



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

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

## Annual Conference This Summer with Ralph Martin

By Tucson Fraternity

“If I were to describe how the average Catholic looks at the world today, I describe it like this: ‘Broad and wide is the way that leads to heaven, and everybody’s going that way. And narrow is the door that leads to hell, and hardly anybody is going that way.’ But you know what? That is just the opposite of what Jesus himself tells us the situation is: ‘And Narrow is the door that leads to life, and few there are who are finding it. Broad and wide is the way that leads to destruction, and many are traveling that way.’ Now, Jesus didn’t say this because this is how it has to be. People who are on the road way don’t have to stay on the broad way. And that is where we come it. That’s where our prayer, that’s where our love, that’s where our intercessions, that’s where our witness comes in. We need to invite people to leave the path that leads to destruction, and find the person of Jesus Christ who can lead them to true life here on this earth, and eternal life.”

Many of you recognize these words as the familiar opening to the longest running Catholic television program in the world, *The Choices We Face*, broadcast since 1985, and now available to viewers on five continents. The show can be viewed on the *Renewal Ministries* website, along with an archive of

past episodes. The reason why we quote it here is because the speaker is the well known founder and host of the program, Dr. Ralph Martin, who is also president of Renewal Ministries. We in the Fraternity of Priests are privileged to have Dr. Martin be our presenter at our annual Fraternity of Priests Conference this July 30 th to August 4 th , 2017, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette in Attleboro, Massachusetts.

The cliché when introducing a speaker is to say, “This is a person who needs no introduction.” Among those in the Renewal, this cliché is truth in Dr. Martin’s case. Along with leaders like the recently deceased Fr. Michael Scanlan TOR, Ralph Martin is recognized as one of the towers of strength and anchors of faith in the Church in the United States in the last half century. He has been a mainstay in the Catholic Renewal movement since its earliest days. He has also been a friend and helper to the Fraternity of Priests. He was gracious in helping the Fraternity go through the complicated legal red tape that was necessary for us to donate Visitation House in Steubenville, Ohio, to the Family of Jacopa, a newly formed Franciscan religious community of consecrated sisters and lay women. We have been greatly blessed in

these last three years to have three pillars of the Renewal speak at our annual conference. In addition to Dr. Martin this year, Sister Ann Shields gave the message at our conference in Tucson two years ago, and Peter Herbeck presented at the conference last summer in Kansas City.

Dr. Martin has an impressive academic resume. He received a Licentiate in Theology from the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C., and his Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas in Rome (also known as the “Angelicum”). Among his present duties is Associate Professor and Director of the Graduate Program for the New Evangelization at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology in Detroit, Michigan. (This is degree for priests can be completed online, with several summer sessions. See the Sacred Heart web site, [www.shms.edu](http://www.shms.edu) for information). He is also Visiting Professor of Theology at Franciscan University of Steubenville. But those who have watched him on television, or heard him on radio, or have seen him in person, know that he is far from being a boring, absent-minded professor or a stuffy academic!

He is also a prolific author. Perhaps his most famous book is *Crisis of Truth: The Attack on Faith, Morality, and Mission in the Catholic*

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April 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. Paul Halovatch Hartford, CT 30						1 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. Joseph Losh Columbus, OH 2	Rev. Justin Reis Columbus, OH 3	Rev. Peter Gregor Comayagua 4	Most Rev. John Myers Newark, NJ 5	6 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	7 For prayer requests received	Rev. Bob Hilz, TOR Greensburg, PA 8
Rev. Msgr. Dennis Skonseng Fargo, ND 9	Rev. Donald Leiphon Fargo, ND 10	Rev. Msgr. Robert Laliberte Fargo, ND 11	Rev. Duaine Cote Fargo, ND 12	Very Rev. Dale Kinzler Fargo, ND 13	Rev. Claude Seeberger, OSB Fargo, ND 14	Rev. Edmund Sylvia, CSC South Bend, IN 15
Rev. Robert Sackey Ghana 16	Rev. Peter Donzing Ghana 17	Rev. Michael Shea, CM Grand Rapids 18	Rev. Thomas Hack Grand Rapids 19	Rev. Ayub Nasar Grand Rapids 20	Rev. Mark Mitchell Grand Rapids 21	Rev. Donald Lomasiewicz Grand Rapids 22
Rev. Charles Antekeier Grand Rapids 23	Rev. James Bozung Grand Rapids 24	Rev. George Fekete Grand Rapids 25	Msgr. Cyril Lamontagne, VG Grenada 26	Rev. Robert Grant Hartford, CT 27	Rev. Robert Rousseau Hartford, CT 28	Rev. Zacharias Pushpanathan Hartford, CT 29

### 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.

Fraternity of Priests, Inc.  
PO Box 442  
Steubenville, OH 43952-5442  
Phone: (740) 283-4400  
Fax: (740) 283-3622  
Email: [contact@fraternityofpriests.org](mailto:contact@fraternityofpriests.org)  
<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

# Dear Fraternity Brothers and Friends of the Priesthood

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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](mailto:editor@fraternityofpriests.org)

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

The season of Lent began as an intense period of prayer and preparation for catechumens as they approached the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist. Modeled on the forty days Jesus spent in the desert (who was modelling in a sense the forty years the Israelites wandered before entering the Promised Land), these catechumens sought a radical openness to the graces offered them in Easter sacraments.

Apparently their preparation bore good fruit. Soon the whole Church embraced this season of almsgiving, prayer and fasting. Scripture teaches, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8a) If we earnestly seek the Lord, he will show up.

Penitential practices are woven into the manner of life embraced by members of Fraternity of Priests. Generous tithing, prayer and fasting are some of the personal commitments we make. When we embrace these disciplines they become pipelines of grace by which we are empowered to serve God's people. Practiced not only in Lent, they frame the whole disciple's manner of living.

One of the ways that Fraternity of Priests highlights its commitment to penitential practices is through its logo. The main colors of the logo are rose and blue. The blue is for the Blessed Virgin Mary. With her as our Mother, Queen and Model, we seek to live in the power of the Holy Spirit as she did, bringing Jesus into the world and living in the power of Pentecost.

Rose is a liturgical color used only in the seasons of Advent and Lent. This color is used only twice during those seasons—on the Third Sunday of Advent, called Gaudete (*Rejoice*) and the Fourth Sunday of Lent called Laetare (*Praise*). The rose color vestments direct us to rejoicing and praise as we surpass the midpoint of these seasons. The celebrations of our Lord's most humble birth and glorious resurrection

draw near.

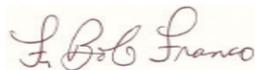
For Fraternity of Priests, the color rose speaks to a larger reality. In the midst of penance there is joy. St. Paul reminds us, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (I Thessalonians 5:17-19) The joy that the Lord gives us is constant. It does not fade whether we fast or feast.

When Ezra read the Law to the Israelites they began to weep (see Nehemiah 8). When the Law was proclaimed and explained they were convicted of how far they had fallen from God's ways. Yet, even then, their leaders encouraged them by saying, "Rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength." (Nehemiah 8:10). Now that they understood, they had direction. They knew the way back to the Lord.

As we enter into this season of Lent, let us embrace our Lenten practices with eagerness and joy. They are the means by which Christ forms his image more clearly in us.

Happy Lent!

In Christ,



Fr. Bob

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!

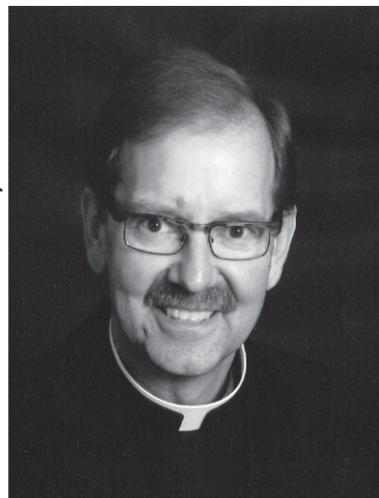
### Fraternity Financial Report

Monthly Donation Budget: \$ 4,750.00

Actual Donations: \$ 14,663.00

Budget Surplus/Deficit: \$ 9,913.00

Current as of December, 31, 2016.



...continued from page 1

Church (1982), which discussed the challenges facing the Catholic Church, threats from within the Church itself! It was a prophetic work, forecasting many of the crises we have experienced in these last years before many others saw them coming. Sadly, many of his warnings and predictions have come to pass. This book was a light and a comfort for many of us who during that timewere attending some of the more liberal and radical seminaries and schools of theology.

Dr. Martin also made some big waves with the publication of *Will Many Be Saved? What Vatican II Actually Teaches and Its Implications for the New Evangelization* (2012). The book is a detailed analysis of the famous text in the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church* ("Lumen Gentium") that affirms the possibility that those who have never heard the proclamation of the Gospel can be saved. Dr. Martin studies the history of the debate of this topic in the Church, along with an investigation of the scriptural passages relating to the issue. His conclusion is that, although many believe in a functional universalism, where everyone goes to heaven by default, the actual Vatican teaching is that "very often" the conditions by which non-Christians can be saved are not fulfilled. The intention of the book is to urge all of us to evangelize: that is, to witness to our faith, the share the good news, and so help God get others into heaven. As usual, Dr. Martin caused controversy and embarrassed others by revealing and defending the authentic teaching of the Church.

Some other notable books of his

are: *Hungry for God: Practical Help in Personal Prayer* (1974), which presents ways we can have a more productive relation with God through prayer in the midst of our difficult lives; *Husbands, Wives, Parents, Children: Foundations for the Christian Family* (1978), which gives practical yet psychologically sound suggestions in which family members can relate to each other in a Christ-centered fashion; *Called to Holiness: What it means to Encounter the Living God* (1988), where we are challenged to discern the presence of God in our work and our daily lives; *The Fulfillment of All Desire* (2006), in which Dr. Martin leads us through the teaching of the Saints who have been recognized Doctors of the Church in Spirituality: Augustine, Bernard of Clairvaux, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Frances de Sales, and Thérèse of Lisieux. This is just a partial list of his books, and does not include his many pamphlets and shorter writings. Those who plan to attend the Conference are encouraged to read some of Ralph Martin's works, then bring them along to get an autograph from the author!

Finally, in addition to being a speaker, teacher, and author, we can also add the title of prophet to Ralph Martin's resume. Many have heard his prophecy given at St. Peter's Basilica on Pentecost Monday in May of 1975:

"Because I love you, I want to show you what I am doing in the world today. I want to prepare you for what is to come. Days of darkness are coming on the world, days of tribulation... Buildings that are now standing will not be standing. Supports that are there

for my people now will not be there. I want you to be prepared, my people, to know only me and to cleave to me and to have me in a way deeper than ever before. I will lead you into the desert...I will strip you of everything that you are depending on now, so you depend just on me. A time of darkness is coming on the world, but a time of glory is coming for my church, a time of glory is coming for my people. I will pour out on you all the gifts of spirit. I will prepare you for spiritual combat; I will prepare you for a time of evangelism that the world has never seen...And when you have nothing but me, you will have everything; land, fields, homes, and brothers and sisters and love and joy and peace more than ever before. Be ready, my people, I want to prepare you..."

All members of the Fraternity are invited to attend this year's Annual Conference, which will surely be a time of teaching, prophecy, and power.

**Save the Dates!**  
Annual Fraternity  
of Priests  
Conference  
July 30-Aug 4, 2017

National Shrine of Our  
Lady of LaSalette,  
Attleboro, MA

More information will  
available soon.

Please send us your prayer intentions: \_\_\_\_\_

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