

September 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Rev. Fidelis Vielu <i>Wa, West Africa</i> 1	For the souls of our deceased FOP members 2	For prayer requests received 3	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis 4
Rev. Giles Dimock OP <i>Washington, DC</i> 5	Msgr. Stan Jaworski <i>Winnipeg</i> 6	Rev. Maurice Jeanneau <i>Winnipeg</i> 7	Rev. Michael Nault <i>Winnipeg</i> 8	Rev. Francois Paradis OMI <i>Winnipeg</i> 9	Rev. George Dunkley <i>Worcester</i> 10	Rev. Jean-Paul Gagnon <i>Worcester</i> 11
Rev. Greg Downs <i>Alexandria, LA</i> 12	Dcn. Norman Gremillion <i>Alexandria, LA</i> 13	Rev. Harold Imamshah <i>Alexandria, LA</i> 14	Rev. Silverino Kwebuza <i>Alexandria, LA</i> 15	Rev. Martin Laird <i>Alexandria, LA</i> 16	Rev. Ron Matthews <i>Alexandria, LA</i> 17	Rev. John O'Brien <i>Alexandria, LA</i> 18
Rev. John Pardue <i>Alexandria, LA</i> 19	Rev. Thomas Paul <i>Alexandria, LA</i> 20	Msgr. John Mraz <i>Allentown, PA</i> 21	Rev. George Winne <i>Allentown, PA</i> 22	Rev. John Brennan <i>Boston, MA</i> 23	Rev. Robert Carr <i>Boston, MA</i> 24	Rev. William Carroll <i>Boston, MA</i> 25
Rev. Donald Clinton <i>Boston, MA</i> 26	Rev. Volney DeRosia <i>Boston, MA</i> 27	Dcn. Paul Dow <i>Boston, MA</i> 28	Rev. Gerry Fraser <i>Boston, MA</i> 29	Rev. Christopher Gaffrey OFM <i>Boston, MA</i> 30		

**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](mailto:contact@fraternityofpriests.org)  
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Do you know anyone who would like to receive our Newsletter? (Please print legibly)

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Street \_\_\_\_\_

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Dear Fr. Von DeRosia,  
This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests. \_\_\_\_\_ \$  
 \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 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.

VOLUME XXX ISSUE 9 AUGUST 2021

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

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

**A Peek Into My Diary**  
By Fr. Dwight Merrick - Trinidad and Tobago

It is amazing how little the average Catholic lay person understands about the life of a diocesan priest. In this article, I share a peek into my diary to provide a glimpse of what my last six months have been like.

On New Year's Eve my mother returned home from the hospital a bit heavier than when she went in two weeks earlier. Nine metal pins in weight to be exact. The left femur got broken with a fall on December 17th 2020 and these pins were the answer to get the leg working again. A wheelchair, some ropes and three men were needed to get her up the stairs and into the house returning from the hospital, and the same to get her back there after one week for her clinic appointment. One young doctor whispered to me that most persons in her situation never walk again even though they can, because of the fear of falling again. I heard him but knew that my siblings expected me to get her back on her legs walking again.

She recovered speedily with a combination of stern threats from my sisters about becoming an invalid if she did not get off the bed regularly, and pampering from my brothers and myself who could never speak to her that way. From changing pampers to lifting her in and out of the wheelchair and toilet,

to using the walker and eventually the walking stick, she improved rapidly. After five months she was walking mostly without the stick, though much like a duck with a cute waddle. After months of not wanting to eat properly, something interesting happened. Everyone noticed that I lost about ten points very visibly in just a couple months. Since I was not eating when she was not eating. That's when she started getting blamed and began to eat much better. After six months, she is doing very well and able to stay on her own for extended periods.

Six months at home meant a complete lifestyle change. I have slept in my parish rectory only one night in January in 2021. As the only one without my own family, staying with mom naturally fell to me, though I volunteered before anyone could ask about it. Nurses were out of the question since my mom would never be comfortable with strangers. Going to the home of one of her children, was also out of the questions since she never wanted to ever do that. So fixing breakfast and dinner with my siblings usually bringing lunch took care of her meals. Not that it is ever easy to get her to actually eat! But the rest of the day basically, was mine to plan and implement.

5.30-6.30am Monday to Friday I

have my holy hour followed by Mass at 6.30-7.00am in the front porch with neighbours on the opposite side of the road attending from their porch. It is interesting to say the least, cars passing, the garbage truck coming around and of course my most devoted attendees, the dogs who must be heard even though not seen. Just look at the parish face book page and you will see what I mean- "La Horquetta RC church." Add to the daily mass my ministry session on zoom from 6-8.30 Monday to Friday, and I am in fact doing more for and with my parishioners now than when I was physically in the parish. Additionally, I do still maintain my healing and deliverance ministry in the parish on Wednesdays for a couple hours and have managing a chapel extension project at one of my communities.

Back at home after about forty years has also opened up a whole new perspective on things. First there were the expected tasks like upgrading mom's kitchen and creating a flower garden for her. But then there has been my re-immersion into life in my home town and its unique and picturesque environment. I never realized how much I missed San Fernando nor how pretty and full of character she is. Coming home has also allowed me to catch up with school mates from my teen years especially my oldest and

# 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:

**\$3,484.00**

Budget Deficit:

**\$1,266.00**

*Current as of  
June 30, 2021.*

I am writing this before the Annual Fraternity Conference in Cleveland. Hopefully as you read this, we will be able to say that our Fraternity has been greatly blessed by having Sr. Briege McKenna come, speak to us and pray with us, as well as the incredible fellowship and brotherhood we shared at the Conference.

On the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, my local Fraternity, the Fraternity of Saint Basil and Saint Paul (in Boston), joined together for Mass and to recommit ourselves to the Fraternity of Priests. After Communion, we reread the Fraternity of Priests Commitment (including the ten disciplines of the Fraternity) and signed it. For many of us, this was a recommitment to our initial fervor and the vision of the Fraternity. For others, it was their first time signing this commitment. It has been a good reminder to me of our disciplines. Many of them have become habits within my life. Others, though, are not as easy for me. It was a challenge and reminder to step back into the fullness of the vision of the Fraternity of Priests.



One of the graces we specifically asked for as part of this Mass and renewal was that of the **grace necessary in today's martyrdom**. As Peter and Paul gave all for the Lord, we desire to give all for the Lord. Sometimes, the *all* that is asked can be fearsome, so we beg the Lord for what graces we need in that moment. In our world which is becoming more and more secular, more and more led by the spirit of evil, more and more opposed to the Church and truth, we know that some may suffer the martyrdom of blood, giving our lives unto death. But white

martyrdom can sometimes be more harrowing, as it is the day in and day out gift of self, the suffering for Christ that never seems to end. Sometimes, it seems that the many obstacles and daily hinderances to the faith make it far more difficult to be a priest than a once and done martyrdom! For this, we need a martyr's grace as well! May Saints Peter and Paul pour out that grace upon us from Heaven!

After our Mass, we all prayed over each other as a whole group, begging God to be with us. It was a powerful time of intercession and surrender to the power and providence of Almighty God. It was also a call and reminder that we are to take our time of prayer with each other seriously. It is easy to pray in a passing manner, instead of really bringing our brothers to the Lord, crying out to heaven, and begging God's grace to transform and enlighten us.

As we continue pressing on through the darkness, may we renew our dedication to the Fraternity and truly be brothers to each other, and may we especially be open to the renewed grace from God visiting His people, as with a new Pentecost.

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.

...continued from page 1

dearest friends. I have had to visit the hard-wares and groceries close by and go to the market just around the corner many times.

The most amazing introduction to my life these six months has been the education I am receiving through You Tube and my new Smart TV. First, there was a series of documentaries on the true history of Africa which were precisely to my taste. A history fan for my entire life, I was amazed and so thankful for these films. Then more recently, I have got on to the **Word on Fire** ministries of Bishop Barron from whom I am learning so much I never heard about in the Seminary. Then there are the teachings of Dr Scott Hahn and other Journey Home persons giving valuable insights and testimonies. And of course, there is the entertainment of track and field and Olympic trials along with the Voice all over the world. Not having, previously, a routine that allowed me to see much TV, these few months have certainly changed that in ways I could not imagine possible. I'm now looking forward to hearing everything Bishop Barron can teach me and as much of Scott Hahn and other orthodox theologians as I can find. I am certainly learning more about the faith these months than I have in the previous many years.

Over the last five years or so, I have been a regional vicar which has given me opportunity to be at all top level meetings with my two Archbishops over this period. I have consistently been calling for a return to a focus on evangelization but will little success. Only recently though, my Sunday night men's meeting introduced me to the Online Mission

of the Adventist Church. I have since shared this with the leader of the Catholic Charismatic renewal in Trinidad and the Caribbean, and the CCR is now working toward developing a similar Online Ministry for our Archdiocese. Left to the Clergy, this would never get off the ground, but in the hands of the CCR, it seems likely to succeed. Simultaneously, I have penned my first book, "Testimony Time", preparing a follow up book and began a Social Media Management course only two days ago. The last fifteen months of meetings with my evenings group of about twenty parishioners, has also allowed me to compile a handbook on evangelization with their help. Attending the course run by our local "School of Evangelization" at the present time, means that my new parishes come 01st September, will find me all prepared to approach ministry in a far more evangelistic way than previously. Thanks be to God.

So, what the Lord's challenges to me at this time? The first issue here concerns a Mphil degree I should have completed several years ago. To my great embarrassment, it is not completed even now! A degree which started in September 2014, was supposed to be a steppingstone to a doctorate in Education. Unfortunately, I was given a supervisor who had other ideas. From my first encounter with him, I knew things were going to be rough but thought it could only get better. Not so! I have since 2015 been complaining that he and I are not working well together. The authorities did not listen until 2020 when they themselves assigned me

another person. I am now submitting the thesis for better or worse but relieved to have got this far. I'm no longer interested in the doctorate since I am no longer lecturing primary teachers. The real question in my mind has been 'what is the Lord saying in all this?' Yes, I need to be forgiving of that supervisor since I allowed him to steal my joy far too often. This disappointment seems to have wasted so much of my time over the years, writing about four different theses with the same data. What if any was the reason for this happening, where did I go wrong, is there a lesson to be learnt here? I am still waiting for answers. But this makes me empathize with the many people who are caught in dilemmas over which they have no control. Poverty, covid related deaths and other problems come to mind.

So now, saving the best for last, I will now share about my family members and the challenges there. Having returned home after so very long, it has been a shock and hurt to see how little my family members practice the faith. While I have certainly heard many of my Irish priest friends complain about this in the past, it was still shocking to experience it myself.

My life is as exciting as I could barely manage but only with serious prayer. So much for all the folks who think that priests just eat sleep and say a Mass every day. Come September, when I begin two new parishes it will change again. To use a familiar but true saying, the only constant is change. But God is constant and more than able to take of me and all the changes that will come my way.

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