

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

December 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Rev. 1 Robert Bush San Angelo, TX	Rev. 2 Santiago Udayar San Angelo, TX	Rev. 3 Bernard Gully San Angelo, TX	Rev. 4 Terry Brenon San Angelo, TX	Rev. 5 Barry McLean San Angelo, TX	Rev. 6 Pope Benedict XVI
Rev. 7 Douglas Binsfeld Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 8 Gregory Frankman Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 9 Charles Duman Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 10 Jerome Ranek Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 11 Roger Geditz Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 12 Edward Pierce. Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 13 John Rasmussen Sioux Falls, SD
Rev. 14 Rodney Farke Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 15 James Zimmer Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 16 Joseph Vogel Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 17 Richard Baumberger Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 18 Randy Phillips Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 19 Franklin Darling Springfield, MA	Rev. 20 Gerald Brady Springfield, MA
Rev. 21 Pesamino Victor Samoa	Rev. 22 Anthony Dattilo St. Louis, MO	Rev. 23 Aaron Nord St. Louis, MO	Rev. 24 John-Paul Hopping St. Louis, MO	Rev. 25 David Novak St. Louis, MO	Rev. 26 Charles Tichacek St. Louis, MO	Rev. 27 Matthew Bonk C.Ss.R St. Louis, MO
Rev. 28 Martin Mannion St. Louis, MO	Rev. Msgr. 29 Edmund Griesedieck St. Louis, MO	Rev. 30 Albert Danter PhD St. Louis, MO	Rev. 31 James Dyer St. Louis, MO			

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.

Name _____
Street _____
City, State and Zip _____

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

Dear Father Bill Cosgrove,
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.**

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



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Fraternity of Priests Founded on All Saints Day

by Fr. Bob Franco

On a wall in the main room of the Fraternity of Priests' Visitation House in Steubenville, Ohio, hangs a framed plaque. The outer part of the plaque contains the pictures of Fr. Jim Ferry, Fr. John Dreher, Fr. George Kosicki and Fr. Ed Wade. These priests comprised the founding team of Fraternity of Priests.

These four pictures frame the Visitation House Agreement. It is dated All Saints Day 1983 and was signed by these four priestly men of faith. The agreement reads:

Under the direction of Father Michael Scanlan as part of the FIRE outreach we are called to a mission, to gather priests to Christ and with one another. In order to respond to what God is doing among us, in order to be that people he is calling us to be, we desire to give our lives to him, to follow his Son, Jesus, and to live more and more in the Holy Spirit. We desire to love and serve him in lives of daily prayer and service; to praise and worship him always; to ever seek his face; to know and serve the truth of his Word in joy, peace and love of the Holy Spirit; to believe what he speaks to us and to be obedient to the truth of his Word and the guidance of his Spirit; to offer hospitality to those

whom he sends us; to widen our hearts to receive those he adds to our number; and to carry out the mission to priests in the Catholic Church throughout the world that he is entrusting to us. Above all, we desire to be a people who always grow, by his great mercy, in the fervor of that first love he has given us, he who is our all. We desire to consecrate our lives to him not simply as individuals but as a priest household.

We know that in order for us to be truly priests of one mind and heart in our response to the Lord, we must serve and care for one another, and we must understand and accept those things which make our life as one body possible. We know that we must meet together. We must respect and support the pattern and order of our life together. We must support the life of the community with our time and with our material and financial resources. All this is simply to take responsibility for those whom the Lord has given us; to be a new family, members of the same body, brothers working together in the mission he is entrusting to us as priests.

We desire to put our lives into his hands completely and follow him as priests wherever he may lead.

It was signed by Father Jim Ferry, Father John Dreher, Father Ed Wade and Father George W. Kosicki CSB.

The seeds for the Fraternity of Priests grew out of some conversations that Fr. Mike Scanlan, Ralph Martin and Fr. Jim Ferry had as early as the summer of 1982. All of them saw a need to support priests in the efforts to live out a priesthood renewed in the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Scanlan would see hundreds of priests attend the annual Priest and Deacon conferences in Steubenville. He would note, as the saying goes, that it was "Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit..." while at the conferences. However, when the priests got back home things became, "...as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever!" It was difficult to translate a renewed priesthood into somewhat stagnant pastoral environments.

Those early conversations pointed to a need for community. If brother priests could meet together on a local level, rooted in and focused on the Lord Jesus, sharing their hopes and dreams, joys and sorrows, and be supported and encouraged by each other: then the power of the Holy Spirit would begin to permeate their ministries and pastoral settings.

...continued on page 3

Dear Friends of the Priesthood

EPISCOPAL ADVISORS

Bishop Sam Jacobs
Houma-Thibodaux, LA

Bishop Paul Bemile
Wa, Ghana

Archbishop Donald Wuerl
Washington, DC

Archbishop John Myers
Newark, NJ

Archbishop
Franc Kromberger
Maribor, Slovenia

DIRECTORS

Rev. William Cosgrove
New York, NY
Chairman

Fr. Bob Franco
Cleveland, OH

Fr. Michael Roy
Worcester, MA

Rev. Dwight Merrick
Port of Spain, Trinidad

Fr. John Sweeney
Pittsburgh, PA

Editor's Box:

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!

On the first Sunday of the month in November the annual marathon is held in New York City. Athletes from around the world run through the five boroughs of New York until they reach the finish line in the heart of Central Park.

The marathon race is a marvelous image of the stages of the Christian life. As in the Christian life the runners begin the race with enthusiasm and energy. They are pumped up to complete the 26.2 mile run. Similarly, the beginning of the Christian life is easy for many. The middle part of the race becomes more difficult. In a marathon it is called "hitting the wall". This also happens in the Christian life. One encounters the stress, turmoil and suffering that inevitably are part of life.

We Catholics have trained for the marathon run of faith. However many of us never anticipate "hitting the wall". For the marathoner the wall is the moment the body wants to quit. The mind and spirit must then force the body to do what it thinks it cannot do. Likewise in the Christian's "marathon run" we anticipate "the wall" and the commit ourselves to press on to the finish line.

For most marathoners, placing first, second or third is not the most important thing. Though the media is interested in the top spots, most marathoners know that the most important thing to do is FINISH the race. Some runners will still be jogging into the night, others may cross the line walking, and still others in wheelchairs. Almost all will come to the finish line only through great suffering and agony. For the Christian, the most important thing is to FINISH the race of faith.

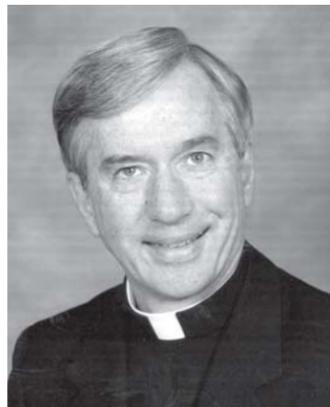
In ancient times the winners of a race received a garland of olive leaves as a crown of victory. However, as St. Paul reminds us, we await a crown of glory that is imperishable. (I Corinthians 9:25).

As we celebrate the feast of All Saints and All Souls this month, we remember the men, women and children throughout the ages who completed the race of faith. Having endured the trials of this life they are rewarded with crown of eternal life in heaven. We rejoice that God has given us such a variety of models of faithfulness. Some are canonized saints that inspire the whole Church. Others are those personal acquaintances who have inspired us in our race of faith.

This month, in a special way, let us pray for all the benefactors of the Fraternity of Priests, our bishops and our parish priests. May we do so with gratitude for their witness to the faith. Let us also beseech God's mercy on those who have gone before us. May they know the joy of finishing the marathon race of faith and be crowned with glory by Jesus Christ our Savior.

Faternally,

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: **\$5,150.00**

Actual Donations: **\$3,396.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$1,754.00)**

Current as of September 30, 2008.

...continued from page 1

Thus, the Fraternity of Priests was born. Perhaps its mission was summarized by a phrase that comes from the first sentence of the Visitation House Agreement: **to gather priests to Christ and with one another**. Fraternity of Priests would become a brotherhood of priests who were focused on Christ Jesus the Lord. They would also be **with one another**, men who would learn to share their lives with each other. Conversations would go beyond local sports and clerical gossip. Their sharing with one another would focus on what God was doing in each person's life and ministry. Also from this phrase "to gather priests to Christ and with one another" would flow a very important conviction of the Fraternity of Priests: *relatio before missio*. Priests need to put their relationship with the Lord and each other ahead of their seemingly endless work.

One of the prophetic statements within this agreement focused on the breadth of Fraternity of Priests: **to carry out the mission to priests in the Catholic Church throughout the world that he is entrusting to us**. Fraternity of Priests began by the team going out and meeting priests in local diocese and sharing their vision of a priests living in a brotherly manner by the power of the Holy Spirit for the renewal of the Church. Later in November of 1983 the team visited Cleveland. The Fraternity soon incorporated two preexisting prayer groups of priests: one in Providence and one in Pittsburgh.

The Fraternity then expanded into many dioceses throughout the United States, then Canada, Latin America and beyond, to Trinidad

and Tobago. Fr. Ed Wade travelled to England and Ireland to found Fraternities. In time other members of the Fraternity, spearheaded by the zeal of Timothy Graff in early part of this millennium, were able to plant the Fraternity of Priests in Slovenia, Ukraine, Ghana, Tanzania, India and Samoa.

The growth of the Fraternity was not without its trials. One zealous member of the Fraternity team, Ken Gallagher, left active ministry in the late 1980's. This prompted the formation of a board of directors to work with the team. Fr. Forrest Rouelle, whose love for his brother priests and zeal for the Fraternity was legendary, inspired and served the brothers throughout the 1990's.

Many other brother priests have contributed to the life and growth of the Fraternity over the years. Some have gone on to be with the Lord. Others are still seeking to live out the Fraternity ideals and be a source of renewal in the Church.

It was twenty five years ago on All Saints Day that four priests began a movement which has strengthened and supported the lives of many priests. Their ultimate goal was to become saints, and help others do the same. Many priests are grateful for their vision and courage. Only the Lord knows how much fruit has come because of this movement. Looking to Him and not backwards may all hear words of the prophet Habakkuk:

Write down the vision clearly upon the tablets, so that one can read it readily.

For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint.

-- (Habakkuk 2:2b-3)

In Thanksgiving!

Father in heaven, source of all good gifts, we thank you for your bountiful blessings in spirit and body. In this season of Thanksgiving, accept our prayers of gratitude for our families, faith, food and friends.

We also praise and thank you for the twenty-five years of the Fraternity of Priests. Through this brotherhood many priests have been strengthened, and through these priests the whole Church.

We humbly ask your continued help and guidance. May your Holy Spirit continue to empower Fraternity of Priests to gather priests to Christ and with one another! We ask this Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen!

Mary,
Star of Evangelization,
pray for us!

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____
