

April 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	2 For prayer requests received	3 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. Dale Kinzler Fargo, ND	Rev. Donald Leiphon Fargo, ND	Rev. Gary Luiten Fargo, ND	Rev. Msgr. Dennis Skonseng Fargo, ND	Rev. Edmund Sylvia CSC South Bend, IN	Rev. Peter Pienaa Donzing Ghana	Rev. Robert Sackey Ghana
Rev. Charles Antekeier Grand Rapids, MI	Rev. James Bozung Grand Rapids	Rev. George Fekete Grand Rapids	Rev. Thomas Hack Grand Rapids	Rev. Donald Lomasiewicz Grand Rapids	Rev. Mark Mitchell Grand Rapids	Rev. Ayub Nasar Grand Rapids
Rev. Michael Shea CM Grand Rapids	Rev. Robert Hilz T.O.R. Greensburg, PA	Msgr. Cyril Lamontagne VG Grenada	Rev. Robert Grant Hartford, CT	Rev. Paul Halovatch Hartford, CT	Rev. Joseph Looney Hartford, CT	Rev. Will-Roger Malave Hartford, CT
Rev. Robert Rousseau Hartford, CT	Rev. Francis Dabre India	Rt. Rev. Dr. Bryan Eyman Indianapolis, IN	Rev. Harold Knueven Indianapolis, IN	Rev. Paul Landwerlen Indianapolis, IN	Rev. George Joseph Nangachiveetill Indianapolis, IN	

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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Steubenville, OH 43952-5442

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

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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.

\$ _____ Other \$ \$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.

Evangelizing During COVID

By Fr. Dwight Merrick - Trinidad/Tobago Fraternity

For years many of us have complained that our Catholic Church has been more preoccupied with maintenance than with the authentic mission of the church. Then came the pandemic and those opportunities usually available for evangelizing disappeared. But maybe there are new ones emerging.

Over the months of January and February 2020, my parishioners were taken through an evangelization course based on the book "JPII and the New Evangelization". In response, our largest congregation back then swelled from 135 to approximately 200. Inquiries suggested that it was this topic of evangelization which brought out the new people.

Then came the pandemic, the lockdowns and the minimal opportunity to attend church. At my parish however, the Holy Mass streamed on our Facebook page at six o'clock every morning, in addition, to a holy hour from 5-6pm each evening. Our overall attendance, like every other parish, has seen a shown a decline in attendance due to safety concerns and limited church capacity.

Almost one year later, our parish income is phenomenal, all things considered. Our churches cannot accommodate those who want to attend with social distancing.

Thus, a fourth mass is soon to be introduced at the main church and an extension is being effected at another chapel thus doubling its capacity.

In terms of new projects regarding spirituality, the entire parish since the start of 2021 has been engaging the Life in The Spirit Seminar.

The homilies have been tweaked to deliver the Life in The Spirit talks, the entrance hymn is replaced by a praise and worship session, and some 20-30 minutes after communion dedicated to "ministry". In Trinidad, these seminars usually include a repentance or healing session. We have both. Over the weekends of February, we plan on invoking the Holy Spirit over our congregations.

With over 300 persons attending parish weekend masses, focus and special attendance is being given to first time attendees of this seminar. Though difficult to assess, we feel sure that no harm and only good can come from our tweaked seminars.

Evangelizing Today

One year ago, my parish was in the midst of a door to door evangelization of our entire parish, project. COVID brought that to a halt. Since then, the bookmarks distributed door to door are now given to parishioners for distribution during their normal activities and movements. Thus, we have given out several thousand bookmarks. COVID forced us to

Facebook masses and devotional hours attracting thousands of followers at times. These new avenues opened opportunities to conduct seminars on New Evangelization and other themes. Now that we have conducted the Life In The Spirit. Parishioners have been told that our intention is to maintain the charismatic masses even after the seminar ends.

What Does that mean?

A lengthy period of praise and worship, prophecies and exhortation to begin mass. After the distribution of Holy Communion, there is a period involving any of the following: words of knowledge, healing prayers, calling down the Holy Spirit. The closing hymn is also replaced by charismatic praises.

Outgrowing A Chapel

Though planned for much later this year, the pandemic introduced social distancing, creating the inability to accommodate all our parishioners at one chapel and thus the need to expand that chapel. Additionally, our main chapel is full to capacity and thus prompting that a fourth be added soon.

Having wasted so much opportunity to evangelize face to face, Catholics now face the daunting challenge of evangelizing with the restrictions of COVID-19.

With Lent here, there is need to do more. At present, I am the primary

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:

\$4,428.00

Budget Deficit:

\$322.00

Current as of
January 31, 2021.

In the midst of the pandemic, one of the struggles I have had is how to continue ministering to the people within my parish. I have created an on-line presence for my parishioners to “follow,” but it all seems so... *unsubstantial*.

Over this past year, I have asked myself over and over, “Am I doing everything I can for my parish? What can I do to draw people into a deeper relationship with Christ when I can’t even see most of them in person?”

As I have brought these questions to prayer, I got some answers. Sadly, the answer to the first question is that I am NOT doing everything I can. And the answer to the second question is that I can do nothing. The good news, though, is that God is the One who draws people to Himself, and I am merely the instrument He occasionally chooses to use.

It is tempting to want to *do* more, especially in times like these. Yet, we are not always called to *do* more. In one of the talks Bishop Sheen gave in the 1970s, he spoke of the first words of Christ to His disciples: “Come” (cf. John 1:39). The last words Jesus spoke to His disciples were, “Go” (cf. Matthew 28:19). Bishop Sheen then says that today we have too few “Come, come” and too many “Go, go”s. His point is that we too often go out to work (especially in ministry) without first coming to Jesus, getting close to Him, finding out what He wants of us. Or as Bishop Barron has said, “Don’t just do something, *sit there!*”

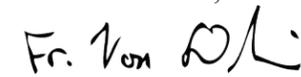
In my prayer, the Lord has put it on my heart that my first responsibility to my parish is to become holy. I have to get close to Him before anything else. In the midst of everything, though, I begin to doubt, and I occasionally

will say to God, “But what am I supposed to do?” He keeps bringing me back to the call to grow in holiness. For me, this has been a call to surrender my parish to Him. It has also been a call to surrender my insecurities to Him. As I see other priests in other parishes doing so much good work, I can feel inadequate, thinking, “Why am I not doing something as creative as that?” Yet, the Lord is not calling me to that... He is calling *me* to holiness right here right now. He is calling me to entrust my people to Him. He is calling me to trust that when I am supposed to *do* something, He will lead me.

I invite you to go first to the Lord. Your call is different than mine, but you can’t go wrong by getting closer to the Heart of Jesus! Start there and see where He leads.

Just a note on another topic. We are looking for information for institutional memory of the Fraternity. If you have outlines of the foundation retreats or other information from the early years of Fraternity that we don’t want lost to history, please contact me. My e-mail is vderosia@rcbm.org, or you can send them via snail mail to the Fraternity at PO Box 442, Steubenville, OH 43952. Thank you!

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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care giver of my 82 year-old mom who just broke her leg. She had her knee replaced some years ago. I’m with her 3-5 days and all 7 nights per week. Nonetheless, she’s doing well, up and about and more confident about walking daily. By the end of March therefore, my plan is to resume eucharistic processions through the streets of my parish. When we did this ten months ago, people really felt encouraged and close to the church. This time we expect no less.

Chat groups have also flourished during COVID-19. These have become a most important way to pastor and evangelize persons. All of our formation programs are now done via zoom meetings. But there are also new outreaches. “Mantalk” for men runs every Sunday night from 7-9pm. Also, Sister2sister on a Friday night has become a great hit for the women. It’s now an understatement to say that our parishioners have probably never been so closely knit. Chatting all day long.

Maybe as church we did not anticipate the loss of opportunity. Nonetheless, we need now respond.

Social Media and Losing Souls

By Fr. Robert J. Carr

Last month, you read my words lamenting the use of Twitter by Catholics. Granted, not every Catholic who uses Twitter does it poorly but enough do. After I sent in the article, I saw another one on Medium that brought up a similar idea except for all politicians and government agencies. This might be

an interesting thought as to whether social media needs a radical change.

It is fascinating to live in a time where social media seems to hold so much power that world leaders are expressing concern. After all, tech giants can censor other world leaders and decide who can and cannot use the platform. Others are waking up to the fact that the platform is not good for the world political theatre.

In an interview with Andrea Gonzalez-Ramirez for Gen Magazine on Medium Jennifer Grygiel, a social media expert and assistant professor of communications at Syracuse University, called for all social media of government affiliates to be shut down. The risk is too great she reasons of unchecked propaganda that does not go through normal channels of vetting. The same can be said for the Church forms as well.

It is one thing to promote a post-COVID potluck dinner, it is another to say that all those who do not vote for a particular candidate are going to Hell. Just as it is still another for government officials from two different countries to trade nuclear threats which each other.

Social media not only is short cutting the vetting process, it is also undermining simple communication and charity.

Obviously, professor Grygiel sees this is a problem for those in government and I see it as a problem for those in the Church.

One of the things that seems to be an issue in social media is those who use it to prove they are right.

If you say something that I believe is incorrect theologically, I may unreflectively respond by attacking you down for your perceived theologically incorrect views.

Because we are separated by not only computer screens but also great distances these actions can cause an escalation of attitudes and tempers that move far from the bar of charity. We lose a sense of charity by getting lost in concepts of correct and incorrect.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen warned against focusing on winning an argument for we may lose a soul. Social media increases that problem exponentially. Building on this concept, maybe we could consider whether or not the Church needs to be a leader in the social policy just now forming around this media by leading the path away from it.

One of the great virtues in Catholicism, we rarely hear about is, thinking of others more highly than ourselves. If there is one virtue, of many, that social media undercuts it is that one. Too often people use it to prove they are more holy and knowledgeable than others with whom they disagree. The saints, however, often assumed the best of people and not the worst. They also charitably looked upon others as potential saved souls even holding many others in higher esteem than themselves.

I remember reading an anecdote in which a certain sinner angered St. Augustine so much that he wanted to cast him into Hell himself. However, Jesus intervened and told him that He died for that sinner and the now esteemed saint was to treat him accordingly. Social media, however, leads us to think along the lines of Augustine. Another person is too much a sinner, ignoramus, infidel, pagan, heretic or whatever word you want to use to be worth our time. #Iamholierthanyou.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

