



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

February 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 For prayer requests received	2 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. Edward Littelmann Toledo, OH 3	Rev. Jerome Nowakowski Toledo, OH 4	Rev. Thomas Oedy Toledo, OH 5	Rev. Thomas Weibl Toledo, OH 6	7 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	Rev. Dale Branson Tucson, AZ 8	Rev. Isaac Fynn Tucson, AZ 9
Rev. John Gonzales Tucson, AZ 10	Rev. James Hobert Tucson, AZ 11	Rev. Bill Kohler Tucson, AZ 12	Rev. Liam Leahy Tucson, AZ 13	Rev. Domenico Pinti Tucson, AZ 14	Rev. Thomas Quirk Tucson, AZ 15	Rev. Ray Ratzenberger Tucson, AZ 16
Rev. Raul Valencia Tucson, AZ 17	Rev. Vitalij Skomarovski Ukraine 18	Rev. Lance Harlow Vermont 19	Rev. Gervase Angsotinge Wa, West Africa 20	Rev. Leo Dabuoh Wa, West Africa 21	Rev. John Bosco Eledi Wa, West Africa 22	Rev. Stephen Kangmennaang Wa, West Africa 23
Rev. Stephen Kantubog Wa, West Africa 24	Rev. John Kpan Wa, West Africa 25	Rev. Evarist Kuuwulong Wa, West Africa 26	Rev. Peter Paul Langnedomah Wa, West Africa 27	Rev. Sylvester Nankpi Wa, West Africa 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.

Fraternity of Priests, Inc.
PO Box 442
Steubenville, OH 43952-5442
Phone: (740) 283-4400

Email: contact@fraternityofpriests.org
<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

Please cut and return this form with your donation.

Name _____
Street _____
City, State and Zip _____

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

The Fraternity of Priests pledges 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.

\$ _____ 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,

“But early in the morning he arrived in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle.” (John 8:2-3) I have always been intrigued by the eighth chapter of St. John’s Gospel. It has always raised many questions in my mind. Why does Jesus go off by himself to the Mount of Olives presumably at night? Why does he reappear at daybreak in the temple area? Doesn’t he realize people are looking for him some of which want to do him harm? My answer is that He is probably preparing himself with prayer and spending time with The Father for His ministry. He has decided to do the Will of His father even if it involves persecution and His time is short. **“So Jesus said, ‘I will be with you only a little while longer, and then I will go to the one who sent [me].’**” (John 7:33)

“But early in the morning he arrived in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, he sat down and taught them.” (John 8:2) Jesus is comfortable teaching in the Temple. He even calls it **“my Father’s house”**. When he entered Jerusalem during the Passover festival he made a kind of whip of cords overturning the money-changers tables, spilling their coins and driving out the doves, he

Do You Need Jesus?

By Fr. Bob Giadina - Providence, RI, Fraternity

said, **“Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace. His disciples recalled the words of Scripture: Zeal for your house will consume me.”** (John 2:17). There is no doubt in my mind that Jesus felt most comfortable in the Temple.

So while Jesus is teaching in the temple **“Then the scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand there in the middle. They said to him, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us stone such women. So what do you say?’** (John 8:3-5)

This raises more questions. If the scribes and Pharisees know the Law of Moses why are they bringing this woman to Jesus? If she was caught in the act of adultery, where’s the guy? Why are they bringing this woman to Jesus when the Sanhedrin is only a few steps away where she could have her day in court? What does Mosaic Law say about such cases? We get a glimpse of the some of the answers to questions from the previous chapter. **“Nicodemus, one who had come to him earlier and said to them, ‘Does our law condemn a person before it first hears him and finds out what he is doing?’**” (John 7:50-51) Whatever happened to equal justice under the law? Whatever happened to ‘Innocent until proven Guilty’? Why

is this act of “mob violence” permitted to take place when they only steps away from the court? Could this form of “mob violence” take place in any of our courts? Why do they want to put this particular woman to death, without giving her a chance to defend herself, what is their real reason?

What does the Mosaic Law say? **“If a man commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall be put to death.”** (Leviticus 20:10) So where is the guy? Why have you scribes and Pharisees not produced the adulterer who was also caught in the very act of adultery? If it so bad as to be punishable by death why have you not produced the witnesses of this terrible crime? Do you remember the story of Susanna in Daniel chapter 13?

As a good scribe or Pharisee, surely you haven’t forgotten the verdict that came out after the prophet Daniel challenged the accusers of Susanna in court. Let me remind you of the precedent set in Daniel 13:5 &6. **“That year, two elders of the people were appointed judges, of whom the Lord said, ‘Wickedness has come out of Babylon: from the elders who were to govern the people as judges.’ These men, to whom all brought their cases...”** We are talking about respectable persons not common criminals. When they spoke or made pronouncements, everyone listened and respected their rulings. But something happened to them. The

...continued on page 3

Dear Fraternity Brothers and Friends of the Priesthood

EPISCOPAL ADVISORS

Archbishop John Myers
Newark, NJ

Bishop Sam Jacobs
Houma-Thibodaux, LA

Bishop Paul Bemile
Wa, Ghana

DIRECTORS

Fr. Bob Franco
Cleveland, Ohio
Chairman

Fr. Jim Hobert
Tucson, Arizona

Fr. Larry Van Damme
Marquette, Michigan

Fr. Volney DeRosia
Manchester, New Hampshire

Fr. Robert Giardina
Providence, Rhode Island

Fr. Dwight Merrick
Trinidad

Fr. Bob Hilz, TOR
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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 led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October of 2018. Highlights included celebrating Mass in the tomb of Jesus at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem and touching the star that marks the place where Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

One of the sites I found meaningful was the village of Bethany. This was the village of Lazarus, Martha and Mary, friends of Jesus. During one of his visits, Martha prepared a meal for Jesus while her sister Mary took the posture of a disciple. She sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to him. When Martha became upset because she was doing all the work, Jesus gently chided her:

Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her. (Luke 10: 41-42)

How important it is for us priests to hear these words! Without neglecting our labors we must sit at the feet of Jesus in praise and adoration as we listen to Him.

Another time Jesus was summoned to Bethany. Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus, *Master, the one you love is ill.* (John 11:3b) Jesus delayed his coming so that when he arrived he found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. Jesus assured Martha:

I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. (John 11:25-26)

Jesus would back up this amazing promise by raising Lazarus from the dead.

However, my main reflection about the village of Bethany focuses on something more implied than is described in the New Testament. Martha, Mary and Lazarus were friends and disciples of Jesus. However, they were not part of the traveling band that walked with Jesus from town to town. They did not leave family

and belongings to follow Jesus. They lived in a home, perhaps had some sort of job and were part of the community life of Bethany.

In some way, Martha, Mary and Lazarus model discipleship for the majority of Christians. They loved Jesus. They lived as his disciples. They even experienced the charismatic power of the Lord. However, they maintained a house and fulfilled the normal duties of household life. As disciples of Jesus, they were stewards of their material goods, using them to honor Jesus Christ as well as meet their own needs. (It was Mary who took a liter of costly perfumed oil and anointed the feet of Jesus. This seemed to embitter Judas the Iscariot who questioned Jesus about this. See John 12:1-8)

As we begin this New Year, let us live as Martha, Mary and Lazarus did. We may not live in Bethany. However we can become good friends of Jesus, listening to Him, experiencing the power of His Holy Spirit and exercising good stewardship even when that means lavishing our resources on the Lord.

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: \$ 2,672.10
Budget Deficit: \$ 2,077.90

Current as of November 30, 2018.

...continued from page 1

Scripture tells us **“When the old men saw her enter every day for her walk, they began to lust for her. They suppressed their consciences; they would not allow their eyes to look to heaven and did not keep in mind just judgments.”** (Daniel 13:8-9) Haven’t we seen this sort of thing happen many times and how it undermines all that is right and good and brings disgrace upon our most sacred intuitions? As the ancient Romans said, **“Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely!”** What can any of us do? The prophet Daniel knew what to do.

The story of Susanna continues, **“Thought both were enamored with her. They did not tell each other their trouble, for they were ashamed to reveal their lustful desire to have her.”** (Daniel 13:10 &11) They make a pretense of going about their business, but soon turn around to watch her take her bath. Once they discover each other and admit their lust they agree to look for an occasion to meet her alone. The book of Daniel makes it absolutely clear what their motives are and what kind of judges these two old men are.

One day when the elders hid themselves in the garden and she was alone they spring their trap. **“Look,” they said, “the garden doors are shut, and no one can see us; give in to our desire, and lie with us. If you refuse, we will testify against you that you dismissed your maids because a young man was here with you.”** (Daniel 13: 20-21). They intend to testify falsely in court before God and the community and accuse her of adultery and the plenty is death by stoning.

Susanna says, **“I am completely trapped. Susanna groaned, if I yield, it will be my death; if I refuse,**

I cannot escape your power. Yet it is better for me to fall into your power without guilt than to sin before the Lord. Then Susanna shrieked and the old men also shouted at her, as one of them ran to open the gardens doors.” The Scripture tells the wicked old men brought the accusations against determined to put her to death. They made her stand before all the people and they testify falsely against her claiming they could hold the young she had been with because he was stronger and got away. What was worse with no evidence only their word the assembly believed them and condemned her to death?

But the Lord heard Susanna’s prayer. **“As she was being led to execution, God stirred up the holy spirit of a young boy named Daniel, and he cried aloud: I will have no part in the death of this woman.”** (Daniel 13:44-46) All the people turned around to find out what Daniel was saying. **“Are you such fools, O Israelites? To condemn a woman of Israel without examination and without clear evidence? Return to court for they have testified falsely against her?”** (Daniel 13:48 &49).

After the judges were separated far from one another Daniel asks each judge in turn, **“Now, then, if you were a witness, tell me under what tree you saw them together?”** (Daniel 13:54) The first one answers, **“Under a mastic tree,”** (Daniel 13:55) the second answers, **“Under and Oak.”** (Daniel 13:59) Daniel answers **“your fine lie has cost you your head.”** (Daniel 13: 55 & 59) Then the whole assembly rose up against the two judges for their own words convicted them of perjury. **“According to the Law of Moses, they inflicted on them the penalty they had plotted to impose on their neighbor: they put them to death.”** (Daniel 13:61).

So Jesus ignores the scribes and Pharisees but when they persist with their unlawful action against the “Adulteress”, Jesus calls their bluff. **“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”** (John 8:7) The mob has brought her to trial before the whole assembly. But this didn’t happen. They all drifted away one by one beginning with the elders.

Jesus asks her, **“Woman where are they? Has no one condemned you?”** She replied, **“No one, sir.”** Then Jesus said, **“Neither do I condemn you. Go and from now on do not sin any more.”** (John 8:10 &11) What do Susanna and the adulteress have in common? They are in a life or death situation both are accused of adultery; both carry the death sentence, death by stoning. In both cases, the adulterer is not present. Both women are in a hopeless situation and need divine intervention. Even though, the adulteress has committed an act of adultery, Jesus is not interested in her condemnation. Both women have given back their lives even if their reputations have been damaged by malicious accusations. It proves that God is not interested in the death of sinner, if only they would return to Him for mercy. It also proves that everyone needs to avoid sin. All have sinned and are in need of the divine intervention of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What will it take for you to admit you need Jesus?

Scripture texts in this work are taken from the New American Bible, revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C. and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All Rights Reserved. No part of the New American Bible may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____
