

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

November 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Pope Benedict XVI
2 Rev. Joseph Fitzpatrick New York, NY	3 Msgr. Leslie Ivers New York, NY	4 Rev. William Cosgrove New York, NY	5 Rev. Tom Devery New York, NY	6 Rev. Richard Champigny O.Carm New York, NY	7 Msgr. James Cassidy Ph.D. New York, NY	8 Rev. Francis Coryer Ogdensburg, NY
9 Rev. Alan Shnob Ogdensburg, NY	10 Rev. Joe Muldoon Ottawa, Canada	11 Rev. Robert Shaldone Providence, RI	12 Rev. Wilfred Gregoire Providence, RI	13 Most Rev. George Pearce SM Providence, RI	14 Rev. Robert Giardina Providence, RI	15 Rev. Samuel Turillo Providence, RI
16 Rev. Francis Guidice Providence, RI	17 Msgr. John Allard Providence, RI	18 Rev. John Dreher Providence, RI	19 Rev. Joseph Heaney Providence, RI	20 Rev. Gerard Caron Providence, RI	21 Rev. Michael Sisco Providence, RI	22 Rev. Michael Kelley Providence, RI
23 Rev. Todd Schneider St. Cloud, MN	24 Rev. Peter Kirchner St. Cloud, MN	25 Rev. Gregory Paffel St. Cloud, MN	26 Rev. Alvin Quade St. Cloud, MN	27 Rev. Gerald Mischke St. Cloud, MN	28 Rev. Elmer Torborg St. Cloud, MN	29 Rev. Robert Hamel St. Cloud, MN
30 Rev. Mark Stang St. Cloud, MN						

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.

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

Name _____

Street _____

City, State and Zip _____

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.

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

Dear Father Bill Cosgrove, 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.

Fraternity Reaches Samoa

by Fr. Bob Franco

This interview took place in Tucson, AZ during the Annual Fraternity Meeting in August of this year. Fr. Franco was able to meet with Fr. Pesamino Victor of the Archdiocese of Samoa. Fr. Victor was ordained on December 8, 2007.

Fr. Franco: Tell me a little about yourself and how you ended up becoming a priest.

Fr. Victor: I was educated in Marist schools and during this time I attended some weekend retreats. These retreats inspired in me a desire for the priesthood. After graduating, I worked for a few years and then was accepted into the seminary in 2001. I am happy to be a priest and grateful for God calling me to orders.

Fr. Franco: Tell me a little about Fraternity of Priests in Samoa and how you became involved in it so early in your priesthood.

Fr. Victor: Fr. Ian Taylor from Trinidad founded the Fraternity in Samoa in 2005. I was a seminarian at the time and began to get involved. I began to understand what the word "fraternity" meant for me. After

ordination I began to see a bigger picture of what it meant to be part of the priesthood. I was part of a family of priests.

I also saw that priests need each other. We need to encourage each other and strengthen each other in our mission. We also need to share with each other our areas of weakness and help each other be more open to the Holy Spirit. I see how we need to accept the advice of our brother priests. Sometimes we are resistant to doing that.

Fr. Franco: What is your assignment back in Samoa?

Fr. Victor: I am the rector of our shrine, The Three Hearts. This shrine began as the vision of our Archbishop, Alapati Mataleiga. He was inspired to start a shrine with this name, the three hearts being those of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

I also work as the director of religious education for our diocese. I am in charge of making the programs that will be used for catechesis in our schools. I also oversee the workshops and seminars that our diocese sponsors on how to teach the faith and use the resources we have in our diocese.

Fr. Franco: Describe how your fraternity works in Samoa.

Fr. Victor: Once a month we meet in a large group of forty priests with our Archbishop. We break up into small fraternal groups and share. We then report back to the larger group as to what our goals are. We also bring up issues in our diocese and share them with the Archbishop.

We also meet every Monday in small groups. Each small group begins with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 4:00 PM in the afternoon. We pray and then share with each other from the Sacred Scriptures. We make time to celebrate Evening Prayer, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Benediction.

We then break for dinner and have a time of open forum. During this time we really share both the strengths and weaknesses of our lives, both in our work as priests and our personal lives. Many of us share advice and support with each other.

Fr. Franco: What is your favorite thing about Fraternity of Priests?

Fr. Victor: The Fraternity really helps me to pray. I sometimes fail in

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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 August 6 the Pope Benedict met with priests, deacons and seminarians of the Diocese of Bolzano-Bressanone and answered six questions they asked him.

Fr. Franz Pixner posed a question about the increasing burden of pastoral care and the problems that accompany it: the intense pressure of work, lack of recognition, loneliness, et cetera. He asked the Holy Father, "how we priests, confronted by the new challenges, can help one another in a brotherly community, at the various levels of the diocese, diaconate and pastoral and parish unit."

The Holy Father responded: "I know how difficult it is today when a priest finds himself directing not only one easily managed parish but several parishes and pastoral units; when we must be available to give this or that counsel, and so forth. How difficult it is to live such a life. I believe that...it is important to have the courage to limit oneself and to be clear about deciding one's priorities. A fundamental priority of priestly life is to be with the Lord...to have time for prayer. I...emphasize: whatever the demands that arise, it is a real priority to find every day...an hour to be in silence for the Lord and with the Lord, as the Church suggests we do with the breviary, with daily prayers, so as to continually enrich ourselves inwardly, to return, as I said in answering the first question, to within the reach of the Spirit's breath."

"And to order priorities on this basis: I must learn to see what is truly essential, where my presence as a priest is indispensable and where I cannot delegate anyone else. And at the same time, I must humbly accept when there are many things I should do and where my presence is requested that I cannot manage because I know my limits. I think people understand this humility."

The pope then turned to another of Father Pixner's points: priestly community.

He said: "Priests, even if they live far apart, are a true community of brothers who should support and help one another. In order not to drift into isolation, into loneliness with its sorrows, it is important for us to meet one another regularly...precisely, no priest is a priest on his own; we are a presbyterate, and it is only in this communion with the bishop that each one can carry out his service."

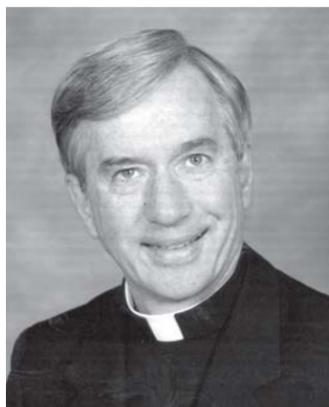
It is a joy to know that Pope Benedict understands the vision of the Fraternity: to gather priests to Christ and to one another!

People of God: thank you for all your prayers. Keep lifting us up in prayer as we continue to lift you up in the Eucharistic sacrifice each day.

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: **\$5,150.00**

Actual Donations: **\$ 2,389.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$2,761.00)**

Current as of August 31, 2008.

Book Review: Intentional Presbyterates: Reclaiming our Common Sense of Purpose as Diocesan Priests by Rev. J. Ronald Knott

Reviewed by Rev. Justin Reis of Columbus, Ohio.

Fr. Knott recently spoke to the priests of the Columbus, Ohio Diocese at our Presbyteral Convocation. This short book (seventy pages) outlines his vision of priests caring for one another and calling each other on as disciples.

Fr. Knott insists that seminarians in theological studies should attend clergy conferences. They should know when come to ordination they are committing to come to regional meetings, convocations, priests funerals and other gatherings of the local presbyterate. "We have to work against the tendency of priests becoming 'desert fathers' or 'priests in private practice'." Fr. Knott also encourages presbyterates to find ways to welcome and integrate foreign born priests now coming to the United States in great numbers.

Fr. Knott, through the citation of official documents, calls

diocesan priests to an intimate and unified brotherhood. Through their preaching, presiding at the sacraments and pastoral leadership, they are to call the laity to an ongoing conversion of heart. Humble, energetic, collaborative, joyful priests are the most effective vocation recruiters.

Fr. Knott also believes that only mentoring the newly ordained will reverse the statistics that show 10-15% of priests leave the active ministry in the first five years. He challenged priests to take responsibility for building fraternity and friendship. These are the tools by which priests are able to break through the terrible experience of loneliness they sometimes experience.

Knott calls priests to a conversion to seek the good of the whole presbyterate. He reminds us that we promise respect and obedience to our bishop. Fr. Knott insists that we should also understand that promise to include

a united, co-responsible presbyterate. He reminds us that we promise to be team players with the local bishop. We also need to commit to ongoing priestly formation for the rest of our lives.

Fr. Knott believes that not only do new priests need formation and mentoring to become effective pastors. New bishops need formation in leading priests.

The Fraternity helps us develop the mature spirituality celibacy demands. By being brotherly with each other we can deal with our loneliness so that we do not have to use alcohol, work or other escapes to dull our pain. Open and honest friendship leads to healthy ministry. Every priest is responsible for developing friendships to meet his need for intimacy.

This small book is worth reading and discussing in your local Fraternity. The book may be ordered from Sophronismos Press, 939 Easter Parkway, Louisville, KY 43201.

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personal prayer. However, the Fraternity calls me to deepen my prayer life.

Fr. Franco: Anything else you would like to add?

Fr. Victor: I want to express my gratitude. I am grateful for Fr. Ian bringing the

Fraternity to Samoa. I am also grateful for our Archbishop, Alapati Mataleiga. He is very supportive of Fraternity of Priests. And I am grateful to God to be able to come to the Annual Fraternity of Priests meeting.

All Souls Day-November 2

Please remember in your prayers the deceased members of the Fraternity of Priests. They have prayed for the loved ones of us all at the altar of God throughout their lives. May we commend them to the Lord with our faith-filled prayers and masses.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

