

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

February 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Rev. 1 Wilfred Gregoire Providence, RI	Rev. 2 Michael Kelley Providence, RI	Rev. 3 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	Rev. 4 For prayer requests received	Rev. 5 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. 6 Roland Lepire Providence, RI	Rev. 7 Michael Roy Providence, RI	Rev. 8 Gerry Sabourin Providence, RI	Rev. 9 Robert Boyle San Angelo, TX	Rev. 10 Joseph Luisi San Angelo, TX	Rev. 11 Bernard Gully San Angelo, TX	Rev. 12 Santiag Udayar San Angelo, TX
Rev. 13 William McCarthy Sioux City, IA	Rev. 14 Stan Gregorek Sioux Falls, SD	Msgr. 15 Edward Burian Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 16 John Helmuehler Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 17 Joseph Vogel Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 18 Richard Baumberger Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 19 Charles Duman Sioux Falls, SD
Rev. 20 Rodney Farke Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 21 Edward Pierce Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 22 John Rasmussen Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 23 Joseph Short Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 24 Gregory Frankman Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 25 Roger Geditz Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 26 Randy Phillips Sioux Falls, SD
Rev. 27 Jerome Ranek Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 28 Peter Kirchner St. Cloud, MN					

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
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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.

Apostolic Leadership: "Great Parishes are led by Great Pastors"

By Greg Paffel – St. Cloud Fraternity www.amazingparish.org

I'd like to offer an unpaid commercial in this article. These last few months I have been listening to the podcast AT THE TABLE with Patrick Lencioni. Though he focuses on the health of various organizations, especially in the world of business, it has been transformational for how I think about being a pastor. He obviously loves God, is confident in his faith, and is unashamedly Catholic.

He and his co-host Cody have enlightened me on various issues. I have rethought a number of things such as: How do I hire people? What are my personal values and the values of our parishes? Why do our parishes exist? What kind of culture do I want to foster within the office and within the parishes? What kind of leader am I called to be? Etc.

Then I learned that Patrick Lencioni and John Martin co-founded a new movement called AMAZING PARISH. This is where the commercial gets better. All they want to do is help parishes be the best they can be and assist pastors in being the leaders our Church needs us to become.

Let me back up a little. A year and a half ago I became the pastor of 6 parishes and a school with two parochial vicars to assist. They are doing a great job by the way. Even

so, no priest plans for the kind of assignment we have been given. But then again, serving the Church is not about what we expect, it is about what Christ is calling us to and how we can further His mission.

Needless to say, I have been forced to rethink my priorities in parish life and the way I can best lead the people of God entrusted to my care. First off, there is only one Good Shepherd and this is His flock. I've only been asked to assist Him with the folds of sheep with which I have been given to lead.

Second, I quickly realized I could not do it by myself. I need other people, including lay people who can help me make decisions. Before knowing about AMAZING PARISH I leaned on my staff a bit more, I really engaged my 12 trustees. Here are a few things they were doing: contacting the diocese about building projects, doing HR work, and working with insurance companies. It was a relief for me but they quickly realized how much administration was on my shoulders and that as trustees they could not handle all the needs for the long term. Though we had been talking about hiring a business manager for a couple years, now they were confident we needed one. Thanks be to God we hired Adam, an excellent

Business Steward, to oversee all the temporal affairs of parish life for the six parishes.

Of course, that was a huge blessing. It whet my appetite to delegate things that other people could do. It gave me the opportunity to be more priestly as a leader instead of a manager. As Peter Drucker says, "Management is doing things right, leadership is doing the right things."

Without a worry about the day to day operations of parish life, in September I was able to take a three month sabbatical. In that time I have learned a lot about stewardship, how to build community, and a new direction of leadership. In the rest of this article, I will focus on a new sense of leadership swelling up in my spirit and how AMAZING PARISH is inspiring me.

The setup is this: are we still living in Christendom or are we now living in Apostolic Times? In Christendom our world (Europe and America) was largely based on Christian values. Most people were attending Church or at least accepting of Christian practices. Celebrating religious holidays was widespread with joy. It was a comfortable and safe time to practice faith in Jesus. Christians blended in with society and believing in Christ was popular. Clergy and religious brothers and sisters did most

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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:

\$507.00

Budget Deficit:

\$4,243.00

Current as of
November 30, 2021.

We have successfully entered another year of grace – 2022. Even through the struggles, we can trust that the Lord is in charge, leading us along the way. As I look at the mess around me (and within me, too), I remind myself, “God made me for *this* time!” He has made us to be lights in the darkness of this time – not some other age of the Church – and it is in the challenges of this time that we will have the opportunities to grow to be the saints God has called us to be.

At the end of this month, we celebrate the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (January 25). I am in awe of this man. Here was a man of great zeal for the Lord. As he persecuted Christians, dragging them in chains back to Jerusalem to be tried, he must have seen himself as a contemporary Phinehas. (Remember that Phinehas was the grandson of Aaron, the high priest, and he, in his zeal for YHWH God, slew a certain Israelite and his wife who worshiped the Baal of Peor, and thus ended the plague against Israel. See Number 25.) Saul must have seen “The Way” as an abomination! Saul – well-trained, zealous for the faith, and with the authority of the high priests behind him – left for Damascus to do to this new sect what Phinehas had done so many centuries before.

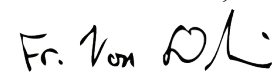
And we all know what happened: Jesus intervened, and we got the incredible saint we did, who founded Churches, wrote many letters that became canon, and formed many disciples of Christ. The Lord had given Saul all these incredible gifts and zeal, and now He was focusing them in the direction for which he was made! What grace!

We know from his letters that Paul thought himself unworthy to be a disciple, yet God called him. And He calls us as well. Even in our brokenness, even in our failures, even in our inability to keep resolutions, even – dare I say it – in our sin, the Lord calls us to be His disciples – and even His missionary disciples! He has called us: *in this time and in this place.*

Now, more than ever, in this call to follow Him, we need His Holy Spirit to enliven and enlighten our hearts. Our constant prayer must be, “Come, Holy Spirit!” It may sound like the cry of many tongues flowing from our lips, an act of praise to the Lord and giver of life. Or it may sound like a cry of desperation from the lips of impoverished beggars in need of alms to survive: “Come, Holy Spirit, since I can do nothing, *nothing*, NOTHING on my own! I am weak and poor and cannot fulfill the commission of God on my own.”

It is for this time that we were made. He has called us and so He will equip us. But we must allow Him to put on the armor of God. Let us cry out as with one voice, “*Veni Sancte Spiritus*, Come, Holy Spirit!” Let us allow the Holy Spirit to form us into the saints for which we were made.

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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the church work while lay people were largely passive. Pastors were dedicated and worked hard to serve Christ by maintaining the Church. In summary, It was an easy time to be a Christian because our culture was friendly to the name of Jesus.

Apostolic Times look different. The world is splitting between atheism, relativism, and other dark spiritualities at odds with Christianity. Many people have stopped going to church, organized religion is becoming taboo, and divine authority is dismissed as fantasy. Christian holidays have been secularized and sometimes unrecognizable. Values vary greatly depending on how people “feel” about certain issues. It is uncomfortable and even risky to mention Jesus in public. Christians stick out like a sore thumb and are increasingly unpopular. Thankfully lay people are relied upon more to take part in church decisions and activities. The people in the pews are more intentional about their faith. And the Church is becoming missionary again.

In short, the changing culture is forcing the Church to change its way of engaging society. In effect, we are embarking on some exciting times to be witnesses for Christ. In season and out of season our role as leading pastors is to preach the good news of Jesus Christ. Then with the power of the Holy Spirit on our side we can say with St. Paul, “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” (Galatians 6:14).

In light of the Apostolic Times

that are encroaching upon us, we need to rethink leadership in the Church. AMAZING PARISH is bringing pastors together to do just that. It all begins with the model of leadership Jesus championed. A friend of mine, Brother Rahl, says it this way, “We are called to minister to the multitudes, select the 70, train the 12, and confide in the 3.” In other words, Jesus had his closest friends in Peter, James, and John. The ones who accompanied Him for three years, the original 12 disciples, were apprentices who observed and engaged the way Jesus shared the good news. The 70 were those in the next ring of influence who got to know Jesus personally but were not with Him night and day. And of course there is everyone else who is seeking the one who heals, preaches, and raises the dead.

In seminary we were all taught, or maybe I should just speak for myself, to keep professional boundaries in the office and with parishioners. But the truth is, Jesus did not do that. He counted the people who followed Him as friends, as companions with whom he could make known His innermost self. Do we want to be bosses like the world expects? Or do we want to lead like Jesus, as shepherds who smell like their sheep? (Pope Francis)

AMAZING PARISH is a movement coming from the heart of laypeople who are willing to share with us what they need from us as their pastors. They are spiritually mature, emotionally smart, and provide a commonsense approach to rethinking leadership in the Church.

Though the facilitators have

plenty of insight, they don't pretend to have all the answers. Rather they put pastors in small cohorts of 5-10 priests who meet online and learn from each other. They offer some modern day coaching to resolve the various problems pastors come across. They meet with your chosen Parish Leadership Team as part of the process.

Here is one of the things I enjoy the most, the people of AMAZING PARISH ask probing questions that seem so obvious - but in 20 years I have not thought to ask them. I have been too close to the picture to think about the overarching framework that is supposed to hold it all together.

It was only last November that I reached out to AMAZING PARISH. It has already exceeded my expectations. It is financially funded and a free service to pastors. But there is a cost, we must be willing to change - change our attitudes, our lifestyle, and our preconceived notions of the way church is supposed to be. In order to meet the needs of our people, God's people, we must change how lead. We need Apostolic Leadership!

Let me end this unpaid commercial with an exhortation from St. Peter, our first pastor after Christ, our Chief Shepherd: “Tend the flock of God in your midst, [overseeing] not by constraint but willingly, as God would have it, not for shameful profit but eagerly. Do not lord it over those assigned to you, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.” (1 Peter 5:2-4)

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

