

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

January 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. Francois Paradis OMI Winnipeg					For prayer requests received	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. Isaac Fynn Tucson, AZ	Rev. John Gonzales Tucson, AZ	Rev. James Hobert Tucson, AZ	Rev. Bill Kohler Tucson, AZ	For the souls of our deceased FOP members	Rev. Liam Leahy Tucson, AZ	Rev. Domenico Pinti Tucson, AZ
Rev. Thomas Quirk Tucson, AZ	Rev. Ray Ratzenberger Tucson, AZ	Most Rev. Vitalij Skomarovski Ukraine	Rev. Gervase Angsotinge Wa, West Africa	Rev. Leo Dabuoh Wa, West Africa	Rev. John Bosco Eledi Wa, West Africa	Rev. Stephen Kangmennaang Wa, West Africa
Rev. Stephen Kantubog Wa, West Africa	Rev. John Kpan Wa, West Africa	Rev. Evarist Kuuwulong Wa, West Africa	Rev. Peter Paul Langnedomah Wa, West Africa	Rev. Sylvester Nankpi Wa, West Africa	Rev. Romanus Tampah Wa, West Africa	Rev. Cyracus Tang Wa, West Africa
Rev. Benette Tang Wa, West Africa	Rev. Matthew Tuurosong Wa, West Africa	Rev. Fidelis Vielu Wa, West Africa	Rev. Giles Dimock OP Washington, DC	Msgr. Stan Jaworski Winnipeg	Rev. Maurice Jeanneau Winnipeg	Rev. Michael Nault Winnipeg

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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Email: contact@fraternityofpriests.org
<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

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 _____

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.

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

Dear Fr. Von DeKosia,

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



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Examining the Foundation

By John G. Kiley - Boston Fraternity

If you own a home or have the responsibility for the upkeep of a building, as many of us do as pastors/administrators of parishes, it is essential to regularly examine the foundation. Everything may appear wonderful to the naked eye, but if the foundation is decaying, possible disaster is looming around the corner.

Jesus himself once taught a lesson on this very subject. In Matthew 7:24-17 and again in Luke 6:46-49 we have a lesser known parable, the Parable of the Two Builders. The first person builds on a firm rock foundation, the second builds on sand. Both houses are seriously buffeted by storms. The first house stands strong, the second collapses. Jesus then explains that he is not speaking about a material house, but about our lives. Building on rock is hearing the Word of God and integrating it into our lives. Building on sand is hearing, but not doing.

In this article I would like to invite you to examine the foundation of your Fraternity Group. Have you built and are you continuing to build on rock? Is your Fraternity strong and growing or stagnant and diminishing? Examining again the foundation, the original Fraternity Vision, may be what is needed. Embracing what religious orders were asked to accomplish at

the time of Vatican II can be helpful. Recall that each religious order was challenged to go back to the vision of the founder and the original charism of the community and seek how that vision can be lived out in contemporary society. While the Fraternity is not a religious order, going back to our roots under the guidance of the Holy Spirit can bring about new life and growth.

The International Fraternity of Priests was begun in 1983 as an outgrowth of the yearly conferences for priests held at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. The Boston Fraternity of which I am a member traces its beginning to 1988. The Boston group began as the result of a Fraternity Conference led by a priest from Visitation House in Steubenville. Several of our present members were part of that original conference. The talks were recorded and during our weekly meetings we are listening again to those presentations. We are in agreement that the talks given in 1988 are now as relevant today, if not more relevant, in view of what we are living through in the world and in the Church.

Let me now offer several important aspects of the Fraternity vision for your prayerful reflection and discussion in your gatherings:

1) *The Fraternity is called to*

be a "committed brotherhood". At ordination diocesan priests become part of a local presbyterate in union with the bishop. Priests in religious orders belong to a community. This is correct theology, but all too often not our lived experience. Especially today when many priests, especially diocesan priests, are alone in a parish or ministering in several parishes, priestly fraternity is essential. It can be a matter of life or death. In my own Archdiocese of Boston, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, is continually urging every priest to be part of a support group. Let me state that while the Fraternity of Priests offers outstanding support, it is much more than a support group. We are a committed brotherhood. We are called to encourage each other to a deeper and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We are to facilitate the empowerment of our priesthood by the Holy Spirit especially for evangelization and the renewal of parishes and institutions. We are called to come to know and love each other. We are to share our lives honestly and openly in our small groups. We are to be there for a brother in need. We are to be available to one another beyond the time of the official meeting. *How is "committed brotherhood" being lived out presently in your local Fraternity?*

2) *"Relatio" before "Missio"* This

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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:

\$2,040.00

Budget Deficit:

\$2,710.00

Current as of
October 31, 2020.

December is here. Another year is nearly past. This year has been... interesting, to say the least. We all had such great hope and expectation for 2020... and I've heard many say that it has let us down. I would say that it's certainly been a far different year than any I've experienced in my life.

Have we given up on 2020? Do we think it was a waste of a year?

Or do we have eyes to see as God sees. I remember in the Virtual Fraternity Conference this summer, Dr. Mary Healy shared with us that on January 1st she'd had a word from the Lord that "2020 is a year of clear vision... this is a year of seeing into the unseen realm, and this is a year of the healing of blindness, both spiritual and physical blindness." If this is true, then it means that God is still working and He has a plan for all of this. I think that we can all agree that He is still working. Do we see the world through worldly eyes or with eyes of faith? Do we recognize how God is bringing clarity to us about who we are and how we follow Him?

I encourage you, as we come close to the close of this year, to take some time to reflect on what God has been teaching you, showing you this year. Maybe take out your prayer journal and journey through the past year reviewing the words the Lord has spoken to you and how He has shaped you. Some questions on which to reflect (directed for priests, but any of our readers to tailor them to themselves):

-What have I learned about myself in the face of a pandemic – how much fear resides in me? How much trust?

-What have I learned about my self-identity, especially in times of isolation and quarantine? Is my identity as a

priest wrapped up in what I do? Do I depend on the affirmation of my ministry? Or is my identity based on *who* I am – *being* a priest, not doing priestly things?

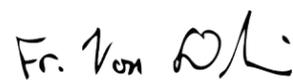
-How has 2020 stretched my comfort zones of ministry?

-How have I reacted to the change of life and schedule in 2020? Have I used it to get closer to God or to waste time?

When I ponder my own ups and downs, my struggles and failures, I can sometimes get discouraged. However, I remember the truth – God knows about all of this. He is using it to show us something about ourselves. **He made us for this time!** Always remember that when God made you, chose you, loved you into existence, He knew that you would be here in 2020, He knew all of the circumstances of your life. He knew that He would be able to use you in this time.

May you always know God's great love for you, and may you have eyes to see clearly all that God is doing in your life... this year and in the years to come.

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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was a well-known phrase in the early days of the Fraternity. It simply means that our relationships take priority over our mission. Relationship with the Lord and with our brother priests comes before our ministry or work. This is extremely challenging for many of us. A present danger in view of the shortage of priests is that our work becomes all consuming. Work or ministry can become an idol in our lives.

We are meant to model our lives on the Trinity. The Trinity is about relationship. The Trinity is a community of persons. Out of Trinitarian life the Father sends the Son on mission. Father and Son send the Holy Spirit on mission. Relationships come first. What keeps alive our relationship with the Lord? It is the committed extended hour of prayer each day, an essential Fraternity discipline. This hour is in addition to the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. *(It is acceptable to pray the appropriate liturgical hour during this committed prayer time.)* What is the excuse of many priests that keeps them from regular prayer? I don't have time. I have so much to do. What keeps alive our relationship with our brothers? It is the commitment to attend Fraternity meetings regularly and to be on time and not to miss except for a serious reason. We make our prayer time (relationship with the Lord) a daily priority and we schedule our ministry/work around the regular Fraternity gathering (relationship with our brothers). An honest discussion on "Relatio before Missio" may be in order. **How is "relatio before missio" presently happening in my personal life and in the life of my Fraternity?**

3) **The Fraternity Has a Mission**
Participating in the Fraternity is not only for our personal growth and support, but also meant to equip us with the power of the Holy Spirit that we may effectively evangelize and empower our people with the Holy Spirit. We minister to bring about the Reign or Kingdom of God in our lives and in our world. We work to bring about spiritual renewal in our parishes and institutions. We may need to review in our groups the "Visitation Message" that God has been and is at work in the world pouring out the Holy Spirit as in a New Pentecost. (cf. [visoldtest.pdf](#) and [visnewtest.pdf](#) under Member Login Additional Fraternity Teachings on www.fraternityofpriests.com and also *One Lord, One Spirit, One Body* by Peter Hocken) **Does your local Fraternity presently not only enrich your personal life as a priest, but encourage and challenge you to evangelize and bring about renewal in the power of the Holy Spirit?**

4) **Is Fraternity Growing?** Growth in faith and in love of God, our brothers, and the people we serve is without question essential. What about numerical growth? When we read the Acts of the Apostles, we frequently come across the statement that more people are continually added to the community. In the early days, the Fraternity of Priests had astounding growth. It is amazing how many Fraternity Groups began in the United States and in other countries during the first five or six years. Certainly, one human reason was the team of priests living at Visitation House in Steubenville. They were on the road spreading the word and establishing local Fraternities. Due to changing times

and the shortage of priests we no longer have such a team doing Fraternity work fulltime. However, what are we doing to promote growth? Do we pray that the Lord will send us more brothers? Do we invite priests to "come and see"? Does our local diocese, presbyterate, religious community know that we exist? Do we invite seminarians? How necessary it is to reach out beyond our group, always recognizing that it is God who gives the growth. You, our wonderful lay supporters who pray for us and support the Fraternity financially, can also assist by prayer and by helping priests that you know to learn about the Fraternity. **Is your Fraternity group presently growing and are you committed to spreading the good news of the graces and blessing that come to you through the Fraternity of Priests?**

There are other important aspects of the Fraternity Vision that could not be covered in this article. My hope is that I have offered some important points for prayerful reflection and discussion. You are reading this Newsletter during the Advent Season as we celebrate a new liturgical year in the life of the Church. What a wonderful time to review aspects of the Fraternity Vision and pray that the Lord will continue to bless the Fraternity of Priests and as needed inject new life into our gatherings. While I focused this article on priests, the Fraternity has also been blessed in places with the presence of deacons and seminarians. I trust that as deacon or seminarian you will adjust these reflections to your own lives and ministries. To each of you, clergy and laity alike, may the Lord grant you a blessed Advent and a grace filled Christmas and New Year.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____
