

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

June 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. 30 Brendan Murray New Jersey						1 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. 2 Harold Knueven Indianapolis, IN	Rev. 3 Paul Landwerlen Indianapolis, IN	Rev. 4 George Nangachiveetill Indianapolis, IN	Rev. 5 Thomas Cawley C.M. Kansas City, MO	6 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	7 For prayer requests received	8 Rev. Earl Dekat Kansas City, MO
Rev. 9 Roderic Giller OSB Kansas City, MO	Rev. 10 Rheal Forest Manitoba	Rev. 11 Timothy Ekaitis Marquette, MI	Rev. 12 Ryan Ford Marquette, MI	Rev. 13 Christopher Gardiner Marquette, MI	Rev. 14 Benjamin Hasse Marquette, MI	Rev. 15 Jeff Johnson Marquette, MI
Rev. 16 Aaron Nowicki Marquette, MI	Rev. 17 Brandon Oman Marquette, MI	Rev. 18 Darryl Pepin Marquette, MI	Rev. 19 Michael Steber Marquette, MI	Rev. 20 Larry Van Damme Marquette, MI	Rev. 21 Michael Woempner Marquette, MI	Rev. 22 Raymond Zeugner Marquette, MI
Rev. 23 Eugene Bettinger O.Carm. New Jersey	Rev. 24 Paul Cannariato New Jersey	Rev. 25 John Gordon New Jersey	Rev. 26 Timothy Graff New Jersey	Rev. 27 William Halbing New Jersey	Rev. 28 Paul Lehman New Jersey	Rev. 29 Joseph Meagher New Jersey

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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Do you know anyone who would like to receive our Newsletter?

The Fraternity of Priests pledge of financial accountability 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,



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Hail Mary Full of Grace!

By Father John G Kiley, Boston Fraternity

The month of May is an appropriate time to devote an article to Mary, the Mother of the Lord, and to examine prayerfully her place in the Church and in our lives as disciples of her Son, Jesus Christ. Let me offer several reflections in the course of this article.

As a child and teen growing up in a strong Irish Catholic parish in Boston, devotion to the Mother of God was both important and prominent in the life of my family and of the parish community. The month of May was a time for parish and school May processions. Many families constructed a shrine to Mary in their homes. Marian hymns and choruses were sung at church. The praying of the rosary was stressed especially in this month and during October, the month of the Holy Rosary. Much of this changed in the popular mind with the Second Vatican Council.

Having been ordained to the priesthood in 1970, my class entered the college seminary just before the Second Vatican Council opened in October 1962. Our first seminary years took place during the Council. The documents of Vatican II were all promulgated during our seminary formation. Some of you may recall that there

was a discussion or debate among the Council Fathers as to how the Council should speak and teach about Mary. Should a separate document be composed and issued about the Mother of God or should Mary be included in the major Council Document on the Church? The happy result was that there is a marvelous chapter on Mary in the Constitution on the Church. Mary should not be considered as separate from the Church, but as its preeminent member.

Chapter VIII of this Constitution, issued on November 21, 1964, is entitled "The Role of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, in the mystery of Christ and the Church". May I suggest, if you have access to this document, that you read or reread it during this Month of May.

Following the Second Vatican Council there was a significant falling away from devotion to Mary on the part of many Catholics, including priests and seminarians. In a praiseworthy effort to make certain that Jesus Christ is always at the center of our faith, Mary was unfortunately sometimes neglected or forgotten. Many of the former popular devotions to the Mother of God ceased and even the powerful prayer of the Rosary was at times downplayed or neglected. This was

certainly a misunderstanding of the Council and its teaching on Mary. Thank God that this imbalance is being rectified in recent years.

Allow me now to share with you some of the Marian themes that have been significant in my own faith journey:

1) *Mary as the Woman of Faith* - Mary is the preeminent person of faith especially as seen in the Annunciation account in the gospel of Luke and as she stands beneath the cross of her Son in the gospel of John. At the moment of the Annunciation, not understanding fully its implications and not knowing the future, Mary completely surrenders herself and her life to the will of God.

She shows us that faith is not just believing in the mind or intellect, but a trusting surrender of one's whole life and future into the hands of God. "Fiat" is the Latin for "Let it be". By her "fiat" Mary was ready to say "yes" to whatever God asked of her. Are you? Am I?

We call the Annunciation one of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. It is at times easy to say "yes" to God when life is beautiful. What, however, of the painful and difficult moments? Many years later, as Mary stands beneath the cross and witnesses the agony of her Son, she is still sustaining her "fiat". She is

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Dear Fraternity Brothers and Friends of the Priesthood

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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!

On Monday of Holy Week, the Cathedral of Notre Dame caught on fire. During the fire, the immediate response of many people was to weep and pray. Amazingly, though severely damaged, Notre Dame survived with most of her treasure preserved.

My bishop, Nelson J. Perez of Cleveland, referred to this tragedy in his Chrism Mass homily as a prophetic symbol of what Mother Church has gone through in the last year. The revelations of clergy sexual abuse—even at the level of the episcopacy—created a firestorm that damaged the Church and her mission. Like the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Church survives with her treasures. Like Notre Dame, it will take many years to restore her. Much damage has been done.

Just three days before the Notre Dame fire, I was chatting with a parishioner named Tom at my parish's final fish fry of the Lenten season. I gently mentioned to Tom that I had not seen much of him lately. Tom not so gently replied, "And you won't until you get your act together." He gave me a short but heated rant about the sins of the clergy and the letter he wrote to Bishop Perez about this topic. The scandalous revelations damaged Tom's faith.

What is the path to reconstruction and restoration? Like Notre Dame Cathedral, the Church is a complex structure. Reconstruction needs to take place on many levels. The episcopacy needs an effective and transparent way of being accountable. The clergy need to live demonstrably holy lives. Catholic institutions must continue to strive to be safe environments for children.

One treasure of the Church that has been preserved but neglected over the years is her teaching on sexual morality. St. John Paul II, through his teaching of *The Theology of the Body*, has beautifully reiterated a Catholic manner of life, rooting it deeply in natural law, Sacred Scripture and tradition. Catholic teaching on sexual morality is beautiful and cogent. It is also counter cultural. This

may be the most challenging part of restoration. Swayed by current cultural trends, many of the baptized, both clergy and laity, dismiss Church teaching as antiquated. Yet, isn't this dismissal of Church teaching at root of our problems?

After Jesus rose from the dead, He assured us, *I am with you always, until the end of the age.* (Matthew 28:20b) He is our source of hope. However, we need to ask ourselves the question, "Are we with Him?" It is hypocrisy to profess faith in Jesus and not embrace the counter cultural way of life He teaches.

During this month of May, let us turn to *Notre Dame, Our Lady*. Her daily path was humble faithfulness, even when that path led to the cross. As she now reigns with Jesus, let us invoke her prayer. We need to return to the Upper Room and pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. He is the architect that can restore the Church.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Robert J. Franco

PS: My brother priests, I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting within the Priests, Deacons and Seminarian Retreat in Steubenville next month.

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!

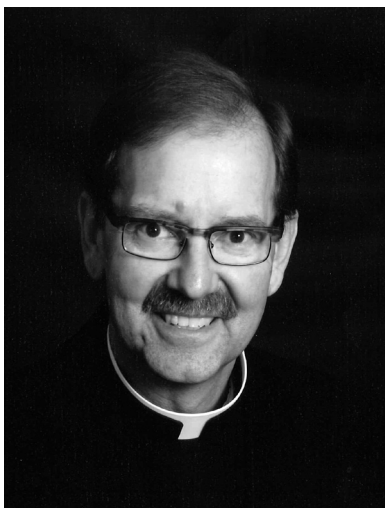
Fraternity Financial Report

Monthly Donation Budget: \$ 4,750.00

Actual Donations: \$ 642.10

Budget Deficit: \$ 4,107.90

Current as of March 31, 2019.



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still saying "yes" to the will of God. When the Lord asks something difficult of you or me, can we still sustain our "fiat" and say "yes"? May the Mother of God pray for us and ask her Son to grant us a faith like hers.

2) *Mary the Questioner* - While this is not an official title of the Blessed Virgin and although Mary speaks very infrequently in the sacred scriptures, I like to look at Mary as a person who was unafraid to ask questions.

When the angel Gabriel comes to announce to her that she will bear a son, her question is: how can this be since I do not know man. When Joseph and she are searching for Jesus in Jerusalem with great anguish, her question is: Son, why have you done this to us. Mary was certainly steeped in the Jewish tradition and knew and prayed the Book of Psalms. Many of the psalms do pose questions to the Lord God. Embrace the psalms as a prayer book in your life of faith. Mary teaches us that we should never be afraid to question God or to have questions about aspects of the faith. Questions and doubts at times can lead to a stronger faith and trust in the Lord. In fact, during my high school years, our Jesuit teachers would frequently remind us teens that it is important, as you go through life, to be asking the right questions. Mary was one who always asked the right questions.

3) *Mary Virgin and Mother* - In the Mass Preface I of the Blessed Virgin Mary we pray: "and without losing the glory of virginity, (Mary)

brought forth into the world the eternal Light, Jesus Christ our Lord". Mary is unique among all the members of the human race as being both virgin and mother. What can that mean for us?

In a sense each Christian is called to be both "virgin and mother". We are to be contemplative, empty, receptive, and humble before the Lord. We are then to bring forth the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace etc. for the sake of the Church and the world. Do you stand or kneel before the Lord in your emptiness before moving forward into Christian action?

4) *Mary, the Wedding Guest* - In the account of the wedding at Cana, as recorded in the Gospel of John, we contemplate Mary, the wedding guest, interceding with her Son for the sake of the bridal couple. This is a very rich scripture that deserves a complete article or even a book. However, let's consider the words of Mary to the stewards: "Do whatever He tells you". That is the basic desire in the heart of the Mother of God that we do whatever Jesus says. Mary always points away from herself to the Lord. What is it that Jesus is saying to you right now in your life? Are you ready and willing to obey?

5) *Mary as Prophet* - Prophets are those called by God to speak His word. At our Baptism each of us was joined to Christ who is Prophet, Priest, and King. Our ears were opened to receive the word of God and our tongues loosed to proclaim and share the word. Certainly Mary, who was and is closest to Jesus, shares in that prophetic work. How often throughout Christian history

and especially in recent centuries in so many marian apparitions, Mary is sent by God to bring His word to the human race and to call us back to being faithful to the gospel. She constantly calls us to repentance, to prayer, to fasting, to deeds of love. Are we heeding her messages and responding?

6) *Mary as Warrior* - We frequently see Mary in pictures and statues with her foot crushing the head of the serpent. In Revelation 12, we see a mysterious woman clothed with the sun and in conflict with the dragon. This woman is seen as a figure of the Church and also as Mary.

The scriptures are clear that we are in a spiritual battle with eternal consequences. Just as the serpent deceived Eve in the garden of Eden and set humankind on a disastrous course, Mary as the *New Eve* will crush the head of the serpent. Those who are involved in the ministry of deliverance and those priests officially commissioned by their bishop as exorcists often witness to the powerful presence of Mary in their prayer sessions. Seek the intercession of Mary in times of temptation and when you are struggling to be faithful to Jesus

My hope and prayer are that each of you will find some themes and thoughts to bring to prayer during this month of May and in the future. May you grow in your devotion to the Mother of God or perhaps, if needed, rediscover the important place of Mary in your following of Jesus Christ. "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

