

# THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

February 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. Christopher Gardiner Marquette, MI 2	Rev. Benjamin Hasse Marquette, MI 3	Rev. Jeff Johnson Marquette, MI 4	Rev. Aaron Nowicki Marquette, MI 5	For the souls of our deceased FOP members 6	For prayer requests received 7	Rev. Brandon Oman Marquette, MI 8
Rev. Darryl Pepin Marquette, MI 9	Rev. Michael Steber Marquette, MI 10	Rev. Larry Van Damme Marquette, MI 11	Rev. Michael Woempner Marquette, MI 12	Rev. Raymond Zeugner Marquette, MI 13	Rev. Eugene Bettinger OCarm. New Jersey 14	Rev. Paul Cannariato New Jersey 15
Rev. John Gordon New Jersey 16	Rev. Timothy Graff New Jersey 17	Rev. William Halbing New Jersey 18	Rev. Paul Lehman New Jersey 19	Rev. Joseph Meagher New Jersey 20	Rev. Brendan Murray New Jersey 21	Rev. Paul O' Donnell Duggan New Jersey 22
Rev. Lewis Papera New Jersey 23	Rev. John Primich New Jersey 24	Rev. Stephen Toth New Jersey 25	Rev. William Cosgrove New York 26	Rev. Tom Devery New York 27	Rev. Christopher Gaffrey OFM New York 28	His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl 29

## 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.  
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<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other  \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100

This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.

Dear Fr. Von DeKosia,



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

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

## The Greatest Steward

By Fr. Greg Paffel - St Cloud, MN Fraternity

Johnny didn't want to put his money in the collection basket on Sunday morning. So, his mom decided to use some quick reasoning with him.

"Honey, you don't want that money," she whispered in his ear. "Quick! Drop it in the basket. It's tainted!" With a little panic, the boy obeyed. After a few seconds he whispered, "But mommy, why was the money tainted? Was it dirty?" "Oh no dear," she replied. "It's not dirty. It just 'taint yours and it 'taint mine," she replied. "It belongs to God."

Many of our parishioners have been conditioned to believe stewardship is all about money. Some even say the church spells the word with a dollar sign - Stewardship. But the truth is, the word stewardship has too often been hijacked by our culture. I'm guessing that as a pastor you get much the same mail I get. And too often a solicitor will ask if you want to improve your Sunday Collections by having a stewardship campaign? But you and I know the difference; fundraising and stewardship are different.

It is time we reclaim the concept of stewardship and seek to understand its true Christian meaning. Far from being comprehensive in this short article, I'd like to simply recall what a

steward is, define stewardship, point out that Jesus Christ is the Greatest Steward, and comment on how we are called to be stewards because we are called to be disciples.

**What is a Steward?** A steward is someone who takes care of someone else's stuff. Here are four modern day examples of stewardship. A daycare provider is responsible for other people's children. A finance broker oversees other people's investments. From the movie "Batman", Alfred the butler is in charge of Bruce Wayne's entire estate. As priests, under the authority of our bishops or other superiors, we are stewards of the parishes or ministries we serve. In essence, though we seldom use the word steward in our day and age, everyone practices stewardship in everyday life. At times we all take care of someone else's stuff.

**What is Christian Stewardship?** Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, written in 1992, is perhaps the most read pastoral letter the USCCB has ever written. In brief summary, stewardship is the ability to recognize and receive God's gifts with gratefulness, to tend to his gifts with faithfulness, to share his gifts with generosity, and to return the gifts to the Lord with increase.

**Jesus Christ is the Greatest**

**Steward:** Jesus Christ, the second person of the Holy Trinity, has received everything from the Father. His Father is the source of everything. And he trustingly gives all things to his Only Begotten Son to take care of. Let's take a look at three things the Father puts in the care of Jesus Christ: Love, Creation, and Salvation.

**Steward of Love:** All Christians believe that God the Father gives his Only Begotten Son all of his infinite and eternal love. John tells us plainly in 3:35, "*The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him.*" So what is Jesus to do with the love the Father shares with him? Presumably he recognizes and receives it with gratefulness, tends to it with faithfulness, shares it with generosity, and freely returns it to the Father with increase.

In fact, the love between the Father and Son is so awesome it is the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Following St. Augustine's conclusion in De Trinitate, Book 8, the Father is the *Lover*, the Son is the *Beloved*, and the Holy Spirit is the gift of mutual *Love* they share.

By now you may be thinking, "I accept that Jesus receives and returns the Father's love, but how can he return the love of God, an infinite and eternal thing, with increase?" Here we must remember,

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# Dear Fraternity Brothers and Friends of the Priesthood

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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 Budget:  
**\$4,750.00**  
Actual Donations:  
**\$2,885.11**  
Budget Deficit:  
**\$1,864.89**

Current as of  
November 30, 2019.

Each year since I was ordained, I have made a Pilgrimage to Washington, DC for the March for Life. Over the years, we have experienced blizzards, single digit temperatures (°F), rain, sun, and occasionally sunny and in the 50s °F. Throughout all of this, the focus has been on peacefully protesting and praying to save the babies, healing for the families, and conversion for all involved in the abortion industry.

Over the years, I have come to realize more and more that the battle we fight about abortion is not just a political fight. It is not just a fight in the intellect over what can be proved scientifically or philosophically. It is not even merely an emotional fight. If it had been any of these, we would have won the fight years ago. Politically – more people are pro-life than pro-choice in the United States right now. In fact, with hundreds of thousands of people having consistently marched for over 45 years, we should have won this fight years ago! Intellectually – science and philosophy continue to show more and more detail about how (as Dr. Seuss would put it) a person’s a person, no matter how small. Even in the emotional realm we see that the fall-out of abortion hurts women, hurts families, hurts our society – it does not help them.

Yes, I have come to realize that this fight is “not with flesh and blood,” but is a spiritual fight – a battle “with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens” (Ephesians 6:12 NABRE). This means that to win this battle we need spiritual weapons. This looks like prayer, sacrifice, and surrender.

Every year, the March for Life is surrounded in prayer. Pilgrims and even those unable to attend the March, lift up Masses, Rosaries, Chaplets, hymns, and all other manner of prayer. It is my firm belief that prayer is far more effective than anything our “marching” will do. The politicians and, for the most part, the media have ignored the March, its number and its youth for decades now. God won’t ignore us! He hears our prayers and will bring victory in His perfect time.

The word sacrifice comes from the Latin *sacrum facere* – making holy. Our

sacrifices are making the moment holy. Over the years, we struggled through various weather conditions, long drives, sleepless nights, the chaos of huge crowds and other (minor) sufferings. As we offered them to the Lord to make them holy, they became a beautiful sacrifice to the Lord. These offered moments act as a magnifying glass to the Lord’s graces poured into the world. One year, Joe, a ten year-old boy, and his father went on the March with us. Joe was sick all day, and it was one of those really cold years. He was miserable. As we were thawing off on the bus at the end, I heard him ask his father, “Do you think we saved any babies today?” His father responded in the affirmative. Joe said, “Then it was all worth it!” Out of the mouths of babes! Yes, each suffering is worth it, if we offer it to God, making it holy!

Ultimately, after we march, we pray, we sacrifice, we have to surrender it all into God’s hands. We do everything we can but remember that it is never enough – God is the one who defeats the enemy! He loves to use us, but it is His power alone, not our own, that brings victory. Therefore, we have to surrender. As I mentioned last month, the Surrender Novena has meant so much to me. It is in surrendering, saying, “Jesus, You take care of it,” with confidence in His love, that He has the “room” to work miracles! As we move through the month of January, I invite you to take up arms – spiritual arms – to defend the weakest, the most innocent among us – the unborn. Pray, sacrifice, and surrender all to God. He will hear us, and bring an end to the scourge of abortion in our world.

Grace and Peace,



Fr. Von DeRosia



**Editor’s Note:** 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.

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“All things are possible for God.” (Mark 10:27) Consider this, Jesus generously shares his Father’s love with us and compels us to add our love to his own and thus returns it to the Father.

Scripture affirms this way of thinking. Jesus says, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower.” (John 15:1) Why do vine growers grow vines? To harvest grapes, i.e., “much fruit”. Jesus continues, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, ...” (John 15:5). If we are the branches, then we increase the yield when we stay on the vine. Obviously, it is not grapes the Father is growing, rather “... the fruit of the Spirit is love.” (Galatians 5:20) So Jesus sums up, “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.” (John 15:9) Thereby, love is increased and returned to the Father. Yes, Jesus Christ is the Greatest Steward of Love!

**Steward of Creation:** The truth that all of creation was created through the Second Person of the Trinity is well stated in the bible. “All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be.” (John 1:3) St. Paul takes it one step further in the pronouncement found in Colossians 1:16, “... all things were created through him and for him...” All things were made for Christ. And implicitly, he is required to take care of it.

Let’s go back to the beginning of scripture and recall Genesis 2:15, “The Lord God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it.” After the first Adam was created along with all other living things,

it was God’s will that he be the steward of the garden. Strictly speaking Adam did not possess it; it was still God’s garden.

So too, 1 Corinthians 15:45 refers to Jesus being the “last Adam.” By extension, from a more heavenly point of view, it is not a far fetch to see how, in a typology sort of way, the second Adam was taken from eternity to be settled in the garden of creation. It is for him to cultivate and take care of it. As he cares for creation, the living things are being fruitful, multiplying, and increasing creation. He is the Greatest Steward of Creation!

**Steward of Salvation:** “Jesus is the Father’s Emissary.” (CCC #858) It is the mission of the Father to have us return to him. He wants us to live with him in heaven and to share with him his divine life. In order to accomplish this, the Father sent Jesus to do his will as a missionary. That is, Jesus is a steward of his Father’s mission.

In short, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” (1 Timothy 1:15) Even in our Christmas narrative we hear, “She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21) Since we are most comfortable with preaching about Jesus Christ as Savior. It doesn’t seem necessary to say more than this here. Jesus is the Greatest Steward of the mission of the Father, our Salvation!

**We are Stewards:** As disciples, we are called to be like Jesus Christ, we are called to be stewards of God’s gifts. Let’s step through the same three topics addressed above: love, creation, and salvation.

Jesus said, “I give you a new commandment: love one another.

As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35) We love because we are loved by God. We are called to be stewards of love!

Mentioned already above, Genesis 2:15 declares, “The Lord God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it.” God created this beautiful planet for us. It belongs to him but he has asks that we take good care of it. We are called to be stewards of creation!

St. Paul emboldens us in Romans 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel. It is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: for Jew first, and then Greek.” We are to recognize and receive the gift of salvation, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9) Though it is Jesus who saves, we are to participate in the salvation of others by giving witness to the salvific glory of Christ. Consequently, disciples should never be embarrassed to talk about Jesus and what he has done for us. We are called to be stewards of salvation!

Let’s expand the minds of our people. Stewardship is so much more than talk about money. It is a disciple’s Way of Life!

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