

June 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	2 For prayer requests received	3 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. Robert Grant Hartford, CT 4	Rev. Paul Halovatch Hartford, CT 5	Rev. Robert Rousseau Hartford, CT 6	Rev. Zacharias Pushpanathan Hartford, CT 7	Rev. Francis Dabre Mumbai, India 8	Dcn. Bernabe Romo Indianapolis, IN 9	Rev. Paul Landwerlen Indianapolis, IN 10
Rt. Rev. Dr. Bryan Eyman Indianapolis, IN 11	Rev. George Joseph Nangachiveetill Indianapolis, IN 12	Rev. Harold Knueven Indianapolis, IN 13	Rev. Thomas Cawley, C.M. Kansas City 14	Rev. Roderic Giller O.S.B. Kansas City 15	Rev. Earl Dekat Kansas City 16	Rev. Bob Hasenkamp Kansas City 17
Rev. Rheel Forest Manitoba, Canada 18	Rev. Raymond Zeugner Marquette 19	Rev. Ryan Ford Marquette 20	Rev. Darryl Pepin Marquette 21	Rev. Larry Van Damme Marquette 22	Rev. Aaron Nowicki Marquette 23	Rev. Brandon Oman Marquette 24
Rev. Jeff Johnson Marquette 25	Rev. Michael Steber Marquette 26	Rev. Christopher Gardiner Marquette 27	Rev. Timothy Ekaitis Marquette 28	Rev. Benjamin Hasse Marquette 29	Rev. Norman Clisch Marquette 30	



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

The Fraternity of Priests in my Journey to the Priesthood

By Fr. Aaron Nowicki of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan Fraternity

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life for evermore." (Psalm 133)

"When brothers dwell in unity...", now I must admit, I'm partial to this Psalm not only because it references my namesake and the beard we have both been blessed with, but most importantly, it references the goodness and the pleasantness of brothers, especially those whom the Lord has called to be His own as priests, dwelling in unity. In the Diocese of Marquette, and particularly for me a good portion of that unity comes from bonds within the Fraternity of Priests.

I would like to reflect here on my time in the Fraternity of Priests, as both a seminarian and a newly-ordained priest whose first anniversary is June 3, 2017. I am very grateful that I am blessed with strong relationships with my fraternity brothers early

in my priesthood. Having spoken to many of my classmates in the months following our ordinations, I found that some are still actively looking for fraternity. In contrast, my connection with our Fraternity began when I was accepted as a seminarian for my diocese. I was fortunate to have been welcomed into a holy, joy-filled group of priests in love with their vocation and with God.

The Detroit seminary which our diocese uses and which I attended is quite far from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, which became my new home while attending Michigan Technological University and afterward when working for Northern Michigan University in Marquette. Those of us who settle here come to refer to Michigan's Upper Peninsula as "God's Country". Readers who have visited here know what I am talking about. There is simplicity of life here. And being surrounded by God's good creation makes any moment a great one to reflect on God's gifts to us.

The hustle and bustle of big city life in Detroit and the demands of seminary living were somewhat of a penance for me during my six years there. Our Fraternity

group helped me make it through seminary, which was not always easy for me. I spent my vacations returning to parishes to reencounter my call to the priesthood, and to be strengthened and encouraged by the members of the Fraternity. In one particular instance, the advice, prayers and sacrifice from the brothers sustained my will to continue in formation, rather than giving up in the face of its challenges.

My time with our Fraternity included seminarian internships in the parishes served by Fraternity members. This was a double blessing for me. I got hands-on pastoral experience, which not only encouraged my vocation, but also instilled in me the necessity of fraternity in successfully living the responsibility of Holy Orders. Such fraternity aids me to this day.

The inter-generational aspect of our Fraternity group is one of its great strengths. This gives a profound depth to the teaching office of the Fraternity and the ability to accept it. At one time or another each member has interned or served under a senior brother for an assignment, or once had that priest as their pastor. These

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

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Street _____

City, State and Zip _____

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 care-fully and wisely, and not to ask for money that is not needed.

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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!

God's plan is both simple and profound. St. Augustine said something to the effect that "the Bible is shallow enough for a child not to drown, yet deep enough for an elephant to swim." And so it is with God's plan.

Reconciliation is a one word summary of God's plan. We have strayed far from God's plan, created our own moral code and forgotten God. People use people more than love them. The instrument of reconciliation is the person of Jesus Christ. "...God... has reconciled us to himself in Christ." (II Corinthians 5:18). By baptism and faith we have become new creatures in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17) and are reconciled to God.

The Church is the instrument of advancing God's plan. In different ages, God does special initiatives to reconcile people to Himself in Christ. One hundred years ago, the Mother of Jesus Christ appeared to three poor children at Fatima, Portugal to warn people of repent of their sins. A war greater than WW I would ensue (which happened-WW II) and that Russia would spread its errors throughout the world (which also happened-the spread of Communism). Again, God was seeking to reconcile people to himself.

Fifty years ago God's Spirit was poured out in a surprising fashion on college students from Duquesne University. A worldwide Catholic charismatic renewal blossomed. Spiritual gifts such as healing, prophecy and tongues have been commonly experienced. The teachings of Scripture and the Vatican Council were confirmed. Why? God was empowering people to be "ambassadors for Christ" (II Corinthians 5:20) to reconcile others to Himself.

God's initiatives are both simple and profound. We are called to understand them better. He is seeking to reconcile us to Himself. He longs for our souls. As his children, we are to share this passion of His. By our prayer, witness and our lived vocations we are to become ambassadors for Christ.

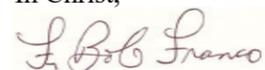
I want to make a special appeal to my brother priests to come to Attleboro, Massachusetts this summer for our annual Fraternity of Priests Conference, July 31-August 5 at The La Salette Retreat Center.

Our conference theme is simple: *Reach Out to People and Priests*. We are special instruments of reconciliation. We need to be empowered in every way to fulfill our calling. We are also called to reach out to our brother priests. Our busy lives and secularized times can cloud the clarity of our priestly vocations. Being a minister of reconciliation can take a back seat to being an institutional manager.

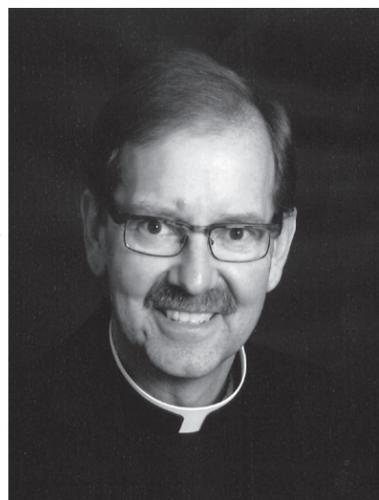
Our presenter this year is Dr. Ralph Martin, founder of Renewal Ministries and Professor of Theology/Director of Graduate Programs in the New Evangelization at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Martin hosts the longest running TV show on EWTN, *The Choices We Face* and has travelled extensively throughout the world calling the Church to renew her missionary vocation.

Please mark your calendars. Registration information is forthcoming and on the website. Thank you for your prayer filled support of Fraternity of Priests. You are in our prayers.

In Christ,



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: **\$ 2,924.00**
Budget Surplus/Deficit: **(\$1,826.00)**

Current as of March 31, 2017.

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generations, making a family tree of sorts, do not leave a wide gap of experience between old and new members. Rather, they help bridge the divide that I have observed in some dioceses between their "new" and "old" priests.

Our twice-monthly Fraternity meetings begin with a meal at a brother's home and continue with Daytime Prayer in common. Afterward we praise and adore God in the Blessed Sacrament. We follow with ministry to one another as we make time for confessions, sharing of graces, struggles, and intercessory prayer. Before both of my ordinations I was prayed over by the brothers. We finish our meetings with a teaching, Evening Prayer, and then dinner. Of course, there are opportunities for fellowship and fun sprinkled throughout our gatherings.

As has become our custom, at my first Mass the Fraternity presented me with a chalice. During one of my internships I found a beautiful chalice while cleaning a parish basement. Through the generosity of the Fraternity members it was restored for use. More important to me than the gift of a chalice, however, was the participation by many Fraternity members at my first Mass, and at subsequent Masses of Thanksgiving. Often these Masses can be thought of as a "victory lap" for a new priest. True enough. But I was also glad to join my Fraternity brothers at the Altar offering Mass.

My advice to any chapter of the Fraternity of Priests is this: actively invite men as they are discerning their call to the priesthood. If there are seminarians in your parish or interning with you, invite them to your Fraternity meetings. Remind them often of your prayers for them. While they are on break from seminary, invite them to your meetings. For a priest brother who is not involved in a fraternity, consider inviting him. As I know well from personal experience, a personal invitation goes a long way toward encouraging a brother and building him up.

I am very grateful to have found such fine priestly fraternity. It strengthens me in the challenges I face. I always know that I have one or more brothers who will answer the phone when I am in need. Too few priests now live in common. The phrase used when assigning priests to parishes in rural dioceses like my own is often "take three, they're small". Yet we are told not to be lone wolves. Fraternity helps prevent the tempter from drawing us away from the Good Shepherd. We are faced with the truth that we aren't alone in our struggles. Our brothers care and are willing to provide for each other.

I chuckled last winter when my 1st annual Priest Personnel Questionnaire called for my anticipated date of retirement. My 70th birthday is July 6, 2054! No matter what our age or years of ministry, we need the grace of the Holy Spirit. The warm fraternity

of brother priests encourages and refreshes us along this journey to which our Lord has called us. I pray that this article will stir into flame the graces that He wishes to bestow on you and your Fraternity chapters now, and in the years to come. May the Lord bless and keep you!

Annual Fraternity of Priests Conference

July 30 - Aug 4, 2017

at the National Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette, Attleboro, MA (Diocese of Fall River, Massachusetts)

Our Presenter,
Dr. Ralph Martin
Host of
The Choices We Face
on EWTN

"Reach Out to People and Priests"

For those making flight arrangements, the closest primary airport is **Providence, Rhode Island.**

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____