



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

February 2018						
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 Hilz T.O.R. Greensburg, PA 4	Msgr. Cyril Lamontagne VG Grenada 5	Rev. Christopher Gaffrey OFM Hartford, CT 6	Rev. Robert Grant Hartford, CT 7	Rev. Paul Halovatch Hartford, CT 8	Rev. Joseph Looney Hartford, CT 9	Rev. Will-Roger Malave Hartford, CT 10
Rev. Zacharias Pushpanathan Hartford, CT 11	Rev. Robert Rousseau Hartford, CT 12	Rev. Francis Dabre India 13	Rt. Rev. Dr. Bryan Eyman Indianapolis, IN 14	Rev. Harold Knueven Indianapolis, IN 15	Rev. Paul Landwerlen Indianapolis, IN 16	Rev. George Nangachiveetill Indianapolis, IN 17
Rev. Thomas Cawley Kansas City 18	Rev. Earl Dekat Kansas City 19	Rev. Roderic Giller OSB Kansas City 20	Rev. Bob Hasenkamp Kansas City 21	Rev. Rheel Forest Manitoba 22	Rev. Timothy Ekaitis Marquette, MI 23	Rev. Ryan Ford Marquette, MI 24
Rev. Christopher Gardiner Marquette, MI 25	Rev. Benjamin Hasse Marquette, MI 26	Rev. Jeff Johnson Marquette, MI 27	Rev. Aaron Nowicki Marquette, MI 28			

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

This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.

Dear Father Bob Franco,

New Year Reflection

By Fr. Bob Giardina

As we begin our year, it is a good time to reflect on where we will be a year from now. Fr. Bob Giardina gives us food for that meditation from his recent experience.

"I am the light of the world. No follower of mine shall ever walk in darkness; but will have the light of life." (John 8:12 NABRE)

On Monday morning of October 30, my world was still in darkness. All through the previous night, I heard a violent wind storm with heavy rain such as I had not heard in a very long time. A large tree limb came down laying across the street in the back of the church. Thank God it did no damage to the church, but no vehicle traffic was going to be able come down the street for many hours due to the tree limb. We lost power at 12:15AM. My world was plunged into darkness. It wasn't the physical darkness that came to mind as I lay in bed asking the Lord what this experience of darkness meant. It was the darkness of sin that is in the world which so many people choose to walk in.

During Halloween every year, it never seems to amaze me how violent the movies become on TV. No matter which of over 200 channels one could have clicked on there was always a bloody horror movie being shone! In previous

years I would not have been able to find one decent program to watch that did not have graphic violence or gratuitous sex. I would give up on it about 7:00PM and after my night prayers and some reading would go to bed at about 9:00PM.

But this night in spite of the darkness of the world I would not have to be concerned about "trick or treaters." I actually found the silence of the world a welcome relief. This inspired my meditation on the attraction of evil and violence, I asked myself the question why are so many people choosing this path. Maybe God said "enough violent TV", so He shut down the earthly power, Some people in our area didn't have electric power for a week.

That one natural storm caused such wide damage it could force people to talk face to face without a cell phone, maybe even come together and play a game by candle light, maybe even join each other in prayer. Am I being a hopeless romantic now? "Why would God allow this, I asked?" The words of the prophet Malachi from Sunday morning Mass came to me. "But you ask, 'How have we despised your name?'" (Mal. 1:6) "But you have turned aside from the way, and have caused many to stumble by

your instruction; You have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the LORD of hosts." (Mal. 2:8) "Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us? Why, then, do we break faith with each other, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?" (Mal. 2:10)

As my meditation continued I wondered if we have become so comfortable with our violent secular culture that we hardly ever think about our covenant with God. For example, in the movies of the late 1950's the actors would never take the name of the Lord in vain. The second Commandment forbids it. The language in the movies today, it seems every other word is vulgar and crude. I feel that crude language is violence. Does it offend you as much as it offends me? How can we honor the actors and actresses when they "despise your name" (Mal. 1:6)? In his book, "From Scandal to Hope" on page 20 the late Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel, C.F.R says, "In America, we live in a corrupt culture that is slipping rapidly into paganism."

"But you have turned aside from the way, and have caused many to falter by your instruction; you have made void the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of Hosts." (Mal. 2:8)

Whatever happened to regarding the eve before All Saints Day as "All Hallows Eve" as a day we

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

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

It seems that 2017 was the year of the tragedy. Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria battered the southern part of the USA. Earthquakes brought destruction to Mexico. Acts of violence killed innocent people in New York City, Las Vegas, Texas and other parts of the world. And fifteen million people are food insecure in the Horn of Africa. The list could go on.

What will happen in 2018? God, from his eternal viewpoint, sees all. Though he does not normally reveal the future to us, He has given us the gift of faith in his Son Jesus Christ. St. John tells us: "For whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" (I John 5:4-5) In the midst of the troubles of our world, we need to approach life with faith that God will use us to do great things in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Last year I had number of faith building experiences. First, I met two priests whose ministries manifest signs and wonders. Fr. Matthias Thelen of the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan and Fr. Greg Bramlage of the Diocese of Colorado Springs both have ministries that demonstrate the power of God. They not only see sign and wonders through their labors, but also train people to be instruments of signs, wonders and miracles.

Other sources of faith building activities included reading Dr. Mary Healy's book called "Healing" and listening to Damian Stayne's presentation entitled "A New Season in Humility, Unity and Faith for Miracles" from the Jubilee Conference for the charismatic renewal in Pittsburgh last summer. My take away from these encounters is that the Lord really wants to move in power. He especially wants to show himself through signs and wonders to non-believers. He desires us to move out of our comfort zones and by faith become his catalysts for the manifestation of His

power.

On another note, I received an email from Fr. Paul Kapo of the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese in northern Ghana. He shared some thoughts of Fr. Sylvester Nankpi of the Diocese of Wa, Ghana, who reported on the 2017 Fraternity Conference in Boston. Fr. Paul wrote: "The Navrongo-Bolgatanga priests fraternity members have been meeting monthly to pray, share and encounter each other with worship, praise, reading of scripture and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. ..Fr. Sylvester brought us greetings from the July Boston retreat and shared with us some of the experiences he made during the retreat...[He said] "As priests we take many things for granted. When we celebrate mass as priests we offer Jesus as the sacrificial Lamb. After the mass, Jesus...calls for priests to sacrifice themselves for others.""

As we enter 2018, let us approach it with world conquering faith and a sacrificial heart. May we do all in the name of Jesus and for His glory!

In Christ,



Fr. Robert J. Franco

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: **\$ 2,295.10**
Budget Surplus/Deficit: **(\$ 2,454.90)**

Current as of November 30, 2017.

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imitate the saints in goodness? Why has this time in our land seen an increase of violence, crude language, witchcraft and terror? Someone recently told me to stay away from Salem, Massachusetts at Halloween, it is just too crazy now that it has become the "Occult Capital of the World". Where does this fascination with the evil and horror come from? How do we get our nation to turn back to its religious values and back to God?

"Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' 13 Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Matthew 25:13)

The Gospel of the 10 virgins, should be a wakeup call for all Christians that a time will come when Jesus will come again. Jesus warns us to "stay awake for you know neither the time day nor the hour". (Matthew 25:13) This could be the hour when we stand before God, (in the Particular Judgment) or it could be the hour of the last day (in the General Judgment). Jesus doesn't send any of us to hell, we choose by our actions where we are heading.

If the oil is a symbol of our supply of faith or the grace of the Holy Spirit do we have enough of it to meet the Lord? Will be ready to meet Him, leaving everything behind and enter the great heavenly banquet, or will we say to the Lord not now, I'm not ready I have too many things to do, I'm not prepared? I have seen people who were about to die and sometimes with those who are not prepared, it is very frightening for them. But what

have they done to prepare themselves for what they know will happen in God's time?

This alarming parable can also fill us with hope, because we know the bridegroom is coming and we know that we can take steps to be well supplied with oil for the day of our salvation. When we pray, we are staying alert. When we do works of charity, we are keeping our lamps lit. Preparing for His coming means we must avoid the works of the world, the flesh and the devil. We are commanded to love God with our whole heart and to love our neighbor as ourself. We start by attending Mass on Sunday and then we may have an oil supply sufficient to meet Jesus.

People who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior do not murder innocent people. People who have no faith in Jesus do horrendous evil, because if they don't accept the Son of God all things are permissible. But if we accept Jesus Christ we know we must love our neighbor as ourself and cause them no harm. This country must return to faith in God. It must turn to Jesus Christ or evil will continue to manifest itself.

We must understand that violence begets violence. Our culture, movies, video games and TV programing have promoted violence and desensitized us to its most harmful effects. Legalized abortion has violently destroyed nearly 60,000,000 in the womb. If the stable and healthy mind has a hard time dealing with violence, how can we expect the psychopathic or mentally ill mind to handle the images of violence very well?

Some celebrities and Hollywood

elites have said, "What good does it do to pray?" "Did God help those Christians who were slaughtered in that little church?" Let me ask you who you rather stand with before God, with the Christians or with a deranged mass murderer? Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Matthew 25:13)

We can't change the moral bankrupt culture of the modern secular progressive film industry or the culture it represents. But I am sure we can create a Catholic Culture in our own homes by not getting so wrapped up in the world but by recognizing our Catholic Culture has a set of religious values that we hold and respect. Eleven months from now during the Season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus by having an Advent wreath on our dining room tables. We can ask the children to do anonymous good deeds for other members of the family and place a straw in the crib of baby Jesus under the Christmas tree. We can joyfully say "Merry Christmas" to everyone we meet. We can take the whole family to confession. In this parents have to lead by example. There are many ways to care for the less fortunate and needy in our society. In other words we let the light of Christ shine through us to a world in need of Jesus.

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Please send us your prayer intentions: _____
