



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

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

September 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Rev. 1 Michael Shea CM Grand Rapids	Rev. 2 Robert Hilz T.O.R. Greensburg, PA	Rev. 3 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	Rev. 4 For prayer requests received	Rev. 5 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Msgr. 6 Cyril Lamontagne VG Grenada	Rev. 7 Robert Grant Hartford, CT	Rev. 8 Paul Halovatch Hartford, CT	Rev. 9 Joseph Looney Hartford, CT	Rev. 10 Will-Roger Malave Hartford, CT	Rev. 11 Robert Rousseau Hartford, CT	Rev. 12 Francis Dabre India
Rt. Rev. Dr. 13 Bryan Eyman Indianapolis, IN	Rev. 14 Harold Knueven Indianapolis, IN	Rev. 15 Paul Landwerlen Indianapolis, IN	Rev. 16 George Joseph Nangachiveetill Indianapolis, IN	Rev. 17 Thomas Cawley C.M. Kansas City, MO	Rev. 18 Earl Dekat Kansas City, MO	Rev. 19 Roderic Giller OSB Kansas City, MO
Rev. 20 Rheal Forest Manitoba, Canada	Rev. 21 Timothy Ekaitis Marquette, MI	Rev. 22 Ryan Ford Marquette, MI	Rev. 23 Christopher Gardiner Marquette, MI	Rev. 24 Benjamin Hasse Marquette, MI	Rev. 25 Jeff Johnson Marquette, MI	Rev. 26 Aaron Nowicki Marquette, MI
Rev. 27 Brandon Oman Marquette, MI	Rev. 28 Darryl Pepin Marquette, MI	Rev. 29 Michael Steber Marquette, MI	Rev. 30 Larry Van Damme Marquette, MI			

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

Dear Fr. Von DeKosia, \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Reflections Since February

Written by Fr. Fr Robert J. Carr

February was the last time it was my turn to write the article. Our world changed radically between that time and today. I am sure you received a few people asking you if we are looking at the end times. Others ask if we could be experiencing a chastisement. Well, that is a different issue. Could God be chastising us? Maybe? But why?

Doing my research for my homily this week, I found citations in the Catechism of the Catholic Church that led me to the final disposition of evil doers. The immediate question for me was: "What is an evil doer?" Obviously, someone who does evil. How do we define evil? If we do not understand that, we will not understand what an evil doer is. Evil doers who surround a saint will label him the evil doer in their midst.

If we are going to talk about chastisement, then we need to understand for what we would be chastised. We can begin by defining the words evil doer.

The term comes up in consistently in the Pentateuch in light of those who do evil because they have turned from God and turned towards idols. It is so serious that God calls those who lead others to practice any form

of idolatry to be evil. He demands that they be treated accordingly.

For example, in the book Deuteronomy, the Lord warns that even if a person who practices powerful signs and prophecies that manifest and even come true but tries to get you to follow another god, that person is evil for he is leading you astray.

In Chapter 28, The Lord promises curses upon those who forsake Him for this is the source of evil.

In Chapter 30, death and evil are the fruit of forsaking the Lord's way and rejecting His commandments.

The list goes on. The fact is that all evil begins with forsaking the Lord, turning from Him and in the process seeking other gods. This is what evil doers do first.

It makes sense because if God is the embodiment of wisdom and we forsake Him, we walk away from the source of wisdom and seek another lesser source. True Wisdom can only be found in God and no where else. So where do we go when we seek our wisdom elsewhere? To a not so wise place.

This becomes the important point because we look around at our country and we can see the great disruption that is going on in various cities. We listen to

people claim the cause is that group of people over here or that other group over there. We can say it is because of the leftists, the alt-right, the supreme court, the universities, the liberals, conservatives and everyone else. However, if we were to consult the source of our troubles, the ancients would say our country abandoned the fount of wisdom—Christ Himself.

We do that when we only give lip service to Christ and do not make Him a part of our lives completely, but claim we do.

I always remind my parishioners that the way Jesus condemns is not by casting sinners into Hell, per se, but in saying: "I never knew you." In the one part of the Gospels where he casts people into Hell, Matthew 25, what actually happens is the people say to Him: "But Lord we never knew you."

If we were to assume we are undergoing a chastisement then the next question would be: for what reason are we being chastised? The answer would lead us back to the question: Where is God in our nation and our community and even our parishes. Have we abandoned God?

When we understand the messages to the Old Testament Hebrews from the prophets, God was not an option that would

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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:

**\$2,237.76**

Budget Deficit:

**\$2,512.24**

Current as of  
June 30, 2020.

Looking ahead, August 28th is the Memorial of St. Augustine of Hippo. As I ponder his upcoming feast day, I remember his profound words: “You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee” (*Confessions*, 1.1.1). This line strikes me whenever I hear it, and I think is worth meditating on.

Whenever I wonder about the meaning of life, I always go back to the definition of why God made me: “God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in the next” (*Baltimore Catechism* Question 6). This is the heart of who we are – God made us for Himself. Everything we do, ultimately, needs to be directed toward this end – knowing, loving, and serving God. A good examination of conscience might be to look at how our thoughts, words and actions point us to this end.

The beautiful thing is that we do have purpose – God made us for Himself. He loves us not because we are good, but because *He* is good! No matter how broken and sinful we are, it doesn’t change our dignity – we were made for God; *we are loved by God!*

Then we get to the second part of the St. Augustine’s quote – we are restless until we rest in Him. We are loved. Nothing can change that. We have the incredible dignity of being children of God by our baptism, and (for those who are priests) a special call to intimate friendship with Him by our ordination. Yet we so often try to fill ourselves with the world. God knows us so intimately, that He knows that nothing apart from Him will satisfy! As we sin, as we fill ourselves with the world, as we seek anything that is “not-God” to fill our “God-

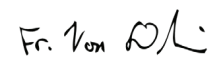
shaped hole,” He watches us and says, “Come back to Me.” He doesn’t do this because He is a control freak, but because He loves us and wants our happiness ... and knows that nothing, **NOTHING**, will

be able to satisfy us but Himself. We run around trying to fill ourselves, yet our hearts cry out like Bono, “I still haven’t found what I’m looking for!”

A couple of years ago, I read Ralph Martin’s book *The Fulfillment of All Desire: A Guidebook for the Journey to God Based on the Wisdom of the Saints* (it is well worth the read). Just the title stirs up my soul, as I realize again that my desires are seeking fulfillment, but they will remain restless as long as they don’t rest in God.

Take the time *now* (because “now” is the only time we have), to direct your heart to God. Rest in Him, again. Find, again, in Him the fulfillment of your heart’s desire! I encourage you, if you have fallen away from the discipline of the daily holy hour, recommit yourself to this intimate time with God. He will not disappoint. In this time, He convicts our heart, but cries out *mercy*; He wounds, but He heals. All so that He can fill the emptiness within us and give rest to our restless hearts.

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](mailto:editor@fraternityofpriests.org). Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted.

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give us a better life. God was the source of life and without Him, the prophets and others speaking for God would warn that their nation would be lost. However, today, we hear of God as an option. Jesus teaches that there is a truth to this. We can live a good life without God, that is until everything goes wrong and then we lose everything altogether. Remember in the parable of the houses built on rock and sand, the one who builds his house on sand can live a fine life until the storm comes then he loses everything.

I am in Boston and am surrounded by the famous institutions that are pillars of this city. In fact, I am not far from the famous Harvard Coliseum and the business school. Just the other side of the nearby Charles River is the Harvard Campus. Boston University is down the street. There are many more world class universities just beyond the circumference of these places of higher learning. Many are also known for a form of atheism that teaches we evolved to the point we do not need God anymore.

Beyond Harvard as we move northwest is the academic home of one of the three most famous world class atheists who teaches that one does not have to believe in God to know right from wrong. True to a point. That is until our respective anthropologies clash. I do not need to believe in God to know that murder is wrong. I do need to believe in God to love and forgive the enemy who hates me. The source of the most profound well of wisdom cannot be found

in these institutions. It can only be found in union with God. If we turn from God and turn toward those whom we consider wiser than God, we commit the same act of idolatry that got the ancient Hebrews in trouble even though we are not turning to a false deity.

It is ironic that if we are being chastised, it might be because we sought a replacement for God in science. I do not mean replacing science with faith, but we believe in faith and science and faith and reason. Our society does not believe in both but only one or the other. If we embrace one without the other we will dehumanize ourselves.

Experts say we need to wear masks and not go outside. Scientists tell us that they will save us if we only listen to them. This is dehumanizing. We clearly have to do this because to do otherwise is to fight a battle that is not ours to fight. We learn of people hospitalized that cannot even receive visitors. We learn of difficulties bringing the sacrament of the sick and we know that even today churches are shut down.

We cannot fight as some are doing by refusing to wear masks and other things. We will win the battle but lose the war. It just does not work. We will be like the man on YouTube who went to the supermarket and refused to wear a mask. He yelled at anyone who told him to wear one. Security escorted him out of the supermarket. Therefore, he went there to do food shopping and walked out empty handed. He won his battle but he lost the war.

So how do respond? What is

the source of evil again? If we were being chastised, why would it be happening? Because we turn from God to become a prosperous nation. We can only find true peace when we turn to the source of all creation. We can find it nowhere else.

Working to make sure our laws are in accords with the Ten Commandments is really not where to go. Making sure our values meet traditional values is also not the solution. Leading others to submit to our morality is not going to do it either. It may seem like the right thing to do, but there is no relationship with God in any of those things and that is required.

The greatest source of strength for us, the Lord says, is to humbly approach Him. That is indeed what we must do. We must recognize that even if this were to be a chastisement, it would be only so that we can draw closer to Him and get back on the right path.

Before this time, many people were too busy to go to Mass now few people are busy at all. The Lord may be calling us to come back when the lockdown ends. We can listen to all the experts we need, whether we agree with them or not, but first we must turn to the Lord and humbly submit to His will. Then we will be in touch with the ultimate source of wisdom, God Himself.

So maybe our response is to pray and call our communities to pray that this unique time in world history will lead us all back to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For that is solution to all forms of chastisements throughout history.

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

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