

June 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Rev. John Bosco Eledi <i>West Africa</i>	Rev. Stephen Kangmenang <i>West Africa</i>	Rev. Stephen Kantubog <i>West Africa</i>	For the souls of our deceased FOP members	For prayer requests received	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. John Kpan <i>West Africa</i>	Rev. Evarist Kuuwulong <i>West Africa</i>	Rev. Peter Paul Langnedomah <i>West Africa</i>	Rev. Sylvester Nankpi <i>West Africa</i>	Rev. Romanus Tampah <i>West Africa</i>	Rev. Cyracus Tang <i>West Africa</i>	Rev. Benette Tang <i>West Africa</i>
Rev. Matthew Tuurosang <i>West Africa</i>	Rev. Fidelis Vielu <i>West Africa</i>	Rev. Giles Dimock OP <i>Washington, DC</i>	Msgr. Stan Jaworski <i>Winnipeg, MB</i>	Rev. Maurice Jeanneau <i>Winnipeg, MB</i>	Rev. Michael Nault <i>Winnipeg, MB</i>	Rev. Francois Paradis OMI <i>Winnipeg, MB</i>
Rev. Nicholas Weibl <i>Worcester, MA</i>	Rev. Jean-Paul Gagnon <i>Worcester, MA</i>	Rev. Greg Downs <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Dcn. Norman Gremillion <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. Harold Imamshah <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. Silverino Kwebuza <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. Martin Laird <i>Alexandria, LA</i>
Rev. Ron Matthews <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. John O'Brien <i>Alexandria, LA</i>	Rev. John Pardue <i>Alexandria, LA</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.

Fraternity of Priests, Inc.
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Email: contact@fraternityofpriests.org
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This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.
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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.



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

A Golden Jubilee

Father John G. Kiley – Boston Fraternity

In May of this year, along with my remaining classmates, I will observe the 50th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood. Twenty seven of us were ordained on May 23, 1970 by Bishop Jeremiah Minihan, an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Boston. Our Archbishop, Richard Cardinal Cushing, was ill and unable to participate in the ordination. He eventually died on November 2 of that same year. Since I am writing this article at a time when much of ministry has changed drastically because of the outbreak of the Coronavirus, how and when our class will celebrate this fifty-year milestone is at present rather uncertain. In fact several priests I know are now hospitalized with the virus. When we will get back to what is being termed “the new normal” is uncertain. However, in this article I would like to share some reflections on three themes that I trust will be helpful to priests in the thick of ministry, to those discerning a vocation to priesthood, and to our lay friends and supporters. I am profoundly grateful to God for the vocation to be a Catholic priest and despite times of difficulty and challenge it has been a wonderful life. I am especially thankful to priest friends and members of the laity who have encouraged, prayed, challenged, and supported me over the years. Amazingly so,

fifty years have passed rather swiftly.

1) **Be Ready for the Unexpected:** When ninety-two of us (I did say 92.) entered the first year of the archdiocesan seminary college in September of 1962, we probably had some definite expectations of what priestly life and ministry would be like. If we persevered through the eight years of seminary formation and were ordained, we would be celebrating Mass in Latin in a full church of active Catholics.

As was customary at that time in the Archdiocese of Boston, we would serve as parochial vicar (in those dates as curate), for about twenty five years. Next would come a pastorate perhaps in a small parish. If we did well, we would become pastor of a larger parish with one, two, or three priests to assist us. Never at that time did we envision the changes to come and the challenges of ministry in this present era. We could not foresee Mass in the vernacular, Vigil Masses, Married Deacons, Lay Ministers of Communion, Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, the decline and eventual closing of many Catholic Churches and Schools etc. If someone had spoken to us about a major falling away

from the faith and from regular participation at Mass in the near future, we would not have believed it. Never could we

have comprehended the changes that would take place in society and culture such as legalized abortion, same-sex “marriage”, assisted suicide etc. And of lesser importance, as we dutifully typed our term papers on manual and electric typewriters, computers and Microsoft Word were decades away. Fifty years brought many unexpected changes, some wonderful and some rather tragic.

2) **Be Ready to be Faithful in Difficult Times:** In less than a month of our entrance into the seminary the Second Vatican Council opened in Rome on October 11, 1962. We viewed the opening of the Council on a rather small TV in an auditorium. The Council brought great enthusiasm.

As we engaged in our studies for the priesthood, we were learning about the Documents of Vatican II and looking forward to a wondrous renewal of the Church. It was a time of great optimism in the Catholic Community. At the same time the situation in the world was rather bleak. We lived through the Cuban Crisis, the beginnings of the sexual revolution, the assassinations of President John F Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the issuance of Humanae Vitae by Pope Paul VI and its rejection by many prominent theologians and moralists. Our nation was divided over the Vietnam War. There was unrest on many college campuses. There was a

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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:

\$2,321.00

Budget Deficit:

\$2,429.00

Current as of
March 31, 2020.

In this month of May, the month of Mary, I thought it would be appropriate to speak about Consecration to Jesus through Mary. In my own life, Mary has always been there, but I remember as a young priest, a holy parishioner came to me and asked me, “Fr. Von, do you have a big devotion to Mary?” After a moment of embarrassed silence, I responded as truthfully as I could – I prayed the Rosary every day and I loved Mary, but didn’t have a particular devotion to her. My parishioner was surprised since she said that she saw Mary behind me when I celebrated Mass. The next day she came to me and told me, “I realized I see Mary behind you not because you have a devotion to her, but because she has a devotion to you.”

Since that time, I have learned to give myself more to Mary through various consecrations. I have done the nine-day preparation via St. Maximilian Kolbe (that was a good nonthreatening start), the thirty-three day consecration by St. Louis de Montfort (that was a bit more complicated and daunting), 33 Days to Morning Glory by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, and several others.

All of these consecrations helped me get closer to Mary – the Spouse of the Holy Spirit – so that I could get closer to Jesus. Within a few months of my first consecration, I found that I was praying hours in front of the Blessed Sacrament, bad habits that I had struggled to overcome for years disappeared, and my relationship with Jesus was closer than it had ever been.

In writing these articles, I have to submit them about a month before they appear in the mailbox. Everything with the Coronavirus has moved so quickly, I’m not sure what the state of the world will be by the time you

read this article. What I do know, though, is that St. Maximilian says that if we are consecrated to Mary, everything that does not come through our own will comes to us through her hands. Even if it comes from the evil will of another, it comes to us through her powerful and merciful hands.

In the midst of everything going on with the Coronavirus – suspension of public Masses, social distancing, stay-at-home orders, financial crunches in the parish, etc. – I have had to remember this. This all comes to me through Mary’s hands. And she is a gentle and loving mother. When I remember this truth of Mary’s maternal mediation, it gives me great peace.

I encourage you to entrust, or re-entrust, yourselves into Mary’s hands and heart. She is taking care of us. She has a special devotion to you. She will take care of us through this crisis and every other crisis that may come, if we allow her to hold us and draw us to the Heart of Jesus.

My prayers go out for all of you – the priests of the Fraternity, as well as those who receive our Newsletter.

Our retreat will be live-streamed this year due to issues with the Coronavirus. Stay tuned for more details.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Von DeRosia



Editor’s Note: Please send articles, comments, and photos to the our editor, Fr. Bob Carr, via e-mail to editor@fraternityofpriests.org. Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted.

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demonstration at our seminary that resulted in the expulsion of several of the seminarians. In May 1970, a few weeks before ordination, there were the shootings by the National Guard of four unarmed students at Kent State University in Ohio. They were part of a student demonstration protesting the US bombings in Cambodia. As we were preparing for priestly ministry in these troubling times, we also witnessed a number of our seminary professors leaving the priesthood. A disturbing question was: “What are we getting into that they are getting out of?”

This was also an era when prayer, devotions, and Mass were sometimes being downplayed in favor making social justice and serving the poor the main priority. It was difficult to keep a balance. With God’s grace twenty-seven of us faithfully persevered, were ordained, and went forth to begin parish ministry. As the years went on, perhaps the greatest challenge to fidelity and perseverance was the devastating sexual abuse scandal which we continue to live through. Yet God’s grace enables us to be faithful in difficult times.

3) Be Ready for the Surprises of the Holy Spirit: When Pope John XXIII announced that he was summoning the bishops of the world to Rome for an Ecumenical Council, he invited the whole Church to pray for a New Pentecost. Since the beginning of creation, throughout salvation history, and especially since the first Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has been at work in the world and among God’s People. Before Vatican II the Spirit was at work in movements of renewal and this became more evident following the Council. My life of faith and priestly ministry has been enriched and strengthened by

several of these movements. The Cursillo weekend helped me to witness God’s grace in action and to appreciate the close relationship that must exist between the priest and the lay members of the Church. I also came to appreciate that Jesus, besides being Lord and God, was also my brother.

Having grown up in a time when there was a certain overemphasis on the divine nature of Christ, I now grew in my understanding and appreciation of His human nature. Participating in Charismatic Prayer Meetings, at first reluctantly, opened my life to expectant faith in the presence and work of the Holy Spirit. Regular participation in the Annual Conferences for Priests at the Franciscan University of Steubenville rerouted me in the graces of priesthood and encouraged my perseverance in priestly ministry.

One presentation that I have never forgotten and that has greatly influenced my life and ministry was a talk given by Father Francis Martin at the conference in June of 1978 entitled “The Normal Christians Life.” Fr. Martin expounded on what he termed the “characteristics of the normal Christian life”: 1) commitment to Jesus as Lord 2) living in a conscious awareness of the power of the Holy Spirit 3) sharing in a network of committed relationships (persons with whom we share our faith and both give and received encouragement) 4) outreach in evangelization and service of the poor 5) working for Christian unity and striving to live in unity. An important outgrowth of these conferences was the establishment of the International Fraternity of Priests. Meeting together in Fraternity groups could be a means of keeping alive the graces received through the conferences. Meeting

with brother priests weekly over the past twenty-nine years and serving as a Fraternity Board Member and briefly as Chairperson of the Fraternity has certainly challenged me to be faithful to daily prayer and the various disciplines of the Fraternity. A special word of gratitude and appreciation is due to the various members of our Boston Fraternity Group who have assisted me over the years in being faithful to the Lord and to the priesthood.

These are some brief reflections on my life and ministry as a priest over the past fifty years. Whether we are priests, deacons, laity, or persons discerning a vocation to ministry, we continue to live during these weeks and months of the Coronavirus. We are facing a future with many unknowns. Be ready for the unexpected! Be ready to be faithful with the assistance of God’s grace in difficult times! Be ready and open to the continuing surprises of the Holy Spirit!

Let me conclude with some scriptures that I find important and consoling as we live through these difficult days. Matthew 1:22, 23 (All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Behold the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel” which means “God is with us.” Matthew 28:20 (And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.) Hebrews 13:8 (Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.) Through prayer may the Lord Jesus strengthen our faith and grant us the grace to know and experience the truths contained in the pages of the scriptures.

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