

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

July 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Rev. 1 Alexander Mills, OSB Tucson, AZ	Rev. 2 Mark Long Tucson, AZ	Rev. 3 Pope Benedict XVI
Rev. 4 Domenico Pinti Tucson, AZ	Rev. 5 Liam Leahy Tucson, AZ	Rev. 6 Ray Ratzenberger Tucson, AZ	Rev. 7 Henry Dauphinais, M S Tucson, AZ	Rev. 8 James Hobert Tucson, AZ	Rev. 9 Isaac Flynn Tucson, AZ	Rev. 10 Dale Branson Tucson, AZ
Most Rev. 11 Vitalij Skomarovski Ukraine	Rev. 12 O. Pietro Hewlet Ukraine	Rev. 13 Timothy Ekaitis Upper MI	Rev. 14 Daniel Moll Upper MI	Rev. 15 Norm Clisch Upper MI	Rev. 16 Darryl Pepin Upper MI	Rev. 17 Raymond Zeugner Upper MI
Rev. 18 Raymond Hoefgen Upper MI	Rev. 19 Michael Steber Upper MI	Rev. 20 Christopher Gardiner Upper MI	Rev. 21 Larry Van Damme Upper MI	Rev. 22 Stephen Kantubog Wa, West Africa	Rev. 23 Evarist Kuuwulong Wa, West Africa	Rev. 24 John Kpan Wa, West Africa
Rev. 25 Sylvester Nankpi Wa, West Africa	Rev. 26 Benette Tang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 27 Matthew Tuurosong Wa, West Africa	Rev. 28 Augustine Ten Wa, West Africa	Rev. 29 Zachary Kokole Wa, West Africa	Rev. 30 Gervase Angsotinge Wa, West Africa	Rev. 31 Peter Paul Langnedomah Wa, West Africa

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)

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Dear Father Bob Franco, 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 carefully 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.

Older Men are Dreaming!

By Father John Sweeney

As we come to the conclusion of this "Year of the Priest", which Pope Benedict had asked to be observed throughout the world, we continue to look at the life of St. John Mary Vianney, whom the Pope has given us as the Patron Saint of all priests. As we look back 150 years to the times in which the Cure of Ars lived, it is very striking how similar his days were to ours today. The Catholic Church in France at that time was suffering from the effects of the French Revolution – or really from the so called – "enlightenment" (which was anything but enlightened). The cultural, social and political climate was very much like the atmosphere we find in the United States, and in the Western World, and perhaps the whole world, in 2010.

Fr. Francis Martin teaches that we are still deeply affected by the pagan secularization which gradually came about as a result of the "Enlightenment." Our Catholic people are surrounded by, and are suffering from, the effects of this secularization of our American culture. Pope John XXIII's encyclical "Sacredotii Nostri Primordia" (From the Beginning of Our Priesthood), written in 1959 to mark the 100th Anniversary of St. John Vianney's death, spoke of the "unbridled

looseness and spirit of lust" that he saw in the world at that time. What would he think about the world we live in today?

Our times have not perhaps seen as dramatic a repudiation of the faith as in France after the revolution, when they were lining up bishops and priests before firing squads. But we have seen, just in the past few months, the media; with no concern for accuracy or objective reasoning - predict the inevitable collapse of Pope Benedict's papacy, and perhaps the end of the Catholic Church as a whole. And many people, including many Catholics, begin to accept what the "infallible" New York Times presents as "truth." The secularization of human society has continued at a swift pace since the days John XXIII.

I am reminded of the example of a frog being cooked in a pot. If he would be thrown into scalding water, he would immediately jump out to escape, but if he is placed in cold water in a pot, and then the heat is gradually turned up – he doesn't notice it until he is "cooked." Hasn't our American culture been "cooked" slowly in the secular climate that has been so prevalent? What is wrong is said to be right, and what is good is said to be evil! This is happening in so many aspects of our common life, in

morality, in politics, in business and the media. We need to see the reality of where our culture is today. But we also need to see how the Lord in our time has "opened the flood gates of heaven and of mercy", as Saint Faustina has told us.

Just look at the ways that the Lord Jesus showed His grace and mercy in the life of John Vianney. As we reflect on the life of our Patron Saint, it will help us see more clearly how the Lord has been pouring out His Holy Spirit in our times, and how He wants to do so especially for His priests. John Vianney is exactly the model each of us priests needs today. The effectiveness of the ministry of the Cure of Ars came from prayer, which for him always meant coming before the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. How he loved just being there before Him. John Vianney's awareness of the Eucharist as the Center of life brought him those spiritual gifts and qualities – humility and openness – which made him an incredible channel of God's grace to the people he served.

Pope John XXIII said in his encyclical that "we attribute too much to the effectiveness of external activities...we embrace the hustle and bustle. It annoys our minds to turn away from external affairs." Again this is what the Pope saw 50 years ago. What would he think of

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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 or fax to 508-943-2213.

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

The Year for Priests ends on Friday, June 11, 2010 with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is fitting that this Year for Priests begins and ends with the Solemn Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The heart of an ordained priest is to somehow incarnate the sentiments of the heart of Jesus—a heart that is on fire with love for God and humanity.

When Pope Benedict began this year for priests he highlighted the Curé of Ars, St. John Vianney, who is the patron for parish priests. Near the end of his letter that opened this year Pope Benedict wrote, “As the Curé of Ars did, let yourselves be enthralled by Christ. In this way you too will be, for the world in our time, heralds of hope, reconciliation and peace!”

“...let yourselves be enthralled by Christ...” I would venture to say that each vocation to the priesthood had at its inception being enthralled by Jesus Christ. He wooed and we let ourselves be wooed. Jesus bid us to throw down our nets and follow him and we gladly and freely obeyed.

However, often over time, the wear and tear of ministry, the compromises with personal and liturgical prayer (meaning *The Liturgy of the Hours*), the creature comforts of this world, begin to sap our ability to be captivated by Christ. Some priests simply fulfill their duties in survival mode, trying to keep everybody happy in the parish and paying the bills. The largeness of Christ and his mission have been squeezed into a cubbyhole of a peaceful survival.

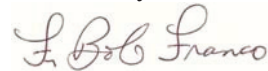
An evangelical author by the name of J. B. Phillips wrote a book called *Your God is Too Small*. Perhaps a corollary theme was addressed in this Year for Priests: *Your Call is Too Small*. Hopefully, one of the fruits of this year was a sloughing off of lethargy and a renewed awakening to the call of Jesus Christ to “make disciples of all the nations...” Perhaps more than ever our world needs, “heralds of hope, reconciliation and peace.”

Isn't this the goal of Fraternity of Priests? The first sentence on our website that describes the mission of the Fraternity states: The purpose of the Fraternity of Priests is to give priests the vision, the ongoing formation and the support to respond with enthusiasm to the fullness of the priesthood. May we not compromise!

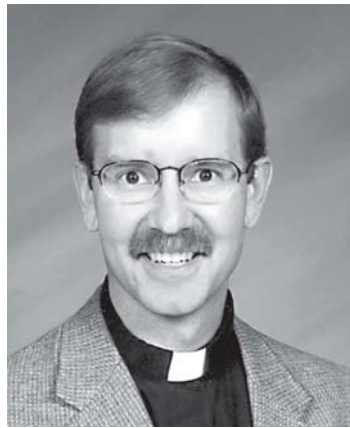
I am grateful for those who support the mission of the Fraternity. Your prayers and sacrifices, along with our participation in local fraternities, assist us in responding “with enthusiasm to the fullness of the priesthood.”

May Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest, whose Sacred Heart is aflame with love, free us from our cubbyholes of comfort and set us on a mission as large as the universe he created.

Fraternally,



Father Bob Franco



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: **\$4,380.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$ 370.00)**

Current as of April 30, 2010.

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our TV, internet, cell phone, I-pod saturated world of today? We live in this world, and it affects us priests just as much as all the rest of the Catholic faithful. We find it difficult to pray, to quiet our minds. That is why the Lord has given us this particular call, through the blessing of the Fraternity of Priests and its “Visitation message,” to pray - at least one hour a day, preferably before the Blessed Sacrament.

Praising God - in prayer, in music, in expressing our worship out loud, in praying and singing in tongues - is a gift God gives us to enable us to come into His presence, quieting our distractions more quickly, bringing us out of ourselves, to bring us into “His throne room.” The Holy Spirit has blessed His Church with a rediscovery of that charism spoken about in Paul's letters, praying in a language beyond our mental efforts - the Holy Spirit praying in us. This has been such a great gift to me and my brothers in Fraternity here in Pittsburgh, as we come together. Would that all our brother priests might experience this gift. I believe there is truth in seeing that the neglect of prayer; and the lack of true “fraternity” among priests, contributed to the moral problems for some of our brothers - in the 70's and 80s, which have been brought to light in these past few years. Prayer - and Fraternity - is the key. And I know for myself, after many years - that prayer, as well as Fraternity, is something I am always learning. It is something I am always “practicing.”

We as priests were pretty much trained, in the 60's, 70's and 80's

that good ministry, good preaching, would flow from your intelligence, from your studies, your speaking skills, and good stories and jokes. All of these things are good. But the effectiveness of John Vianney's ministry flowed from his prayer. When the people heard his preaching, they were touched by the Lord. His Bishop at the time said about John: “I don't know if he is learned but I know that heavenly light shines in him.” The Cure can show us priests that, as we pray, as we spend time with the Lord every day, and hear His Word -and then speak that Word in our homilies - we will touch people's hearts; and the Lord will have prepared their hearts to hear the Word. John Vianney shows us that it is not the natural gifts of speech, wit, or charm which brings the Truth, but rather, it is the more we are filled with Jesus. As Pope John said - “a priest filled with Jesus will have no problem bringing Him to others.”

John Vianney's prayer led him to celebrate the Eucharist with awe. He saw the Mass as the summit of life - it was where His holiness came from. People were touched when he celebrated Mass. It was reported: “those surrounding John Vianney could feel something bursting forth from the depths of his inner life.” As we pray and spend time with the Lord, the Holy Spirit can bring us to celebrate the Eucharist with interior and exterior devotion. It will happen. Vianney said: “be aware of Who you hold in your hand.” The Eucharist can transform - beginning with you and me as the priest.

As this Year for the Priest concludes, we can thank the Lord

Jesus for the life and example of John Vianney. We can thank the Lord Jesus for what He is doing in our time - through the Fraternity of Priests. The Fraternity has been given to us to help each one of us to be the priest Jesus calls us to be. Each one of us is called to be a holy priest - every one of us. When we get discouraged, let us take to heart the words of the prophet Joel, and see that the Lord is “pouring out his Spirit on all humanity. Your old people will dream dreams and your young men will see visions.”

Let us be aware of the great blessing the Lord is giving the Church in the young men who are being called to the priesthood today. These are men who “see visions”, who have a deep desire for the spiritual life. I see them as men with devotion to the Eucharist and to Adoration.

As for us “older men”, I believe He wants us to “dream dreams” - the dream that He will make us all “John Vianneys”- if we let Him. Let us ask for the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of priests, to give us a desire to be holy priests. Finally, let us thank all those faithful people who pray for us - those who continue to support the Fraternity of Priests in so many ways. Please continue to pray for us - that we will allow the Lord Jesus to raise up more John Vianneys today - to serve you.

Father John Sweeney is a priest in the Diocese of Pittsburgh and a member of the Pittsburgh Fraternity.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

