



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

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

October 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Rev. 1 Liam Leahy Tucson, AZ	Rev. 2 Domenico Pinti Tucson, AZ	For the souls of our deceased FOP members	For prayer requests received	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. 6 Thomas Quirk Tucson, AZ	Rev. 7 Ray Ratzenberger Tucson, AZ	Rev. 8 Raul Valencia Tucson, AZ	Most Rev. 9 Vitalij Skomarovski Ukraine	Rev. 10 Lance Harlow Vermont	Rev. 11 Gervase Angsotinge Wa, West Africa	Rev. 12 Leo Dabuoh Wa, West Africa
Rev. 13 John Bosco Eledi Wa, West Africa	Rev. 14 Stephen Kangmennaang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 15 Stephen Kantubog Wa, West Africa	Rev. 16 John Kpan Wa, West Africa	Rev. 17 Evarist Kuuwulong Wa, West Africa	Rev. 18 Peter Paul Langnedomah Wa, West Africa	Rev. 19 Sylvester Nankpi Wa, West Africa
Rev. 20 Romanus Tampah Wa, West Africa	Rev. 21 Cyracus Tang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 22 Benette Tang Wa, West Africa	Rev. 23 Matthew Tuurosong Wa, West Africa	Rev. 24 Fidelis Vielu Wa, West Africa	Rev. 25 Giles Dimock OP Washington, DC	Msgr. 26 Stan Jaworski Winnipeg
Rev. 27 Maurice Jeanneau Winnipeg	Rev. 28 Michael Nault Winnipeg	Rev. 29 Francois Paradis OMI Winnipeg	Rev. 30 George Dunkley Worcester	Rev. 31 Jean-Paul Gagnon Worcester		

## 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

Email: [contact@fraternityofpriests.org](mailto:contact@fraternityofpriests.org)  
<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

## Using Hallowe'en as a Teaching Tool

By Fr. Robert J. Carr

As September rolls in and we start the journey out of Summer and into the Fall, we begin to see, locally anyway, the signs of the approach of Hallowe'en. It is a distinctive and sometimes incongruous holiday for the Catholic. However, it may be a source of an interesting reflection for us priests and later for our congregations.

Here in New England, we have an association with three major horror writers: Edgar Allan Poe born in Boston. Stephen King the literary face of Maine. Finally, Rhode Island's Howard Philip (H.P.) Lovecraft. Two of his stories make for a good reflection for us this season.

Lovecraft lived in Rhode Island and his stories take place all over Southern New England. In fact, the Dunwich Horror features family names that are towns along the route I-91 corridor north of Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Coincidentally, his story takes place around the same time as another New England based though non-horror story—Our Town by Thornton Wilder, which reflects on life and death more than good and evil. It takes place in Grover's Corner, New Hampshire which is the actual town of Peterborough and only an

hour from the I-91 corridor.

What makes Lovecraft interesting for our reflection is that he was an atheist, but he also understood that if good can exist in our world, then evil can as well. The Case of Charles Dexter Ward and The Dunwich Horror both deal with the presence of evil and the dangers of not respecting its reality by foolishly crossing the boundary into it.

His writing reflects a pagan point of view of evil as a reality beyond us and outside our understanding. We need to accept this and leave it alone, he indicates.

Our Christian faith teaches us the truth about good and evil, something that Lovecraft's writing does not grasp. He understood their existence, but not their nature. We need to understand both, even if we are not conversant in the secular horror media or even the Christian horror from Frank Peretti that also will proliferate until November 1.

Some who will celebrate Hallowe'en will understand that evil exists but comprehend little else of its nature.

The source of all that is good is our creator. We know that St. Augustine taught that evil is the privation of the good. This means that when we walk away from

God, we can only walk to where God is not. If God is the source of all that is good, then we walk away to where it does not exist. That means where evil thrives for again it is the privation of the good.

Jesus was a master in explaining good and evil in the terms of light and darkness. If God is the source of light and we walk away from God, we can only walk into darkness.

I love the NASA picture of Saturn because, according to NASA, despite being a planet so big—its year is twenty seven times longer than our own—the physics of light still apply. The far side of Saturn is as much in darkness as the far side of a baseball placed in front of a flashlight outside at night.

Similarly, we understand if God is the source of all that is good, then we end up in the world of what is not good if we walk away from Him into the shadows. This is the reality of sin.

Many of our communities both in and out of the church may understand the existence of evil, but not the source or reality of it. Some might not believe in it at all. However, as much of an atheist he was, H.P. Lovecraft understood the existence of it but he saw it as natural force that one encountered crossing boundaries that should be respected and never transversed.

...continued on page 3

Please cut and return this form with your donation.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Father Bob Franco,  
This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$10    \$25    \$50    \$100    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 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.

# 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. Volney DeRosia  
Manchester, New Hampshire  
Chairman

Fr. Robert Carr  
Boston, MA

Fr. Gregory Paffel  
St. Cloud, MN

Fr. Dwight Merrick  
Trinidad

Fr. John Kiley  
Boston, MA

Fr. Ray Ratzberger  
Tucson, AZ

Fr. Tom Sparacino  
Pittsburgh, PA

### 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!

When I arrived at St. Patrick Parish in 2013, the Women of Mary wanted to make sure that I would continue celebrating Mass for them on First Saturdays. Since I have a devotion to Our Lady of Fatima, I was delighted to say yes. As part of this devotion, they have a half hour of Adoration before Mass, which includes the Divine Mercy Chaplet and fifteen minutes of meditation on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Most often, I found great fruit in meditating on the Sorrowful Mysteries, experiencing the great love of Jesus to pour out through that meditation. This past month, however, as I prayed, I felt drawn to the Luminous Mysteries. As I walked through the first three Mysteries of Light – the Baptism of the Lord, the Wedding at Cana, and the Proclamation of the Kingdom – I was struck by the order and structure of these mysteries (so much so, that the whole fifteen minutes was spent on these three mysteries).

In the Baptism of the Lord, the voice speaks from Heaven, **“This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased”** (Matthew 3:17 NABRE). We know that what happened to Jesus in His Baptism happened to us in our Baptism. As such, God speaks to each of us and says, “You are my son; you are my daughter; you are my beloved, and I am pleased with you.” At the heart of Christian life is our relationship with God as His children – precious, loved, and chosen.

We move from the Baptism to the Wedding at Cana, where we find that Mary recognized the needs (**“They have no wine”** John 2:3 NABRE), and she says to the servants, **“Do whatever he tells you”** (John 2:5 NABRE). On that first Saturday in August as I pondered over Jesus’ command – which had the servants making who knows how many trips back and forth to the local well to fill the giant stone water jars – it struck me that obedience to God first requires a relationship with Him, a level of trust. I have to trust that God is Abba, Daddy;

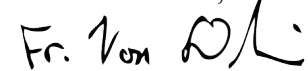
that He loves me and wants the best for me. At the 2018 Priest, Deacon, Seminarian Retreat at Franciscan University of Steubenville, one of the speakers said, “I do what I’m told... I am not obedient.”

Yeah, I can do what I’m told, just because I’m told to do it by an authority, but obedience to God requires my heart to be conformed to the Heart of God. This requires trust. This requires relationship. Before I can obey God (as seen in the Wedding at Cana), I need to have relationship with Him by Baptism.

As I moved to the third Mystery of Light – the Proclamation of the Kingdom of God – I recognized the truth that ministry cannot be done on my own – I need the Spirit of God in me. No matter what I say, no matter how eloquent I am, I cannot touch anyone’s heart – only God can. In order to minister well to people, in order to bring the Kingdom of God, in order to bring about conversion, I need to let God work in me. This requires the trust of relationship, and the humility of obedience.

I pray that we continue to grow in the knowledge of the mystery of who we are as a son or daughter of God, that that knowledge may lead to a deeper trust in and obedience to His will, and that it may lead to God using each of us as a powerful tool for proclaiming His Kingdom.

Grace and Peace,



Fr. Von DeRosia

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!



...continued from page 1

In fact, if there is one question one learns to ask after reading Lovecraft it is: “Should we walk down this path?”—when confronted with a direction that may reveal a need for discernment. That is because his message was that we have the freedom to do anything we want, but in our freedom we best choose to avoid those things that just should not be done.

Using that principle, we teach that we express our freedom best when we only do that which leads us to the goodness of God.

Jesus teaches the why of that principle: Since, evil comes from rejecting the will of God who is the source of all that is good. Obedience to God, therefore, is so essential for when we obey Him, we obey the source of all that is good. We can only walk into a world of more and more good if we adhere to his leadership.

Psalm 23 reflects this well when it says: *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.* (Psalm 23 NABRE)

Where are we? In the valley of the shadow of death. If we walk away from God, where do we go? Deeper into the valley of the shadow of death, where there obviously is no life and it must get more and more hostile to existence. How do we find life? By remaining on the path following Christ through the valley of death, no matter how difficult the route may be.

During Hallowe’en, the subject of Hell becomes endemic to the world around us, including our readings. In the classic movie,

Event Horizon, (Rated R) we see an illustration of this principle of evil (beware a spoiler may be coming). If we choose to leave the world of order and make a shortcut through a place where there is nothing but chaos, even in the interest of expediency and progress, we may actually enter into Hell. There is no order, there is no good, there is no light to be found if we walk away from the source of all those things which is God. As the movie obliquely illustrates—if we choose to reject the existence of evil and look at reality just from a material perspective, we may walk right into Hell accidentally.

Now you may ask what does this have to do with the Fraternity of Priests? The importance of our prayer, study and fraternity is to develop our understanding of ourselves as agents of what is good. Our baptism leads us to share in Jesus’ ministry of priest, prophet and king. Our ordination calls us to be in persona Christi. Our role is not only to lead people to know, love and serve Christ so that they may spend all eternity with Him, but to understand the reality of human existence.

Jesus came to save us from the elements in our universe that are beyond our understanding. Without Jesus, we become subject to all in the universe that belongs to the realm of what rejects God. He came to lead us away from that disaster and into the holiness of the source of all that is good who is God in the Holy Trinity.

We testify to the existence of this truth and to the saving work of our Lord. He calls us to embrace Him so that we may lead those

to whom we minister from the forces of chaos, darkness and the privation of good. We testify to Christ leading us through the valley of death to the fullness of life in God’s kingdom.

We cannot, however, find it on our own. We must listen to He who came to lead us. If we choose to find the place on our own, we will walk accidentally into that world of chaos because we are walking in the darkness of ignorance.

If we do not believe in evil at all, we are walking both blindly and in darkness and every move we make is at best a guess.

Hallowe’en may be a good time to reflect and teach on the reality of good and evil and all that Christ has done for us in bringing us to freedom. Our heritage is filled with people who understand the existence of darkness, but our Catholic faith understands its nature.

Presently, we are living in a country where people are rejecting Christ and His Church in the interesting of the fullness of human progress. Evil grows in this environment because people do not know how to respect its reality or the route to safety. This may indicate why there is so much division in our country, especially in the Pacific Northwest. This is why the writings of some horror writers are important. They warn of the reality of evil.

Many may find themselves in a dark place by their own ignorant choice. Our ministry is to do all we can to lead them away from that disturbing end and into the joy of the Holy Trinity, the source of all that is good.

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Fraternity Financial Report

Monthly Donation Budget: \$ 4,750.00

Actual Donations: \$ 2,340.00

Budget Deficit: \$ 2,410.00

Current as of July 31, 2019.