



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

December 2017						
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Rev. Kevin Elbert Cleveland, OH 31					For prayer requests received 1	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis 2
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Our Lady's Desire for Your Friendship with Her Son

By Fr. Volney DeRosia, Boston Fraternity



parish on July 13, which included time with our Vacation Bible School kids. It was powerful, and taught me much about Our Lady and her message.

As I read and learned more about the apparitions at Fatima and Our Lady's message, I came to understand one thing even more than before: Our Lady desires, longs, begs for us to have a deeper, more intimate relationship with her Son, Jesus Christ! It's all about relationship! The apparitions and the "Secrets" of Fatima, all boil down to the truth that "God wants to marry us." He is calling us to break away from those habits of actions, words and thoughts that hurt us, others, and especially our relationship with God. To live the message looks like this: 1) Conversion; 2) Prayer, specifically the daily rosary for peace; 3) Sacrifice; and 4) First Saturday Reparation.

First, **conversion**. We're called to repent, to convert, to turn away from sin. As one of the brothers in my Fraternity is known to say, "Turn or burn!" Sin, again, is NOT merely breaking the law ("whoops, I broke God's law... He must be so mad at

me!"), it is hurting or breaking relationship with God. He gives us the 10 Commandments and the moral teaching of the Church not because He says, "Follow this, or else !" Rather, it is because we don't see clearly how we hurt our relationship with God, and He wants to make it clear to us... so we can stay close to Him! So we're called to turn away from our sin, and to live in ways that help us grow closer to God. As ministers of Sacred Mysteries of God, it is easy to fall into the habit of being around and touching the Holy of Holies. It must not be so with us! We must ever strive to keep the living God before our eyes, and make sure we are keeping ourselves pure for the Lord. As the Lord said through the prophet Isaiah (in reference to Israel leaving the Babylonian Exile):

"Depart, depart, go out from there, touch nothing unclean! Out from there! Purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the Lord." (Isaiah 52:11 NABRE)

When our "job" is to call for conversion, we often lose the reality of our own personal need for conversion. Yet, it is my conversion, right here, right now, in a new way
...continued on page 3

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.

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Editor's Box:

Please send articles, comments, and photos to the FOP Newsletter editor, Fr. Bob Carr, via e-mail to editor@fraternityofpriests.org

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

I recently completed a five night/six day pilgrimage I entitled Saints and Shrines of America. With 15 other tireless pilgrims we toured the likes of Emmitsburg, Maryland, Washington DC, Philadelphia, New York City, Auriesville NY, Syracuse and the Buffalo-Niagara area. We encountered the sites, graves, shrines and relics of people like: St. Elizabeth Seton, St. John Paul II, St. John Neumann, St. Katharine Drexel, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Ven. Fulton J. Sheen, Ven. Pierre Toussaint, St. Isaac Jogues and companions, St. Kateri Tekawitha, St. Maryanne Cope and Ven. Fr. Nelson Baker. We also added in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and the National Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, as well as the natural wonders of Fallingwater and Niagara Falls. We even squeezed in a trip to Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. And if reading that list wears you out, now you know why I described my pilgrim group as tireless.

Why this trip? A pilgrimage itself is a lesson in discipleship. My two rules for a happy pilgrimage are: No complaining and Serve each other. I have to admit that without any lecturing on my part, and in spite of our smallish travel vehicle, these pilgrims truly heeded these rules. And we were happy!

A pilgrimage is also a wonderful time to be inspired by the saints and surroundings we encounter. When we hear and see how these men and women met the challenges of their day with great faith we are inspired to live our faith more fully and sacrificially.

I met a person whose motto read, "I have been doing so much with so little for so long, that I am now qualified to everything with nothing!" So it seemed with these American saints. They laid the foundation for our Catholic schools, welcomed and cared for immigrants, served the Native American and African-American populations before civil rights were popular, preached the word, made popular Eucharistic Devotions and even shed their blood for the faith.

If there was a downside to the trip, I would call it "downsizing". The Jesuits, assisted by Diocese of Albany, sold most of the North American Martyrs Shrine to a lay organization. St. Katharine Drexel's Blessed Sacrament Sisters will have completely moved out of their motherhouse (which will be sold) by the end of the year and St. Katharine will be moved into the Cathedral in Philadelphia. This is our Church in these times.

The testimony of these saints and shrines inspire faith. They also urge us to be agents of the new evangelization, living as missionary disciples. Though the prosperity of our times has dulled the spiritual hunger of many, we are to proclaim Christ with new ardor, expressions and methods to our generation.

Fraternity of Priests grew out an encounter with the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Let us stay close to our roots. "It was for a time like this" (Esther 4:14a) that, equipped with the Spirit, we meet the challenges of our day.

In Christ,



Fr. Robert J. Franco

PS: God's blessings to your loved ones this Thanksgiving!

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 thank those many faithful benefactors who help make our service possible. Thank you!

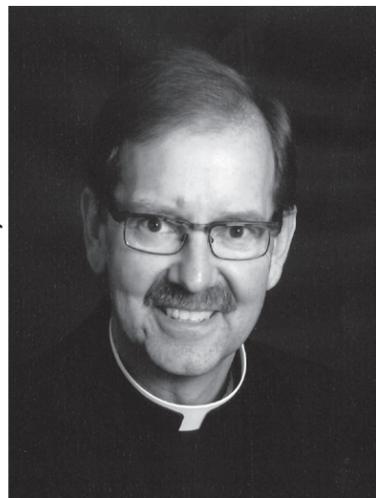
Fraternity Financial Report

Monthly Donation Budget: \$ 4,750.00

Actual Donations: \$ 2,153.10

Budget Surplus/Deficit: (\$ 2,596.90)

Current as of September 30, 2017.



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today (yesterday's conversion is not enough) that is needed to grow closer to Jesus.

Second, **prayer**, especially the **daily rosary for peace**. Prayer does not help our relationship with God; it IS our relationship with God. As we sit with Our Lord, he wants nothing more than to hold us and draw us into His Heart. The rosary, which Our Lady many times has implored us to pray, draws us into this relationship. We take Mary by the hand, and walk with her through the Mysteries of God's love for us. By meditating on each of the Mysteries, Mary reveals the Heart of Jesus in more profound ways than we can grasp by our own intellect. As we get to know Jesus more, we get to love Him more... you have to know Him in order to love Him! Praying the rosary daily for peace, brings our hearts to unite closer to Jesus' Heart, who so longs for peace in our world, and in each of our hearts. The Body of Christ is one body, and so the peace I receive affects the whole Body of Christ, and, in fact, the whole universe!

Third, **sacrifice**. When the Angel appeared to the children at Fatima (in 1916), he taught them how to sacrifice. He told them to offer each part of their day to the Lord. That's it. (It wasn't until the children had the vision of Hell that they started actively looking for mortifications.) Remember that the words sacrifice comes from the Latin words *sacrum*

facere – "to make holy." It is about making each part of our lives holy, by offering each part to God. The requirement of sacrifice is to offer what we already have – our sufferings, our burdens, our troubles... yes, and our joys, our consolations – everything to Jesus. Do you see how intimate Jesus wants to be with us, how this is all about relationship? He wants to be a part of everything we do! He wants to be with us always! He is so in love with us, He longs to be an intimate and integral part of our lives. He uses this gift of our sacrifices as a way to pour grace upon us and upon the world. God collects the atoms of the universe, so to speak. He loves the smallest gift to Himself. We don't need to have "great" things to offer to Jesus as sacrifice... we have only to offer Him the tiniest parts of our day, and that delights His Heart to no end!

Finally, **First Saturday Communion of Reparation**. Our Lady, and then later Our Lord, appeared to Lucia to ask for the Communion of Reparation. She asked that on the First Saturday of five consecutive months, we pray five decades of the rosary, go to Confession (or sometime soon before in order to be in a state of grace for Communion), receive Communion, and spend fifteen minutes meditating on the Mysteries of the Rosary. We are to do all of this with a specific intention – making reparation for the wounds in Our Lady's

Immaculate Heart. Our Lady is so hurt by the blasphemies 1) against her Immaculate Conception, 2) against her perpetual virginity, 3) against her divine maternity, as well as refusing to accept her as mother of all humanity, 4) by those who publically place in children an indifference, contempt and even hatred for Mary, and 5) for those who insult her in her sacred images. In this prayer on First Saturdays, we are not "jumping through hoops" or doing some magical actions, but in our relationship with her as our Mother, we are wiping the "balm" of our love on her wounds. We are called to do this not for the graces she pours upon us (which are incredible graces), but for love of our Mother. Our love makes up for the hatred, scorn, and indifference of so many others.

I pray that through the great gift of Our Lady – our "Little, little Mother" as St. Maximilian Kolbe would say – that we grow closer to the Heart of her Divine Son. Let us entrust our priesthood into her hands, and beg her to help us to grow in daily conversion, prayer, sacrifice, and reparation.

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Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

