



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

June 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 For prayer requests received	2 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. Msgr. Edmund Griesedieck Saint Louis, MO 3	Rev. Martin Mannion Saint Louis, MO 4	Rev. Aaron Nord Saint Louis, MO 5	Rev. David Novak Saint Louis, MO 6	7 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	Rev. Charles Tichacek Saint Louis, MO 8	Rev. James Brown Toledo, OH 9
Rev. Norbert Howe Toledo, OH 10	Rev. Gerald Knueven Toledo, OH 11	Rev. Edward Littelmann Toledo, OH 12	Rev. Jerome Nowakowski Toledo, OH 13	Rev. Thomas Oedy Toledo, OH 14	Rev. Nicholas Weibl Toledo, OH 15	Rev. Dale Branson Tucson, AZ 16
Rev. Henry Dauphinais Tucson, AZ 17	Rev. Isaac Fynn Tucson, AZ 18	Rev. James Hobert Tucson, AZ 19	Rev. Liam Leahy Tucson, AZ 20	Rev. Mark Long Tucson, AZ 21	Rev. Alexander Mills OSB Tucson, AZ 22	Rev. Domenico Pinti Tucson, AZ 23
Rev. Ray Ratzemberger Tucson, AZ 24	Most Rev. Vitalij Skomarovski Ukraine 25	Rev. Lance Harlow Vermont 26	Rev. Gervase Angsotinge Wa, West Africa 27	Rev. Leo Dabuoh Wa, West Africa 28	Rev. John Bosco Eledi Wa, West Africa 29	Rev. Stephen Kangmennaang Wa, West Africa 30

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 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10

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

Dear Father Bob Franco,

As believers, we are responsible for ourselves, and our own "self-care." We are a "temple of the Holy Spirit, as Paul tells us (1 Cor 6:19). The Holy Spirit wants to build us up in our relationship to God, intellectually, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

This is an especially important message to us priests. Several years ago, the Tucson Fraternity of Priests group made an outreach to the rest of the priests of the Diocese of Tucson. Our purpose was to gather priests for a night of relaxation and fellowship, with our Fraternity footing the bill. We made a special effort to invite the priests from other countries who were serving in the Diocese, mostly from Africa, India, and Mexico. We wanted to give them a taste of American and southwest culture. Our Fraternity purchased 30 tickets to a local and popular dinner theater show, *The Gaslight Theater* (it is good, clean comedy, and we recommend that if you are in Tucson for an extended stay, you should consider taking in a show, although tickets are often hard to get). In our naiveté, we were worried that 30 tickets would not be enough.

We began making the invitations about two months in advance. Our

brother priests were delighted to be asked, but most added the caveat, "I'll see if I can make it." The implication was that they would have to make adjustments to their busy schedules. We waited for the replies, and made several follow-up calls, but in the end many priests communicated their regrets to us, that they would be unable to attend due to their other commitments. With a day to go before the show, we still had about eight tickets left. Tickets were not cheap, and I was worried about being able to give the tickets away at the last minute. I began calling some of the lay people I knew, and despite the short notice, I was able to give all the tickets away. I even gave away several tickets the very afternoon of the evening show. Every lay person I called was able to make last minute arrangements in order to attend.

My takeaway from this was: we priests are busy in the evenings. We have many commitments and very full schedules. We don't only work 9 to 5. The many priests in Tucson whom we invited were too busy to attend. They saw that whatever Tuesday night obligations they had then were more important than a night off with brother priests. It is my experience of speaking to brother priests from all over the globe,

overwork is a problem for priests and religious throughout the world. We who have been pastors know the tiring work of raising enough money to make ends meet in our parishes and Catholic schools. We often "burn the candle at both ends" to help maintain lively and life-giving parishes, which can lead to "burn-out." I'm sure that all of the priests reading this article can relate to what I am saying!

Now, like many of us, I was raised to be a hard worker. Work is needed to build up the Kingdom of God. But overwork and busyness can be great enemies of the spiritual life, enemies of our relationship with the Lord, even enemies of our joy. I am writing on a Saturday where the second reading in the Office of Readings is from St. Ambrose's *Flight From the World*, where he invites us to "possess the grace of supernatural joy." He goes on to write that this joy is associated with rest and peace. Ambrose concludes: "To rest in the Lord and to see his joy is like a banquet ... full of gladness and tranquility." The opposite of this life of joy in the Lord is called burn out.

The charism of the Fraternity of Priests is to promote this spiritual life of joy among priests. The purpose of our Kingdom Disciplines is to help us to live the joy of the Lord in our daily lives. For example, the discipline of

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!

D. L. Moody (1837-1899), an evangelist in the United States and England, converted many through his direct and simple preaching. He often preached on the necessity of being filled with the Holy Spirit. A listener privately asked Mr. Moody why he often spoke about this. The person believed in the necessity of the Holy Spirit. However, he asked D. L. Moody: *Why do you speak about this so often? Aren't you already filled with the Holy Spirit?* D. L. Moody responded: *Yes...but I leak!*

Apparently the apostles were a bit leaky too. Acts 2:4 states that 120 who were gathered in the Upper Room on Pentecost were *filled* with the Holy Spirit. However, the rest of the Acts of the Apostles indicates that they were *filled* at other times. In Acts 4:8, "...then Peter, *filled with the Holy Spirit*, answered..." Acts 4:31 states, "...the place where they were gathered shook, and they were all *filled with the Holy Spirit*..." Acts 13:9 says, "...Paul, *filled with the Holy Spirit*, looked intently at him..." **In other words, being "filled with the Holy Spirit" is not a one and done thing.** We all leak. We all need to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit.

Thank God for prayer! Jesus said, "... How much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him." (Luke 11:13b) Thank God for the sacraments that assure us of the presence of the Holy Spirit within us. Thank God for St. Paul's exhortation to Timothy: "... stir into a flame the gift of God through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control." (II Timothy 1:6b-7) Though Ordained and/or Confirmed we need to rouse our inner person to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit.

Let us approach the Solemnity of Pentecost with faith and prayer. We want our leaky souls to be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit!

On another note, I received a phone message in April from Fr. Bill Malave from the Hartford Fraternity. He informed me that Deacon Larry Meagher had passed away on March 27. Originally from Newark, New

Jersey, Deacon Larry lived in Steubenville for many years and worked with the Visitation House maintenance man Jerry Deffenbaugh overseeing the Fraternity property. Deacon Larry cheerfully gave of his time and talents to bless Visitation House and the Fraternity. Fr. Joe Meagher is Deacon Larry's son and member of the New Jersey Fraternity. Please keep the Meagher family in prayer this month.

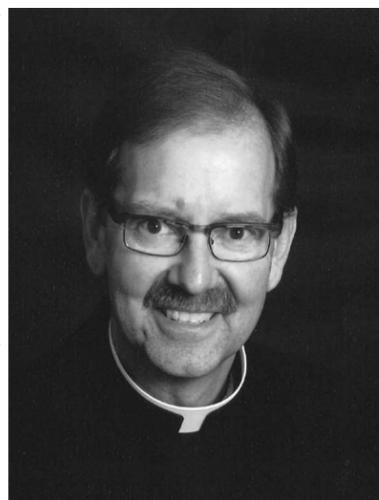
Finally, the annual meeting of the priest members of the Fraternity is August 5-10 in Pittsburgh, PA. The theme is ***Rooted in Christ, Torches of Love*** and the presenter is Deacon James Keating from the Institute of Priestly Formation at Creighton University. Registration information is online and will be mailed to you.

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers! You are in our prayers also!

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: \$ 1001.10
Budget Deficit: \$ 3,748.90
Current as of March 31, 2018.

...continued from page 1

spending an hour a day in prayer allows us "to rest in the Lord and see his joy" as Ambrose says. Being faithful to our commitment to be with the brothers in fraternity, and not missing a meeting without valid excuse, brings us the joy of fellowship and friendship, along with mutual encouragement and hope that we offer each other. Sharing our lives profoundly with at least one other brother establishes the connection of deep intimacy. Even the discipline of tithing takes the focus off ourselves and our tendency toward self-indulgence, and points us toward the joy of giving and service in the Kingdom's cause.

To maintain this joy, we need a life of self-care in the Lord. We priests must take better care of ourselves. We do not have marriage who can hold us accountable and in check if we begin taking on too much. No one else will watch over us in regards to our own spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical health. As clergy, we help many, many people. But God also calls us to respond to our own needs in order to be open to the joy God wishes to give us. This is a sacred responsibility—we are solely and ultimately responsible for taking care of ourselves. Our fraternity brothers can try to help us; friends and family can try to help us; our bishops and superiors can try to help us. But they cannot live our lives for us.

Our problem is that our need for self-care can lead us into bad choices. We can enter the spiritual dark side of self-centeredness and self-indulgence, with unhealthy ways of coping. This is the way to

compulsions, vices, resentments, jealousies, and addictions—the opposite of holiness. We neglect not just our priesthood, but our very souls. This is idolatry, in its worst form. We make our self-indulgence the key to our happiness—not the Lord. For this reason Scripture repeatedly warns us of the great danger of idolatry.



An important part of our self-care is the annual Fraternity Conference, this year to be held in Pittsburgh, August 5th through the 10th. The Annual Conference is a refocusing on our self-care, with emphasis on the Kingdom Disciplines. A commitment to attend the Conference is a commitment to care for ourselves. The Church has great wisdom in requiring us priests to make an annual retreat, following Jesus' instructions to his disciples: "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while" (Mk 6:31). The Annual Conference counts as such a retreat. It is a time to open our hearts up to God, to allow God to give us what we truly need. The Holy Spirit is struggling to get us to accept what will make us truly happy. In the Annual Conference, we have time to tune in better to the Spirit. It is an opportunity to let the Holy Spirit into our lives to break anything that may bind us.

Last year, we heard Dr. Ralph Martin tell us that we are the same as the saints, working with the same material they did—our humanity. The choices we make are the difference. This year, we are privileged to have Dr. James Keaton, Ph.D., who is presently Director of Theological

Formation in the Institute for Priestly Formation at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. He is also a deacon in the Archdiocese of Omaha, and Director of the Office of the Diaconate there. He has given hundreds of lectures and workshops at many venues, including most of the seminaries in the U.S. The chances are good that many of the more recently ordained priests among us have heard him speak.

Dr. Keaton is also a prolific author, with over 100 articles published in more than twenty religious and theological journals. His many books include, *Remain in Me: Holy Orders, Prayer, and Ministry* (Paulist Press, 2018); *Pure Heart, Clear Conscience: Catholic Moral Life* (Liguori Press, 2003), and *Listening for Truth: A Life of Prayers and Virtue* (Liguori Press, 2003, and reprinted in 2013). He also has written books on the diaconate, married life, and the vocation of seminary theologian. He has co-authored two books with Dennis Billy, C.Ss.R., *Conscience and Prayer: The Spirit of Catholic Moral Theology* (Liturgical Press/Michael Glazier, 2001), and *The Way of Mystery: Eucharist and Moral Living* (Paulist Press, 2006).

Holy self-care is the attitude that I am responsible for my relationship to God, and therefore, my life. We are called to make decisions concerning our responsibility to God, to the Church, to our brothers in Fraternity, and to ourselves. A choice pleasing to the Lord will be the decision to attend this year's Conference. All are invited! I am responsible for how much I enjoy life. Attending the Conference is always a sacred—but enjoyable—experience.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

