

June 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Rev. 1 Paul Cannariato Newark, NJ	His Eminence 2 Donald Cardinal Wuerl Washington, DC	3 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	4 For prayer requests received	5 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. 6 Alan Shnob Ogdensburg, NY	Rev. 7 Joseph Muldoon Ottawa, Canada	Rev. 8 Robert Boyle Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 9 John Brennan Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 10 Thomas Federline Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 11 Tony Gargotta Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 12 Stan Gregorek Pittsburgh, PA
Rev. 13 James Holland Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 14 Thomas Kredel Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 15 Joseph Luisi Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 16 John Lynam Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 17 Daniel Mahoney Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 18 Nicholas Mastrangelo Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 19 Kenneth Oldenski Pittsburgh, PA
Rev. 20 Thomas Sparacino Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 21 John Sweeney Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 22 Paul Zywan Pittsburgh, PA	Msgr. 23 Cuthbert Alexander Port-of-Spain	Rev. 24 Gerard Bernier Port-of-Spain	Rev. 25 Riginald DeFour Port-of-Spain	Rev. 26 Raymond Francis Port-of-Spain
Rev. 27 Clifford Graham Port-of-Spain	Rev. 28 Harold Imammshah Port-of-Spain	Rev. 29 Dwight Merrick Port-of-Spain	Rev. 30 Ian Taylor Port-of-Spain			

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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<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

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Do you know anyone who would like to receive our Newsletter? (Please print legibly)

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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.

Preaching Catholicism

By Fr. Robert J. Carr - Boston Fraternity

Did you know that clean comedians can perform at more venues. The comics who use more adult terms, stories and language may be powerful headliners but the clean comics can headline everything from a matinee show on the Las Vegas Strip to your parish anniversary dinner. The one who works what is known as "blue" has a limit to what he or she can do.

Steve Allen used to call the comedy routines that use bad language lazy. They worked for the shock value but not much more. Lazy writing works but does not work well.

What is the homiletic equivalent to writing for shock value? Obviously, it is not using bad words. It is citing rules. If a homily can be used in both the Unitarian-Universalist Church as well as The Catholic Church then it is all about behavior and not about relationship. Now I am not picking on the Unitarian-Universalist Church by saying this. Their beliefs are different from ours and so we may agree on good comportment and civil discourse but what we agree on does not make us Catholic. Our difference comes not from our actions but our spiritually behind those actions. So, we must feed our congregations with material that is deeper than just conduct.

I am willing to say if we preach exclusively on behavior that is lazy preaching.

One of the most powerful sentences in the New Testament would almost seem a throw a way line. The main focus of the paragraph overshadows the opening. St. Paul writes to the Ephesians in chapter 6. "Draw your strength from the Lord and His mighty power." The rest of his words talk about using our faith to protect us against the wiles of the devil. Paul uses military armor imagery to encourage us against sin and toward maintaining hope and faith in difficult times. All his instructions in the rest of the passage assume that his readers are relying on God to live a holy life: "Draw your strength from the Lord and His mighty power." The line can be overlooked and we can start preaching on the call for the Sunday mass goer to maintain good behavior using the rest of the passage.

If we are preaching to people to turn from sin and we do not tell them to draw their strength from the Lord and his mighty power then we can preach the same homily at the American Atheists convention. We just change the word from sin to something else that atheists understand.

• St. Paul called his readers and

hearers to pray always. He called his readers to rejoice in the Lord always, to dismiss all anxiety from their minds, to present their needs to God.

• St. John called his readers to understand that Jesus was interceding for His people just as

he did for the soldiers nailing him to the Cross. He reminded them God loves us first.

• St. Alphonsus Liguori wrote about the need to pray to God as you would a good friend and even said that those who pray go to Heaven and those who do not, well do not.

• St. Maximilian Kolbe had such a deep relationship with Christ through his Marian devotion, he was able to be the presence of Christ in Auschwitz as a fellow prisoner. He even gave his life for a Jewish man who lived to be ninety-five years old.

These are powerful stories that dictate how much we need to preach more than simple morality or even political activism. We must first begin with prayer.

Pope Francis in his first Apostolic Exhortation wrote: *Without prolonged moments of adoration, of prayerful encounter with the word, of sincere conversation with the Lord, our work easily becomes meaningless; we lose energy as a result of weariness and difficulties, and our fervour dies out. The Church urgently needs the deep breath of prayer, and to my great*

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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:

\$2,625.00

Budget Deficit:

\$2,125.00

Current as of
March 31, 2021.

May brings us to the celebration of Pentecost – the coming of the Holy Spirit. What a great celebration for the Church! It is through the Holy Spirit that we have a connection into the Heart of God!

I remember reading a beautiful description of how the Holy Spirit works. It was quoted in Ralph Martin's book *The Catholic Church at the End of an Age: What is the Spirit Saying?*

Without the Holy Spirit, God is far away Christ stays in the past, the Gospel is a dead letter, the church is simply an organization, authority a matter of domination, mission a matter of propaganda, the liturgy no more than an evocation, Christian living a slave morality.

But in the Holy Spirit: the cosmos is resurrected and groans with the birth-pangs of the kingdom, the risen Christ is here, the Gospel is the power of life, the church shows forth the life of the Trinity, authority is liberating service, mission is Pentecost, the liturgy is both memorial and anticipation, human action is deified.

(Ralph Martin, *The Catholic Church at the End of an Age: What is the Spirit Saying?* San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1994, p. 108).

Before I go to the ambo to read the Gospel or to preach, one of the prayers I always pray is, "Holy Spirit, help me to get out of Your way!" Let us pray for a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our ministry. Let us pray that all of the gifts, power and fruit of the Holy Spirit will manifest in

our lives and in our ministries. May we stir into flame the gift that God gave us by the laying on of hands (see 2 Tim 1:6). May He come, visiting His people and renewing the face of the earth!

I remind you to save the dates for our Fraternity Conference this summer: July 18-23. The plan is to meet in person in the Cleveland, OH area with Sr. Briege McKenna, OSC as our speaker.

In order to make arrangements with the retreat house, we need to have a sense of whether people are willing to travel to Cleveland. Please contact me by May 26th if you plan to attend the Conference in person. Please let me know if you are going by sending me an email to vderosia@rcbm.org.

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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joy groups devoted to prayer and intercession, the prayerful reading of God's word and the perpetual adoration of the Eucharist are growing at every level of ecclesial life. Evangelii Gaudium #262

One of the wisest pieces of information I received from an older priest many years ago is the worst thing that can happen to a priest at Mass is the congregation applauds his homily. Applause, he explained, means that he just told the congregation what they wanted to hear. That is not our job.

Parishioners approve of your words because they recognize you as saying what they believe someone should be saying. They are happy you can tell those other sinners to change their ways or they will go to Hell. If we have not introduced people to Jesus, they have no reason to change their ways other than they will go to Hell. If they do not believe in Hell (which Unitarian-Universalists by the way do not) then nothing we say will have any meaning in that venue.

When, on the other hand, we introduce people to an encounter with Jesus, which by the way is how He started when he was walking the Earth, then we teach them a new way of understanding and with that a reason to follow Catholic morality. It begins with encountering Christ and builds into living a whole new way of being in which Christ is part of everything we do. That is what St. Paul envisioned for the Church.

Our mission is to challenge parishioners to build a holy life founded in prayer and deepening it daily through a growing prayer life. It is not to make them citizen

of the year in the local city, or to make them good moral atheists. Rather, they need us to teach them how to draw their strength from the Lord and His mighty power and to live with a prayer-based vision as Catholics, as Catholic families, Catholic parishes and Catholic dioceses. This is our mission. Our mission must be one that deepens our parishioners self-understanding as baptized Catholics.

YouTube is filled with videos of priests preaching against political positions especially in regard to abortion. One indeed literally begins with an admonition against applause. When I preach against abortion which I do from time to time, I do not mention moral laws, Canon 915 or the Baltimore Catechism, I simply go to Jeremiah 32:35. Many will rant and rave that abortion is wrong and never bring up the bigger more serious picture in Jeremiah.

As a devotee of Dorothy Day, I see our greatest problem is politicizing our Gospel as the evangelicals have done as well. Dorothy Day was a Christian anarchist. She saw the need, like St. Paul, to live at a higher standard than the law allowed. Is one reason why abortion is legal because we are not living and preaching to that higher standard? Maybe.

Jesus warned against being no different than everybody else. He warned against being like salt without flavor that is good for nothing of doing everything that even the sinners do. He understood that we have to live a powerful vision that was different than what others understood. A powerful vision begins with prayer and a self-understanding rooted in our

partnership with Christ in service to His kingdom.

We need to draw our strength from the Lord and his mighty power in all we do and encourage the

parishioners to do the same. We cannot do that if we are focused on teaching them how to conform to the rest of society or how to live like it's 1959. We may become popular, we may become well known and have many views and likes on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter and become well-known preachers but will we actually be doing God's work?

One of the most ground-breaking comedians has been the subject of movies, books and of course headlines. Many people went to see him because of his shocking style. His name? Lenny Bruce. Many comedians today make a living by pushing a political agenda and using "blue language" as did Lenny Bruce, I do not think you would've wanted any of them to headline your parish show.

Jim Gaffigan by the way is a well-known Catholic comedian who can also help us to laugh at ourselves. He stands out because he is clean. He stands out because he is different from the rest. Jesus told us to do the same. If we preach the same as everyone else, Catholic or not, we do not stand out.

Likes and applause do not a holy person make. Every Catholic receives the vocation to holiness in their respective state of life at Baptism. They all need and want to hear how to fulfill their mission to its deepest level. We begin with the words of St. Paul: "Draw your strength from the Lord and his mighty power."

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____