

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

| November 2020 | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Rev. Nicholas Mastrangelo Pittsburgh, PA | Rev. Kenneth Oldenski Pittsburgh, PA | Rev. Thomas Sparacino Pittsburgh, PA | Rev. John Sweeney Pittsburgh, PA | For the souls of our deceased FOP members | For prayer requests received | For our Holy Father, Pope Francis |
| Rev. Paul Zywan Pittsburgh, PA | Msgr. Cuthbert Alexander Port-of-Spain | Rev. Gerard Bernier. Port-of-Spain | Rev. Rignald DeFour Port-of-Spain | Rev. Raymond Francis Port-of-Spain | Rev. Clifford Graham Port-of-Spain | Rev. Harold Imammshah Port-of-Spain |
| Rev. Dwight Merrick Port-of-Spain | Rev. Ian Taylor Port-of-Spain | Rev. John Theodore CSSP Port-of-Spain | Rev. John Dreher Providence, RI | Rev. Robert Giardina Providence, RI | Rev. Wilfred Gregoire Providence, RI | Rev. Michael Kelley Providence, RI |
| Rev. Roland Lepire Providence, RI | Rev. Michael Roy Providence, RI | Rev. Gerry Sabourin Providence, RI | Rev. Terry Brenon San Angelo, TX | Rev. Robert Bush San Angelo, TX | Rev. Bernard Gully San Angelo, TX | Rev. Santiago Udayar San Angelo, TX |
| Rev. William McCarthy Sioux City, IA | Rev. Edward Burian Sioux Falls, SD | | | | | |

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
<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

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\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

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.

What Should We Preach in 2021

By Fr. Robert J. Carr - Boston Fraternity

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend an online seminar sponsored by the National Review Institute and Ignatius Press. The occasion was the release of George Weigel's latest book: *The Next Pope The Office of Peter and a Church in Mission*. (Ignatius Press 2020)

Panelists were Mr. Weigel, Francis Maier, Fr. Robert Imbelli and Mary Ellen Bork and they discussed the issues that the next pope may have to face in the Church.

Two of the basic elements that came out of the discussion are the need to focus more on a Christ centered Catholicism and the need to preach as the early Christians evangelized. This seems to echo Pope Benedict XV's thoughts one hundred years ago. He too called for a church that took the early apostles' preaching as the model and demonstrated just how effective they were with the way so many lives changed.

The other element that came out of the seminar was concern that too many are preaching morality without teaching about knowing Christ. Mary Ellen Bork in fact asked that we preach more about prayer.

"I've never heard a homily except once on a retreat about contemplation. We cannot conform

ourselves to Christ and allow God's grace to work in us unless we learn how to pray."

George Weigel explained that the only book of Church history inspired by the Holy Spirit is the Acts of the Apostles and that ends with a shipwreck. He said that this was the sign to the apostles to continue the mission.

"The shipwreck becomes the occasion to extend the mission to venues," he explained.

The implication is that we too have to get back to that vision and spirit of the early disciples. We need to embrace the ways of those whose hearts were on fire after meeting Christ and the early apostles and Church leaders. It seems to be a theme I am hearing regularly in various venues online and in other places.

This may give us a direction for our preaching as we start closing in on the new liturgical year at the end of next month.

It seems Catholics want to hear more about how to know Christ, how to understand him within the context of the personal relationship that he offers us and how to live as his disciples. While others outside of the Church see us only as a system of morality.

As I write this, the world is preparing for the next set of hearings coming up mid-month for the next

supreme court nominee—Judge Amy Coney Barrett, a Catholic woman.

While the congress of the United States and the world media get ready to hear her testimony, the rest of us prepare to see the hearings play themselves out, who we Catholics truly are will be a focus in the minds of many. Some will go by assumptions of us they long maintained. One late night cable-only host already labeled her a nut. This despite the fact that the senate recently confirmed her for the bench just a few years ago in service to the appellate court.

How will people see us and how will we respond during this rather unique time? Will neighbors, friends and co-workers ask us questions based on the hearings and the news coverage? Will events confirm their assumptions of what it means to be Catholic or will they be challenged?

The late night host calling her a nut brings us right to the words of St. Paul who said that the gentiles, the non-believers would see Christ as foolishness.

Meanwhile, these events may lead us to show people the Christ of the Gospels. While some see our faith as a system of morality, others equate church teaching with an ecumenical pursuit of justice. Indeed, as I was preparing to write this, I received a request to post an announcement

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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:

\$4,706.20

Budget Deficit:

\$43.80

Current as of
August 31, 2020.

October has traditionally been dedicated to the Holy Rosary. It is a beautiful time to recommit ourselves to Our Lady through the Holy Rosary. In the Rosary, I have many times found myself walking through the Mysteries of Christ's life, guided by the hand of Mary. The Rosary has been a consolation in my darkness, a strength in my trials, and (more often than not) a call to conversion in my complacency.

As the Fraternity of Priests, we are committed to proclaiming the Visitation Message. The Visitation Message is that God is visiting His people as with a new Pentecost. Mary was the first tabernacle of the presence of the God-man. Mary is the spouse of the Holy Spirit. Mary was present at Pentecost, both assisting the Disciples in receiving the new outpouring of the Holy Spirit and receiving a grace for herself to be the Mother of the Church. As such, Mary is an incredible advocate to help us in our priestly ministry of sharing the Visitation Message. By praying the Holy Rosary, we draw closer to Mary as she brings us closer to her Spouse, the Holy Spirit.

The Dominicans hold that Our Lady gave fifteen promises of the Rosary (as found on themostholyroary.com/15promises.htm). May these promises reinvigorate our love of the Rosary!

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall receive signal graces.

2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.

3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.

4. The Rosary will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities and will lift them to the desire for eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.

5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall not perish.

6. Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God and become worthy of eternal life.

7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.

8. Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the light of God and the plenitude of His graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.

9. I shall deliver from Purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.

10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in Heaven.

11. You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary.

12. All those who propagate the Holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.

13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.

14. All who recite the Rosary are my sons and daughters, and brothers and sisters of my only Son Jesus Christ.

15. Devotion of my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

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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in our bulletin as an invitation to another seminar that focuses on exactly that theme with prominent Catholic priests and leaders of non-Catholic denominations. It would seem that these are important themes, but we need to introduce people to Christ first.

Today, we see the world is looking at the United States caught up in a division at least as fierce as the violence that struck our country one hundred years ago. In fact, I just finished an article for Medium on a 1910 upstate New York paper mill strike that led to the national guard troops moving in and strikers using explosives to stop trains carrying replacement workers. I could not help but think how similar the world was then to now.

It would seem that events of today are the fruit of a world that knows of Christ and does not know Christ. I truly believe these are calls to change our mission so that more people may encounter the Christ of the Gospels.

The call to teach about prayer is so important. Francis Maier said that a friend of his over the years heard many homilies. Some were good and some were not but half of them were on morality.

I often warn people that you can be an atheist and live Catholic morality. To call people to a deeper relationship with Christ may be a good focus for the year. This would help people see Catholicism as it truly is—an encounter with Christ and not a system of morality. Living the virtuous life is the fruit of our encounter with Christ. We pursue it so that we may draw closer to Christ. We seek virtue while we avoid vice so that we may encounter

Christ more clearly.

If you look at the prologue of John and embrace the spirit of the author and his community, you feel the excitement in their words. You can imagine the expression on their faces as they begin to explain to others what it was like to know Jesus, how his words changed them from the first syllable, how he was not like anyone else. Their whole worldview changed once they encountered Christ. They understood their lives and their future differently. Once they realized the world is bigger than they imagined, truth is more profound than they assumed and God is more real than the culture understood, everything changed in their lives.

One of the venues I write in, Medium, is filled with people who hate Christians and even more hate Catholics. However, only the fool does not listen to his or her critics. When I read what they say, I realize they reflect what they hear and understand about who we are and who we say they are.

As much as I hate the initials WWJD, I believe it might be time for us to ask how would Jesus address these people. Many say that he would be nice and friendly with them and no more. I do not believe it is an accurate picture. He may instead lead them to understand who he truly is and in doing so change their comprehension of whom they truly are. His teaching led many sinners to become as St. Paul says—new men (and women).

We will have a new challenge in the next year as we move through what will be a turbulent period through the election and beyond. There are many sides in the current fights in our country. We must not

be in them but we must offer the solution to the division and that is Christ.

Our preaching next year may be more important than in years past. It may be a call for people to change just as in the early centuries. They changed from the inside out, from the heart and soul to their behavior. They changed because they met Christ and he completely renewed their whole understanding.

Our Gospel next year is Mark. I call it the bare bones Gospel. It is shorter than the others and if you look carefully, the evangelist does not give as many details as you can find in the later gospels.

This gives us the opportunity to fill in the blanks and to create our homilies based not only on what the gospel says but what we gleaned from our understanding of the times.

As I write this, the AP is beginning to describe the expression of Catholicism in which Amy Coney Barrett participates. She belongs, says the news service, to a community of Catholics who have “a personal relationship” with Jesus. The reporter obviously does not know that this defines Catholicism.

Unfortunately, neither do many other Catholics who long ago stopped practicing the faith. They never fully understood what we believe. Bringing people to know how to pray, to deepen their understanding of Catholicism and their baptismal call may be some good themes for the upcoming year as we go through the Gospel of Mark.

Now would be a good time to reflect on a possible theme for the year and what we hope to accomplish by Thanksgiving 2021.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

