



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

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

May 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Most Rev. 1 Sam Jacobs D.D. <i>Episcopal Adv.</i>	2 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	3 For prayer requests received	4 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Very Rev. 5 Franc Kromberger <i>Episcopal Adv.</i>	Most Rev. 6 John Myers <i>Episcopal Adv.</i>	Rev. 7 Duaine Cote <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Very Rev. 8 Dale Kinzler <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. Msgr. 9 Robert Laliberte <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. 10 Donald Leiphon <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. Msgr. 11 Dennis Skonseng <i>Fargo, ND</i>
Rev. 12 Edmund Sylvia CSC <i>South Bend, IN</i>	Rev. 13 Peter Pienaa Donzing <i>Ghana</i>	Rev. 14 Robert Sackey <i>Ghana</i>	Rev. 15 Charles Antekeier <i>Grand Rapids</i>	Rev. 16 James Bozung <i>Grand Rapids</i>	Rev. 17 George Fekete <i>Grand Rapids</i>	Rev. 18 Thomas Hack <i>Grand Rapids</i>
Rev. 19 Donald Lomasiewicz <i>Grand Rapids</i>	Rev. 20 Mark Mitchell <i>Grand Rapids</i>	Rev. 21 Ayub Nasar <i>Grand Rapids</i>	Rev. 22 Michael Shea CM <i>Grand Rapids</i>	Rev. 23 Robert Hilz T.O.R. <i>Greensburg, PA</i>	Msgr. 24 Cyril Lamontagne VG <i>Grenada</i>	Rev. 25 Robert Grant <i>Hartford, CT</i>
Rev. 26 Paul Halovatch <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 27 Joseph Looney <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 28 Will-Roger Malave <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 29 Robert Rousseau <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 30 Francis Dabre <i>India</i>	Rt. Rev. Dr. 31 Bryan Eyman <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>	

## 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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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.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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,

There is a disturbing trend going on in popular US Catholic theological media. Like all disturbing trends, it reflects some truth but not all. You will hear various Catholic commentators build upon the teaching that God sends no one to Hell. The damned, they explain, chose to reject God and for that reason they chose against His presence in Heaven. So, their only option is Hell. You will read or view teaching that no one can fathom why someone would make this choice, but, in order to be free, God enables us to choose that eternal option. Obviously, it is added that few, if barely any, elect such a disturbing permanent disposition.

What these outlets portray is almost like someone is walking along the street and the bus to heaven comes, the angelic driver stops, opens the door and invites him or her onboard. The pedestrian waves it off for electing to take the "not to Heaven" bus. This is not the choice at all.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that those who remain obstinate in sin are those who find themselves in Hell. Of course, to remain obstinate is itself a choice. So, nothing that I wrote in the above paragraphs

## Our True Mission

By Robert J. Carr

is false. However, there is a part missing.

What these media outlets fail to teach is the presence and persistence of evil.

There is an interesting reality that many rarely note in the Gospels: the two people who spoke to Jesus, to whom he never responded: the 'bad' thief on the cross and King Herod. The obvious question is why? A simply reply is that to speak to them would be a waste of time. They did not choose to repent of any sin. Herod was one of the most vicious dictators in the world and the bad thief, many believe—as do I, was channeling Satan. After all, the devil gives a similar temptation to what we see Jesus suffer in the desert. "If you are the son of God . . ." in this case he demands that our Lord gets himself off the cross and the thieves as well. In either case, the two had hardened hearts that Jesus could not soften even by his presence.

It is not a simple decision that leads one down this path to evil, it is a choice for one's personal sovereignty in God's universe. It is a daily choice that hardens one's heart a little more with every unrepentant yes to sin, which is, 'no' to God. It is the

well-meaning, good-hearted person who becomes the spiritually blind, angry, obstinately self-centered soul demanding his world his way and condemns everyone who blocks his plans. It is the choice that reflects one who succumbed to the evil manipulation of the devil.

Remember, the devil can make the good look bad and the bad look good, as he does in our nation every day. One who chooses against God is not like a person shopping at the local supermarket who chooses cantaloupe over red melon for breakfast. It is someone who affirmed his choice for selfishness and grows evil bit by bit until every choice is to moral evil. It is the pharisee screaming at the fallen Jesus moving and onto that cross. He wants to see his enemy dead in the most horrible way and no stupid roman is going to stand in his way.

It is the drug dealer who cares more about how much his latest customer will profit him than whether or not he will survive the hit of heroin.

It is the politician who embraces abortion as a medical procedure and remains blind to its power to destroy a life. It is saying no to the author of life itself. It is the researcher who

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# 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!

A number of Catholic parishes have been giving away books at Christmastime or Easter. This Easter my parish will be giving away a self-published booklet on spiritual warfare. Yes—spiritual warfare. With all the conveniences and comforts of the 21st century, coupled with our ever growing knowledge of science and technology, we tend to relegate spiritual warfare to Hollywood movies. However, we do not live in Eden. Our struggle is with more than flesh and blood.

In C.S. Lewis' Narnia Chronicle called *The Silver Chair*, the queen of the underworld (a manifestation of Satan, so to speak) tried to convince four people captured in her underground domain that there as no sun, no sky, no world above at all. Since they were underground and could not see the world above, it sort of made sense. However, at one time they had lived on the earth's surface. They knew its reality. Part of the queen's strategy was to throw some kind of incense into her fireplace. As the sweet, sleepy smell permeated the room it altered their thinking. The creatures from above began to agree with her. They were groggily repeating after her: *there is no sun, no sky, no world above*. It wasn't until one of them fought off the spell and brushed the incense off the burning log (replacing the smell of incense with the smell of burnt hand!) that the spell was broken. They again knew clearly the truth from lies. They then were able to overthrow the queen of the underworld.

It seems that our culture's atheistic thinking permeates the spiritual atmosphere. Although most people know something of God, they simply imitate the culture and repeat *there is no world above*. They live as if God does not exist.

The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the sobering, saving event that breaks Satan's power and genuinely frees us. Jesus Christ shares with us his victory through the sacraments of the Church and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Though the outcome of the

war is settled, our personal destiny is won only when we engage in battle.

Spiritual warfare begins with us taking up the armor of God. So we must:

- Gird the loins of minds with truth
- Lift up the shield of faith, believing the teachings of the Church
- Our thinking is permeated by the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ
- We step into the mission Christ gives us.

Our offensive weapon is the word of God that pierces the soul, the spirit of a person. We must pray at all times. (See Ephesians 6:10-20 and Hebrews 4:12)

To my brother priests: as we battle for the Lord, please respond to our invitation to the *Unbound* retreat in Steubenville this year. Our Annual Meeting will take place within the context of Priests, Deacons and Seminarians Retreat. We will be starting a day early, on Sunday evening, June 16, 2019. Please refer to the mailing you have already received.

To our donors, thank you for your prayer-filled support. As God purifies his Church, pray that we in the Fraternity zealously fulfill our calling.

Sincerely in Christ,



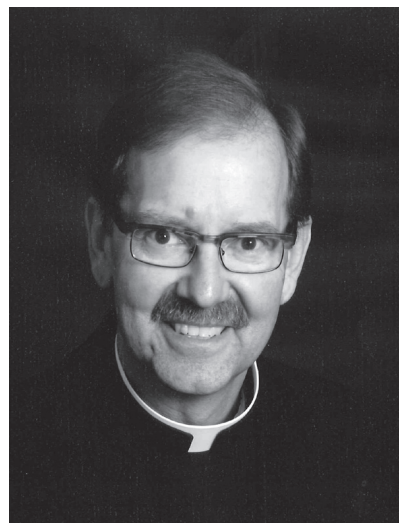
Fr. Robert J. Franco

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: \$ 1,679.10  
Budget Deficit: \$ 3,070.90

Current as of February 28, 2019.



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supports the experimentation on fetal tissue, especially to babies brought to full term.

It is the person of authority who uses his position to gratify his own desires.

It is a manipulative, self-centered choice that says no to God. It is also a choice that someone makes when he chooses to ignore the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. If you read the Gospels well, you can see this obstinacy growing in the enemies of Jesus every day.

There is another aspect to this. If you look carefully at our tradition and the scriptures, you learn that Hell is the default. If Jesus did not die on the Cross where would we all be? On our way to Hell, because Hell is the default. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we now have the option that did not exist: submit to the will of God and find eternal life.

Jesus saves us from what would be our only destiny, by His death and resurrection. Why is Hell the default? Because of original sin, we do not have the ability to get into Heaven on our own. We can do nothing to get to Heaven and if we cannot get to Heaven, what is left? Hell. The reason is that we have an inclination to sin and without anything to lead us away from it, we can do nothing but fall more and more into sin.

We choose Christ and He leads us to eternal life in Him out of his love for each of us. However, we will have to choose to respond to His grace daily.

This is the aspect to what is taught about Hell in many of

our current media outlets that is missed. So, it seems that Heaven is the default and Hell is the choice we make when we choose not to go to Heaven. In that light, the thinking is backwards.

We need to testify to the truth. This is what we do, we not only preach about repentance, but we also have as our mission the salvation of souls. Our role as priests is to lead our parishes to be agents of God's generous grace by doing all we can to lead people to Heaven. We do that not only by our preaching, but also by our prayer, by our presidential role at Mass, by our dispensing of the sacraments, our quest for holiness and our inspiration to others to live a holy life. All of this is part of our mission. We cannot take this lightly or even take it for granted because the enemy that we fight, the source of all evil itself takes its mission quite seriously.

I learned in the early days of the crisis in the Church that just as Jesus gives all He can that we may be saved, Satan gives almost all he can that we may be lost. Therefore, it is, as St. Paul teaches, a spiritual battle that we are in and the prize is every soul we encounter daily. It is essential that we understand this in our mission as priests.

The antidote to the devil's antics is humble submission to the will of God. This is also a daily choice of prayer and even an understanding that one submits his will to the Father in order to grow in divine wisdom and grace. We avoid sin as a destructive force under the guise of inordinate pleasure or succumbing to the passions.

This is why the Fraternity is so important. It is not just about priests gathering coming together with Lord and each other. We build each other up and strengthen each other as we then return to the parishes in the fight for the salvation of souls. It is a fight, though a spiritual battle, it is a battle nevertheless and every soul is at stake. Our greatest tools are the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is there we learn to be strong in humble submission to the Father through his Son and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Humble submission is not a one-time choice, and it is not an easy decision either. Those truly seeking Christ will fall many times, but, they understand their sin and repent again to continue on the journey. They are not perfect in action, but their goal is perfect, eternal life in Christ.

It is disturbing to see Catholic media describe the road to Hell as a simple choice like which bus we will take today. It is not. It is a journey into the darkness of evil one slightly malignant choice after another. The road continues until every choice one makes drips in self-centered evil and it is unfortunately not a hard road to walk when we are not rooted in prayer and the desire for holiness.

Leading others to choose the road that leads to the Father is our daily mission in every parish we serve.

Let us always support each other in this battle in service to one another and to those whom we serve now and will serve in the future.

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

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