

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

October 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. Richard Goellen Fargo, ND 31					For prayer requests received 1	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis 2
Rev. Patrick Gilbert Boston, MA 3	Dcn. Chuck Hall Boston, MA 4	Rev. Richard Kelley Boston, MA 5	Rev. John Kiley Boston, MA 6	For the souls of our deceased FOP members 7	Rev. Maurice Laroche Boston, MA 8	Rev. Jurgen Lias Boston, MA 9
Rev. Paul McManus Boston, MA 10	Rev. Thomas Reilly Boston, MA 11	Rev. Chris Wallace Boston, MA 12	Rev. Donald Roy Burlington 13	Rev. Andy Bord Cardiff, Wales 14	Rev. Barry English Cardiff, Wales 15	Canon John Griffith Cardiff, Wales 16
Rev. Matthew Jones Cardiff, Wales 17	Rev. David O'Donnell Cardiff, Wales 18	Rev. Barnabas Page Cardiff, Wales 19	Rev. Ryan Cubera Cleveland, OH 20	Rev. Kevin Elbert Cleveland, OH 21	Rev. Robert Franco Cleveland, OH 22	Rev. James Mazanec Cleveland, OH 23
Rev. Homer Blubaugh Columbus, OH 24	Rev. Peter Gregor Comayagua 25	Rev. Robert Shaldone Corpus Christi 26	Most Rev. Paul Bemile Episcopal Advisor 27	Most Rev. Sam Jacobs Episcopal Adv 28	Very Rev. Franc Kromberger Episcopal Advisor 29	Rev. Duaine Cote Fargo, ND 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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Steubenville, OH 43952-5442

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 _____

Dear Fr. Von DeKosia,
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.



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Do We Need to Go Back to the Basics?

By Fr. John Kiley – Boston Fraternity

Brothers, I wrote this article towards the end of July following our International Fraternity Conference in Cleveland. A year ago our conference was virtual, but this year we were able to meet on site. Attendance was about 50% fewer than usual, most likely due to Covid. In the beginning years of Fraternity, during the eighties, the yearly conference was termed "the Leaders Conference" and was open only to the leaders of local Fraternity Groups. It is a wonderful blessing that for so many years any Fraternity priest is welcome to be present. When it was solely the "Leaders Conference", the purpose was to keep the vision alive among the leaders so that our local groups would thrive and grow. The responsibility of a leader is to see that the Fraternity vision and disciplines are alive and well in the local group. Although we never live them out perfectly, it is important to stay on track.

We believe that the Holy Spirit brought the Fraternity into existence for "a time like this". This was confirmed by Sister Briega McKenna at our recent conference. We are living and exercising our ministry in a broken and troubled world and in a Church with much division. There are also many divisions among priests. We believe that the

Fraternity can be an instrument in the hands of the Lord for the renewal of the priesthood, but only if we keep alive the vision and live with God's grace the Fraternity way of life. We must also seek out opportunities to promote the vision of Fraternity to other priests, especially newly ordained and younger priests. May this article serve as a brief review of our purpose and as a challenge to embrace anew what the Lord has called us to be. We will be blessed and the Church and the priesthood will be blessed through us.

Most of you know that in 1983 the Fraternity of Priests was established as a follow-up to the Summer Conferences for Priests held at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. At its founding, the hope and vision were that the work of God's grace experienced at the conferences could be kept alive by gathering priests together regularly (weekly) for prayer, teaching, fellowship, personal ministry, and support. While there are various "support groups" for priests in today's Church, the Fraternity is much more than a "support group". The fraternity is called to be a "committed brotherhood" with a vision and a mission. We exist precisely to evangelize, form, and train priests to respond effectively to what God is doing today in the

Church and in the world through His Holy Spirit.

We were founded thirty-eight years ago and over the years it can become very easy to lose sight of the vision and the mission. In this article I am encouraging every Fraternity Group to make, as it were, an examination of conscience as to how fully you continue to embrace and live out the vision and mission. While there are many ways that priests may gather for prayer, fellowship, and sharing, unless we understand and embrace the vision and disciplines, we are not the Fraternity of Priests.

Committed Brotherhood: The Fraternity of Priests provides a committed brotherhood through regular meetings. We believe this brotherhood is needed not only for the healthy survival of priests, but also to accomplish the task of effective evangelization and renewal of parishes and institutions. *Are the brothers in your Fraternity embracing and striving to live out this concept of "Committed Brotherhood"?*

The Mission: Our mission is to bring about renewal in Jesus Christ to Catholic parishes and institutions through the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe that God is at work, visiting His people. We believe this visitation is

taking place "as in a New Pentecost." He is pouring out His Spirit and calling

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:
\$798.00
Budget Deficit:
\$3,952.00

Current as of
July 31, 2021.

As I had hoped, our Fraternity Conference with Sr. Briege McKenna, OSC was truly a blessing. Our Lord worked powerfully through her to renew our priesthood and call us to a renewed love for the Eucharist. After some technological troubles, we were also able to have Fr. Dwight Merrick “Zoom” in for a conference on Thursday, speaking about how he felt called to write a book testifying to the miracles he had witnessed or for which he had been an instrument. He spoke about the power of testimony to stir up faith, since it goes past arguments for or



against. You either believe it or not. All of these talks can be viewed again on the Fraternity of Priests website: www.fraternityofpriests.org.

This year, the Board voted to award the Brotherhood Award not to one, but to two brothers. **Fr. Liam Leahy** of Tucson, AZ has been a faithful brother since the inception of the Fraternity, and was instrumental in forming the Tucson Fraternity. He has been very attentive to the ideals of the Fraternity of Priests. He has a great love of the priesthood, a love for the brothers, and continues, even in retirement, to have a zeal for souls.



Fr. Sylvester Nankpi of Wa, Ghana has also been a member of the Fraternity of Priests since its inception. He has hosted the Fraternity teams who visited Ghana in 2001 and 2016. Fr. Sylvester has always shown

a great interest in growing the Fraternity spirituality throughout Ghana, and has been faithful in attending the annual Fraternity of Priests Conference. It was an honor to award both Fr. Liam and Fr. Sylvester the 2021 Brotherhood Award.

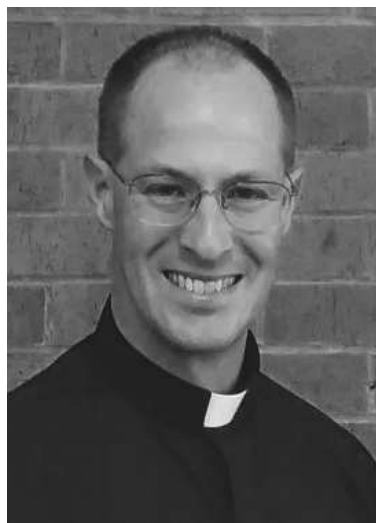
We had our Board elections. Thank you to Fr. Dwight Merrick and Fr. Ray Ratzenberger for their many years of service to the Board. I was elected for a second term (and the Board promptly made me chairman again). Fr. Joseph Meagher of Newark, NJ and Fr. Sylvester Nankpi of Wa, Ghana have both been elected for three-year terms. A special thank you to them, and the other members of the Board for their willingness to serve the Fraternity of Priests.

Grace and Peace,

Fr. Von DeRosia

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.



...continued from page 1

us to conversion and a new wave of evangelization for the purpose of establishing the reign and Kingdom of His Son, Jesus Christ. This is termed “the Visitation Message”. **Does your Fraternity see this as your mission?**

The Fraternity Gathering: The original vision was that a Fraternity Group would meet weekly. **This is still the norm wherever possible.** It is essential that your group regularly meet as often as humanly possible in your geographical situation. Each gathering consists of:

a) Prayer and Praise (in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, if possible,) followed by a quiet time of “listening to the Lord” through Sacred Scripture and in our hearts. The word received is then briefly shared with the brothers.

b) Teaching – one of the brothers can share a teaching or the teaching can be taken from a spiritual book or article or from a Church document. It is important that the teaching be then appropriated into our lives and ministries. How can I put this teaching into practice?

c) Time of Ministry and Prayer for one another – this is what distinguishes the Fraternity of Priests from some other priests’ groups. The local Fraternity is broken down into small sharing groups of perhaps three to four brothers. These groups have total confidentiality. What is said in the group is shared nowhere else. We share our joys and struggles, our successes, and failures since our last meeting. Accountability is also important. We allow ourselves to be challenged by a brother as to how we are living our priesthood and the Fraternity Vision. Our life should be “an open book” to at least one other

brother”. We pray with one another for healing, empowerment, and personal needs. *(It has come to light in recent years that some Fraternities have been lax or negligent in this important aspect of Fraternity. If this is true of your group, it is time to return to small group personal sharing.)*

d) It is important to have a brief social time for fellowship and perhaps some refreshments at some point of the meeting.

Does this describe your gatherings? Are there any aspects that are lacking and need to be reintroduced?

The Disciplines: We are committed to strive to live out faithfully the Ten Disciplines of the Fraternity of Priests. 1) **To Pray** at least an hour a day, not including Mass and Liturgy of the Hours. (We may incorporate the appropriate Liturgical Hour into our prayer time.) 2) **To Attend Fraternity Meetings Faithfully** and not be absent without reason and notice 3) **To Read Scripture Daily** and keep a prayer journal 4) **To Tithe** ten percent of our income 5) **To Fast** weekly 6) **To Accept Leadership and Teaching** from the Fraternity 7) **To Receive Discernment and spiritual direction** from the Fraternity brothers 8) **To be Zealous** for personal committed relationships with the Lord Jesus and brother priests 9) **To Proclaim the Visitation Message** (cf. the section on Mission above) 10) **To Empower God’s People** in the Holy Spirit.

What disciplines are weak or missing in my life? What will I do about it? Am I willing to be challenged by a brother?

Recently our Boston Fraternity celebrated Mass together on the Solemnity of Peter and Paul in June

and again signed a covenant (some brothers for the first time) to commit ourselves to the Fraternity Vision and to the Ten Disciplines. This is something that should be done and then renewed from time to time. The formula we used is as follows: **Members:** Lord Jesus Christ, I come before you this day to offer myself to you as your disciple, to worship you as my only Lord and Savior and commit myself as priest to serve you and love you with my whole being. I offer myself also to you through the Fraternity of Priests. I want to commit myself to these brothers and to living out this commitment. I pray that you will effect this commitment in me, Lord Jesus Christ, through the grace of your Holy Spirit to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Leader: We know that for us to be truly a brotherhood of one mind and heart, we need to serve and care for one another in this priestly Fraternity. We need to understand and accept the Fraternity call to holiness which makes our life together possible. To help us to fulfill God’s call to priestly fraternity, I ask you to commit to the following: (the 10 disciples were then listed)

Members: I commit myself to the Fraternity of Priests through this local body of my brother priests and together with them will strive to live out the Fraternity call to holiness with the help of God. Amen.

I pray and hope that what the Lord Jesus through His Holy Spirit has begun in the Church through the Fraternity of Priests may grow ever stronger and contribute to spiritual renewal, increased zeal, and a greater sense of brotherhood among Catholic priests. May the Lord bless and keep each of you.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____