

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

December 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Rev. 1 Earl Dekat Kansas City	2 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	3 For prayer requests received	4 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. 5 Roderic Giller OSB Kansas City	Rev. 6 Rheal Forest Canada	Rev. 7 Timothy Ekaitis Marquette, MI	Rev. 8 Ryan Ford Marquette, MI	Rev. 9 Christopher Gardiner Marquette, MI	Rev. 10 Benjamin Hasse Marquette, MI	Rev. 11 Jeff Johnson Marquette, MI
Rev. 12 Aaron Nowicki Marquette, MI	Rev. 13 Brandon Oman Marquette, MI	Rev. 14 Darryl Pepin Marquette, MI	Rev. 15 Michael Steber Marquette, MI	Rev. 16 Larry Van Damme Marquette, MI	Rev. 17 Michael Woempner Marquette, MI	Rev. 18 Raymond Zeugner Marquette, MI
Rev. 19 Eugene Bettinger O.Carm. New Jersey	Rev. 20 John Gordon New Jersey	Rev. 21 Timothy Graff New Jersey	Rev. 22 William Halbing New Jersey	Rev. 23 Joseph Meagher New Jersey	Rev. 24 Brendan Murray New Jersey	Rev. 25 Paul O' Donnell Duggan New Jersey
Rev. 26 Lewis Papera New Jersey	Rev. 27 John Primich New Jersey	Rev. 28 Stephen Toth New Jersey	Rev. 29 William Cosgrove New York, NY	Rev. 30 Tom Devery New York, NY	Rev. 31 Paul Cannariato Newark, NJ	

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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Reading is Fundamental to Our Ministry

By Fr. Robert J. Carr – Boston Fraternity

Archbishop Fulton Sheen often lamented he could tell what year a priest received ordination by checking the year the books in his library were published. The implication was the priests rarely read. Of course, that was then and whether it is true today or not is one thing, the other is we have to be up to date on our information.

We do not have to read new seminary texts every year. We do need to read on a regular basis so to enhance our ministry. Now, I can boast to you of all the books I read last year but that would be misleading. I read books in order to do interview programs for one of two radio shows I produce daily from the parish. So in a sense, I have to read. Further, as a writer, I read a lot, most writers do. Therefore, my boast of all the books I read is more like a proofreader doing the same. It really does not count.

I do however read a lot, listen to a lot of radio and podcasts and I write a lot. However, that is me. This helps me with my homily preparation and other material.

One of my heroes in the past, when it came to information sources, is Noam Chomsky. I

cannot say I agree with everything he said, however, as much as you can hear people criticizing Donald Trump for using the term fake news, he hardly invented the concept. Noam Chomsky, a well-known leftist has been railing against fake news from the mainstream media since the early days of the Vietnam War. Hillary Clinton used the term fake news before Donald Trump did.

Fake news is a problem. The solution Chomsky proposed decades ago is to find alternative news sources of all types that are reliable and supply information you will find nowhere else. This will lead you to find alternative authors and other sources that will help bring forth more powerfully your preaching.

For example, I always remind my parishioners of the need to live prayerful and holy lives because we have to be witnesses to the Gospel in today's confusing times. We also need to be people who soak up information from various media to enhance our witness to the world and so that we can speak to the people on their terms.

Reading the New York Times bestsellers may be helpful but there

are so many other sources that are just as important, they will not be so known to your parishioners.

I am preparing for an interview I am doing with Aude DuGast of her great biography of the biologist Jérôme LeJeune. His cause is being put forth for sainthood. LeJeune discovered trisomy which is the condition of the additional chromosome that leads to various disabilities including Down's Syndrome.

Vehemently against abortions following diagnoses in the womb, LeJeune referred to it as chromosomal racism. In a time when your parishioners hear about practices that dehumanized people of various races in the past, including in the Church, such a term has a powerful and weighty meaning behind it.

LeJeune, DuGast writes, had a tremendous love for God and his people, especially those who suffered from the various disabilities caused by trisomy. His advocacy for them received much pushback but he persisted. He also taught to fight the ideas not the person in his opponents. I cannot think of a better way to define St. Paul's spiritual warfare teaching than that—fight the ideas, not the person.

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:

\$1,593.00

Budget Deficit:

\$3,157.00

Current as of
September 30, 2021.

In the midst of chaos this Fall, a friend reminded me of a favorite novena of mine: the Surrender Novena. At the heart of this novena is Jesus telling the soul to stop trying to control everything and surrender it all to Him. Each day the prayer, "O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything," is prayed ten times. As I was praying this novena again recently, I was struck by day four:

You see evil growing instead of weakening? Do not worry. Close your eyes and say to me with faith: "Thy will be done, You take care of it." I say to you that I will take care of it, and that I will intervene as does a doctor and I will accomplish miracles when they are needed. Do you see that the sick person is getting worse? Do not be upset, but close your eyes and say, "You take care of it." I say to you that I will take care of it, and that there is no medicine more powerful than my loving intervention. By my love, I promise this to you.

Whoa!

I needed to hear that that day (and probably every day of my life!). It is so easy to see evil growing and to worry about everything! In the midst of the seemingly never-ending COVID issues, in the midst of dark evil in the world, in the midst of my own struggles of being hated for speaking the truth to a culture that does not want to hear it, in the midst of my own sin and brokenness, I needed to be reminded that Jesus *wants* to take care of evil.

It is so easy for me to forget this, and then what happens? I begin to feel that I have to be in control of every situation to make sure there is the proper outcome. What's the problem with this? Well, there are many problems: I don't know what to do; I don't have the answers to every problem; I

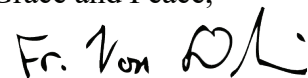
don't have the energy to handle everything; and I'm easily overwhelmed because all of this seems far beyond my abilities and power.

And I'm right about all of that! Jesus reminded me that I am not in control of anything! I need to surrender to Him and His love, allowing Him to "take care of everything." May He continue to remind me of this when the temptation rears its ugly head saying that *I have to take care of everything!*

This doesn't mean, of course, that we simply lay back on the couch, eating bonbons, lazily expecting God to cater to us and our every need. This surrender is to His Will, and His Will often expects us to act. However, it does mean that we don't have to worry (see Matthew 6:24-34), and can trust God with the outcome.

I hope that in sharing my own struggles, and my own rediscovery of this call to surrender will help you to surrender, too. Even in the face of daunting and seemingly unfettered evil, God's mercy, love and justice overcome all! I pray that we will all be able to surrender more fully each day into the hands of Jesus, the lover of our souls and say, "O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything!"

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.

...continued from page 1

Walter Wink in his *Engaging the Powers* series of fighting for just causes wrote a similar concept when he said we must fight the spirituality, not the person drawing upon St. Paul.

Saul Alinsky whose tactics are used by everything from labor unions to political parties and whose strategies spread throughout university schools of government taught the exact opposite—silence and separate the person to crush the idea. This is a source of today's cancel culture.

Chris Hedges, the son of a Presbyterian minister and who studied at Harvard Divinity School is now a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. He is a powerful social critic against atheism and forms of Christianity that lead to tyranny.

He reminds us of the powerful call to teach an accurate picture of Jesus and to be true to his commandments to their limits. One of the great issues in Christianity today is prosperity doctrine which teaches that Jesus will make you rich if you do his will. Obviously, as Catholics, we do not teach this but that does not mean that some of your parishioners do not embrace it from other sources including the televangelists for prosperity doctrine they see on TV.

Hedges is one of the growing number of critics raising the issue of plea bargaining that leads to innocent people going to jail. He explains that fear of a false conviction in trial and resulting in being sentenced to

huge amounts of time leads innocent people to take the deal. He rails often against the process that leads to many innocents in our prison system. This is an abomination in God's eyes but if we do not inform ourselves we may be part of the problem.

Graham Greene wrote one of the best defenses of the true presence in the Eucharist in his short story *The Hint of an Explanation*. He writes of a young altar server whom the local atheist baker recruits to smuggle a consecrated host out of Mass for him. He sought material evidence of our belief in the real presence. I recommend it constantly because it touches on just how seriously we take our faith even when others do not.

This leads me back to Aude DuGast and Jérôme LeJeune. He explained the real presence simply though, he said, inadequately. An antenna on a radio becomes the source of music and information as it takes radio signals and they end up being fed through a speaker. However, if you were to look at the antenna it does not change even though it is the channel for these radio waves. A simple explanation from two sources to touch on the core of our sacramental theology.

I do a lot of research for my homilies which also involves much reading. You see all those people who reject everything we believe in and live a hedonistic lifestyle? Let your parishioners know that St. John Vianney held more hope for their salvation than for the lukewarm

Catholic. He held virtually no hope for the latter because he taught they were self-deceived by a false sense of security. He considered detraction the virtual worst sin which he defined as saying something bad about another person even if it is true. We have another word for it today—cyberbullying. Have we ever taught that cyberbullying is a mortal sin?

St. Louis de Montfort has a great story of a man who did not live a holy life. However, he hung a rosary from his belt. When he died, he found his life put on a big scale and it was found wanting. He obviously did not look at a positive afterlife. However, according to the saint, Mary came and dropped many rosaries on the scale representing the many people who ended devoted to the practice after seeing the rosary on the man's belt. He was told to return to Earth to be given another chance at repentance and holiness.

I try to help people understand it is useless to teach people of sin if we do not first teach people to pray. In fact, St. Alphonsus Liguori wrote that those who pray are saved and those who do not are not. Obviously, the indication is before we teach about sin, we need to help people learn of prayer and encounter Christ through it. Otherwise, people will have a false understanding of what we truly believe.

We were taught many years ago that Reading is FUNDamental. It is also fundamental to our ministry.

For a list of the books mentioned, write to Fr. Carr via editor@fraternityofpriests.org.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____
