



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

April 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Rev. Volney DeRosia Boston, MA	Rev. Gerry Fraser Boston, MA	Rev. Patrick Gilbert Boston, MA	For the souls of our deceased FOP members	For prayer requests received	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. Richard Kelley Boston, MA	Rev. John Kiley Boston, MA	Rev. Maurice Larochelle Boston, MA	Rev. Jurgen Liiias Boston, MA	Rev. Paul McManus Boston, MA	Rev. Thomas Reilly Boston, MA	Rev. James Lawrence Burlington, VT
Rev. Donald Roy Burlington, VT	Rev. Andy Bord Cardiff, Wales	Rev. Barry English Cardiff, Wales	Rev. Donal Gillespie Cardiff, Wales	Canon John Griffiths Cardiff, Wales	Rev. Matthew Jones Cardiff, Wales	Rev. David O'Donnell Cardiff, Wales
Rev. Barnabas Page Cardiff, Wales	Rev. Ryan Cubera Cleveland, OH	Rev. Kevin Elbert Cleveland, OH	Rev. Robert Franco Cleveland, OH	Rev. James Mazanec Cleveland, OH	Rev. Homer Blubaugh Columbus, OH	Rev. Richard Engle Columbus, OH
Rev. Justin Reis Columbus, OH	Rev. Peter Gregor Comayagua	Most Rev. Paul Bemile Episcopal Adv.				

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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Dear Father Bob Franco,
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UNBOUND

By Tucson Fraternity of Priests

The Program *Unbound*, based on the book of the same title by Neal Lozano (*Unbound: A Practical Guide to Deliverance*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Chosen Books, 2003, 2010) will be the presentation at this year's annual Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians Conference at Franciscan University in Steubenville, which will also double as this year's annual Fraternity of Priests Conference. Register online at the Priests/Deacons/Seminarians Conference site. The book is highly recommended reading.

It is not a major surprise to see the *Unbound* program presented at the Steubenville Conference. Mr. Lozano worked closely with Fr. Michael Scanlan for many years, and credits Fr. Scanlan's book *Deliverance from Evil Spirits* as one of the springboards of his own work. Also endorsing Mr. Lozano's work are such stalwarts in the charismatic movement as Dr. Ralph Martin and Francis McNutt. It is fitting that this year's Steubenville Conference wishes to promote this powerful ministry among priests and deacons.

The program is about overcoming Satan's influence in our lives by delivering us from the spiritual bondage that holds us down. Satan has a well-planned program to ruin our lives and ministries, and so

Unbound is timely in an age when the reality and presence of the devil are so commonly denied. The program is also meant to make the ministry of deliverance more accessible to believers, allowing them to help others, making this work a greater part of the everyday mission of the Church. In a way, this is a retrieval of the practice of the ancient Church, as Lozano cites historical examples of how prominent it was in rite of initiation for adults in antiquity. He notes that deliverance is still part of today's liturgy—specifically in the renunciations of Satan made at Baptism and on Easter Sunday: "I renounce Satan and all his works and all his empty promises."

But more than a program of deliverance, it is really a program of Faith, Hope, and Love.

Faith. Jesus is the center of the program. The focus is on Him, not on demons. *Unbound* is, fundamentally, an invitation to go deeper in our own life in Christ. Over and over again we are reminded that it is Jesus who saves from sin and Satan, not we who are ministers of deliverance. It is only in Christ that we have authority over Satan's influence in our lives. The plan is to tap into the power of Christ, and to trust in Him. Lozano offers not so much a formula for healing and deliverance, but rather a

relationship with Jesus. The program is meant to help us cooperate with Christ as He seeks to free us. The priority is the advancement of the Kingdom of God. "People are better served if they leave a prayer session knowing how to cooperate with Jesus in the deliverance process. Only Jesus saves, and delivers us from evil spirits" (p. 155).

It is faith in action. The principles are meant to be exercised in our everyday walk with the Lord. Deliverance is not a one-time magic pill that solves all our problems, but rather is part of our ongoing journey with the Holy Spirit. The aim of deliverance is to help the person seek a deeper conversion to the Lord. The one prayed for is led to take hold of the redemption Christ has won for us. It is all about coming the Christ! To be "unbound" is to be free to live the life of holiness. "Deliverance should be an ongoing part of conversion, as we pursue the Lord and surrender more of our lives to him" (p. 128).

The aim of deliverance is to free us from of sin. Including the sins of those ministering the deliverance! One constant of the book is the warning against pride, and the urging towards humility. Thus, repentance is a central part of deliverance. This is expressed principally through vocal renunciation of particular sins that have been identified in the process, where the

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!

Fortitude is one of the seven traditional gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is the gift that enables us to weather the storms of life and ministry, as well as proactively move God's reign ahead as we fulfill the ministry he gives us.

This gift is referred to in a direct way in Isaiah 11:2. Most modern translations use the word strength. And like many of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, this gift is often received and deepened when we experience situations that call for *strength*.

I recently had a "Job" week. As happened to Job, people kept contacting me with bad news. *The pipes in the vacant house froze and burst. You lost ceilings, flooring and walls.* When the cleanup crew arrived, they reported, *We found asbestos in the ruined plaster. We cannot continue working until the EPA gives us direction.* Then the CYO Office called about an incident with one of our coaches. Then the legal office called... twice: once about the CYO incident and another time about a school incident from six years ago. I wanted to run away and hide. However, God has called me to proclaim the gospel and shepherd his people *whether it is convenient or inconvenient.* (II Timothy 4:2)

Here are some verses from Sacred Scripture that call us to claim the gift of fortitude:

Be strong and take heart, all who hope in the LORD. (Psalm 31:25)

I have strength for everything through Him who empowers me. (Philippians 4:13)

Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong. Your every act should be done with love. (I Corinthians 16:13-14)

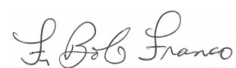
Let us meet this season of Lent with fortitude. Many people are discouraged by the sins of the clergy. Other people are discouraged by the number of people who have abandoned the faith and now walk according to the beat of secularism. Still others are discouraged by their own weaknesses and sins. We must not run and hide. As St. Peter said when many of the

disciples of Jesus were abandoning Him after the Bread of Life discourse (John 6), *Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

Like Jesus in the desert for forty days, let us meet this season of testing with the strength that comes from the Spirit of God. *God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it.* (I Corinthians 10:13b)

I want to remind my brother priests in the Fraternity that this year's annual conference will take place within **Priest, Deacon and Seminarian Conference** at Franciscan University in Steubenville. The conference is June 17-21, 2019. **We will be coming in on Sunday, June 16, afternoon/evening (a day early) for our own Annual Fraternity of Priests Meeting.** Mr. Neil Lazano, Fr. Dave Pivonka and others will leading us through the Unbound method of healing and deliverance. Registration material will be forthcoming. Please check the website.

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: \$ 4,517.10
Budget Deficit: \$ 232.90

Current as of January 31, 2019.

...continued from page 1

person declares in the presence of the team that he or she wants no more to do with that sin. But repentance is not just words, it is an action. Lozano is very clear that those being delivered must then make changes in their lives in order to continue to walk in freedom. "After receiving deliverance, Christians should receive instruction, encouragement, warning, and direction to help them cooperate with the grace of God so as to remain free" (p. 208). The program is big on having people take real and personal responsibility for their lives. Deliverance is to be part of an ongoing life of growth. This is tied in with a second major pillar of deliverance: forgiveness. We must forgive those who hurt us. A large part of the process is a "how-to" on forgiving in the name of Jesus. One could say that one undergoes deliverance in order to forgive!

Since an authentic faith life involves Church, commitment to Church is an important part of the deliverance. "Knowing Jesus includes recognizing His body, honoring the Lord in His body, the Church, and being in proper relationship to those God has placed in authority in the Church" (p. 248). For example, Lozano counsels obedience and respect of Church authority regarding the ministry of deliverance, especially in those cases where the Church decided that an official exorcism is required. Individuals are to obey their local pastors in this ministry. In fact, the whole purpose of *Unbound* is to help the Church in its ministry.

Other parts of the Christian life are emphasized in the program. Prayer is key, as it is the foundation

of deliverance ministry. Throughout the book we are urged to seek the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. Study of Scripture to obtain knowledge of the truth, in order to combat Satan's lies is a must. In fact, the book is deeply imbued with scripture, with profound and insightful interpretations of Biblical passages. The use of journaling is encouraged. Since, as Pope Francis so often points out, joy is essential to the Christian life, then happiness is central to deliverance. "Deliverance from evil spirits removes obstacles so we may receive, in Christ, the

Father's blessing" (p. 17). At the same time, there is the acknowledgment of the Cross. "Deliverance from evil spirits removes the obstacles to freedom [...] It does not remove the cross from our lives" (p. 128).

Hope. Lozano wants the message to be hopeful. Hope for those who struggle with the same sins time and again. Hope for those in fear, especially fear of the devil. Hope for those who are intimidated by the work of deliverance! This is do-able, a practical way to help others. This program is user friendly!

The spirit of hope is shown in the stories of deliverance throughout the book. They are believable stories of real people; many times the deliverance is a slow process ups and downs. Included is a very human and humble portrait of the author himself, together with his wife Janet, who is his stalwart companion in the ministry, and their family. Lozano is not afraid to lead with his weakness, and talk about his mistakes and failures. It gives such hope to see that he is one of us! If he can do it, so can we!

Part of the hopeful message is to see how balanced the program is. It incorporates the insights of psychology, helping to expose to the light our patterns of thinking and behavior that are self-destructive. "The Book is not so much about evil spirits as it is about acknowledging the doors we have opened to their influence and learning how to close them" (p. 7).

Love. "But the greatest of these is love." The loving tone of the program is perhaps the biggest take-away one has after experiencing it. Lozano takes great pains to point out that the person being prayed for is the key player (besides Jesus, of course). The "deliverer's" work is to love the person being prayed for. This is a supremely compassionate approach. "Your first responsibility is to love by listening deeply [...] Your greatest opportunity to learn is as you love the person God sent to you for prayer [...] Let the Lord fill you with His love for your friend" (p. 158). A key part of Lozano's own deliverance was an experience of love: "God touched me and gave me a new ability to love others" (p. 146).

Since love is so essential, Lozano advocates that those who have experienced deliverance follow up by fostering loving relationships with friends who know the Lord. "One of the greatest needs in deliverance ministry is the proper context of faithful, loving relationships in which a person can be honest and accepted" (p. 107). And then is the call to share the love. The aim of the book and program is to encourage us to love others by empowering us to guide them to freedom in Christ through deliverance.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____
