



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Columbus, 2010

By Members of the Fraternity

The retreat house dedicated to St. Therese of Lisieux was only a short drive from the airport in Columbus, Ohio. However, for so many of us the distance we had to cover in order to arrive at that airport was of considerable length. This year's Annual Conference welcomed Fraternity members from India, Slovenia, Trinidad, Ghana, Canada, as well as a wide array of men from all over the United States from the Northeast, to the Southwest. Men who love being priests, who are involved in a wide variety of ministries but who principally are the ones "keeping the home fires burning" as parish priests.

This year the scripture passage that the Holy Spirit guided us to was from the Book of Revelation, Chapter one; verse nine: "I, your brother share with you the distress, the kingdom and the endurance we have in Jesus." To some extent many of us felt that we were like troops coming in from the front line battles hoping to be replenished through our prayer together, our honest sharing and the fraternal camaraderie that we have come to expect at the Annual Conference.

The Board Members were responsible for giving the primary talk each day. Monday's topic was the obvious distress that is being experienced by the Church

throughout the world at this time. Rather than thinking of it as something afar off, we were also challenged to honestly confront the distress that comes to each of us through sin. We all made good use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Tuesday was devoted to reaffirming our vision for building the Kingdom in our time. Recognizing that we are called to "Life in the Kingdom" and that living the Fraternity way of life by way of our embracing the ten disciplines is the Lord's gift to us. These help us to share in the power He wants us to have. Perhaps the most challenging part of the week focused on growing our local fraternities. We were encouraged to plan local Fraternity Conferences, inviting our fellow priests to be formed in the vision. "The gift we have received we must give as a gift."

Wednesday was our Brotherhood Day and thanks to the efforts of the local Columbus Fraternity under the direction of Fr. Justin Reis and Fr. Homer Blubaugh we had a very fine day visiting some of the local places of interest, including the Columbus Conservatory and celebrating the Eucharist at the Josephinum Pontifical Seminary. Some of the men from the Atlantic Coast were very impressed to find such fresh seafood served for

dinner at our restaurant "The Columbus Fish House."

Thursday was devoted to the theme of Endurance. We were led in sharing with each other some of the best practices of our local Fraternities and that evening during the context of a Holy Hour we reflected on the great gift of "The Eucharist: the True Source of Enduring Love."

The highlight of each day was, of course, the times we spent together in prayer. In the morning, the hour of singing and praising bringing us into the Throne Room. In the late afternoon we gathered around the Altar for the Eucharist.

No matter how many miles we had to travel in order to be there it can be safely said that by Friday morning no one regretted the effort or sacrifice that was made. Our only regret was to part company until next year. Please everyone mark your calendars now for the last week of July in Slovenia!

What follows now are a few reflections from some Board Members and then a Word received by a member of the Boston Fraternity on Tuesday afternoon at his local meeting while the Annual Conference was taking place in Ohio.

"I was at the first Annual Conference held in 1985 in

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Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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Andrea, a seventh grade religion teacher at my parish school, recently asked me to address the topic of presumption. She didn't use that word, but she told me that her junior high students had a problem. She said that *they believed that they could do anything and that God would forgive them.*

I could not help but think that the pendulum had swung a little too far the other way. Some people in the generation before me had a hard time believing that God would forgive them of anything! Some were bound by such scrupulosity that doubted if they could ever be forgiven.

It appears that some of our younger people believe the opposite. *God can only forgive!* Everything will be forgiven so, "Forget about it! Don't worry about it! God loves you! You're OK." *This is minimalism at its worst. It is the sin of presumption*-when a person presumes that God will forgive so they go out and do wrong. It can also refer to a person who believes that God forgives without their confessing and repenting of their sins: acknowledging their sins, turning away from them and trusting in Jesus Christ who died and rose from the dead to save us. Serious sins require doing these things in the context of the Sacrament of Penance.

Ultimately, presumption is a lie. It denies that human choices have any consequences. Most people have lived long enough to have experienced the bad consequences of other's people choices: vandalism, thievery, abuse in any of its forms (verbal, physical, psychological, sexual), et cetera. We know that sinful choices and compulsions are harmful.

Presumption also denies that human choices have consequences with one's relationship with God. If God simply forgives everyone of everything, then heaven is a "forced fun" situation. Those who reject God and his ways are stuck with Him anyway. And those who choose God and his ways at great sacrifice would have been saved anyway. So what does it matter?

The Fraternity of Priests exists to encourage priests to live out their vocations in a full way. We believe that priesthood, along with the choices that priests make,

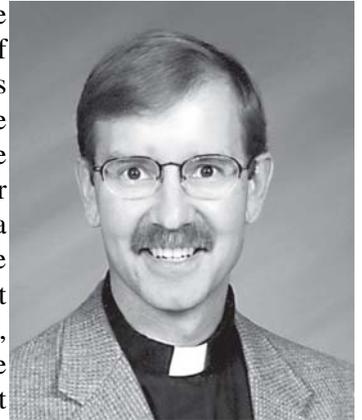
are of great consequence. The priesthood matters because it is a special vehicle by which the truth and ways of God are proclaimed.

Living out a priestly vocation in a holy and zealous manner will influence many people for Jesus Christ. Living out one's vocation in a selfish manner will discourage people from embracing Christ. Your prayers and support strengthen the Fraternity to summon priests to live their vocations in a way that makes a difference for the salvation of souls. Thank you so much!

Let us live in the power of the Holy Spirit, in the certainty of the truth, in the clear and unambiguous love of Jesus Christ! We, and our choices, matter to him.

Sincerely in Christ,

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: **\$3,385.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$1,365.00)**

Current as of August 31, 2010.

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!

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Wareham, Massachusetts and the format has not changed much over the years. I was greatly encouraged by my brother priests as they proclaimed God's word with power and insight this year in Columbus. I especially enjoyed the laughter of our evening socials. These were times of good conversation and relationship building."

~ Fr. Bob Franco

"When we began our opening prayer the first night the chapel we gathered in seemed dark and musty. The brother I came with from Pittsburg had to return that night because his Mother was suddenly taken to the hospital. But as the days unfolded the Conference was a time of blessing. Jesus' faithful love for us, His priests, overcomes anything!

It seemed that the Lord was marshalling us for the increasing battle between the Light and darkness, the real paganization of our culture. The talks presented this struggle clearly. I heard a profound and inspiring call from the Lord Jesus to draw closer to Him and His love for each of us. It was inspiring to be with the men from Slovenia, one of whom had been ordained just a few days. I look forward to being with them next summer in their country.

The Lord spoke to us and said 'I will strengthen you for the task that lies ahead. I will carry your burdens with you. I will embolden your hearts for the task. I will make vessels of clay into walls of brass against the power of the Dark One.'

We were encouraged in Columbus and I feel confident as we

come with needy hearts to the Lord each day and ask for faith, wisdom and zeal, we will receive it."

~ Fr. John Sweeney

"Getting to Ohio was the most difficult part. Mechanical difficulties with the aircraft, security breeches at Logan Airport all contributed to my arriving a day late. But once there I heard the Lord speak a consistent word about strengthening our local groups and the need to proactively reach out to other brothers by organizing some more local Conferences. As we seem to be heading into more difficult days priests truly need one another. The Annual Conference was a marvelous celebration and experience of God's love and the grace of priestly brotherhood."

~ Fr. John Kiley

"My Sons,

It is here, before My Throne of Love in the Eucharist and in the Brotherly service you render to Me and one another that My Healing is MOST AVAILABLE. But I tell you, My Sons, this is NOT the greatest reason to come together. As I have told you before, you have many Brothers who NEED what I am doing here; many of your brother priests are on the verge of despair and falling ill through disappointment. You, My Beloved Sons, are called to open your mouths and invite them (to your Fraternity) as they cross your paths. Do not worry about their reactions. JUST SPEAK the invitation – I will do the rest! Every priest that I send your way KNOWS he needs someone or somebody to whom he can be held accountable. The Trust,

Love, and Prayerful Concern that you inculcate here I will use for their RENEWAL – I will use for their STRENGTHENING – I will use you, EACH OF YOU in your brief yet precious time with Me and with each other for THEIR HEALING and RESTORATION! Do this, My Sons, and do it SOONER, rather than LATER!" Scripture: *John 15: 7-8, Sirach 6:14-17*

~ Fr. Paul McManus

Elections were held on Thursday and Fr. Bill Cosgrove from the New York Fraternity has returned to the Board. The Board chose Fr. Bob Franco to serve once more as Chairman for another year. Fr. Francis Dabre, Fr. John Kiley and Fr. John Sweeney are continuing their elected terms. Let us keep them in our prayers may they be docile to the Holy Spirit.

Mark Your Calendar!

The 2011 events listed below will enable all our brother priests an opportunity to grow in holiness and sanctity for the benefit of the faithful everywhere. Please mark your calendars and invite a fellow priest to join in these upcoming events!

June 13-17, 2011

Priests Conference at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

July 25-29, 2011

Fraternity of Priests Conference in Slovenia (optional extension to Medjugorje through Aug 6.)

Details will be coming soon, but mark your calendars now!

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

November 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Most Rev. 1 Robert Rose <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	Rev. 2 Donald Lomasiewicz <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	Rev. 3 George Fekete <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	Rev. 4 Ayub Nasar <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	Msgr. 5 Cyril Lamontagne <i>Grenada, West Indies</i>	Pope Benedict XVI 6
Rev. 7 James George <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 8 Chacko Kumplam <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 9 Robert Grant <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 10 Joseph Dorcin <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 11 Honore Kombo <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 12 Zacharias Pushpanathan <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 13 Carlos Zapata <i>Hartford, CT</i>
Rev. 14 Paul Halovatch <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 15 Francis Karvelis <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 16 Joseph Looney <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 17 Robert Rousseau <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 18 Will-Roger Malave <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 19 Brian Jeffries <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 20 Francis Dabre <i>India</i>
Rev. 21 George Nangachveetill <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>	Rev. 22 Lucas Amandua <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>	Rev. 23 Bernabe Romo <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>	Rev. 24 Albert Ajamie <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>	Rev. 25 Paul Landwerlen <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>	Rev. 26 Harold Knueven <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>	Rev. 27 Jude Burbach OSB <i>Kansas City, MO</i>
Rev. 28 Earl Dekat <i>Kansas City, MO</i>	Rev. 29 Roderic Giller, OSB <i>Kansas City, MO</i>	Rev. 30 Thomas Cawley CM <i>Kansas City, MO</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.

Please cut and return this form with your donation.

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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.

This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests. Dear Father Bob Franco, \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____