twelve Maryknoll priests and brothers working in the area. We get together every Tuesday for an hour together for prayer and discussion,

sometimes with Liturgy. We have an extended time together one Saturday a month for life sharing and business as well as social time together.

What has been your greatest joy and greatest difficulty so far as a missionary?

The greatest joy has been to get to know another area of the Church and the world. Life is so delicate here and the small joys that fill people's lives are very important to them. The greatest difficulty is getting used to another language and culture and seeing how the gospel is proclaimed and lived in another way and manner of life.

How has your participation in the Fraternity of Priests prepared you for the mission field?

The Fraternity helped teach me the importance of my own personal prayer life and the priority of holiness as the response to the gospel call. When faced with so many problems each day it is easy to lose sight of the importance of my own relationship with the Lord. Also with the Visitation Message we see how God wants to be involved in the lives of each believer every day. We are able to bring a sense of hope because we believe in God's intervention in our lives.

Final thoughts?

Please keep us in your prayers. Life is not easy here at all and the challenges that people face every day just to survive are more than I realized. Yet, the Lord has us here for a reason. Pray that I respond faithfully to the Lord's call every day.

Let us pray for Fr. Timothy Graff and all who serve the Church in difficult assignments. Fueled by our prayers may "Thy Kingdom come!"

Year of St. Paul Jubilee Prayer

Glorious St Paul,
Most zealous Apostle,
Martyr for the love of
Christ,

Give us a deep faith,
A steadfast hope,
A burning love for our
Lord;

So that we can proclaim
with you,
"It is no longer I who live,
but Christ
who lives in me."

Help us to become apostles
Serving the Church with a
pure heart,

Witnesses to her truth and
beauty
Amidst the darkness of our
days.

With you we praise God,
our Father:

"To Him be the glory, in the
Church and in
Christ, now and forever."
Amen.



Please send us your prayer intentions: _____
