



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

March 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Rev. 1 Gerald Mischke St. Cloud, MN	Rev. 2 Gregory Paffel St. Cloud, MN	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 Todd Schneider St. Cloud, MN	Rev. 7 James Dyer St. Louis, MO	Rev. Msgr. 8 Edmund Griesedieck St. Louis, MO	Rev. 9 Martin Mannion St. Louis, MO	Rev. 10 Aaron Nord St. Louis, MO	Rev. 11 David Novak St. Louis, MO	Rev. 12 Charles Tichacek St. Louis, MO
Rev. 13 James Brown Toledo, OH	Rev. 14 Norbert Howe Toledo, OH	Rev. 15 Edward Littelmann Toledo, OH	Rev. 16 Thomas Oedy Toledo, OH	Rev. 17 Nicholas Weibl Toledo, OH	Rev. 18 Dale Branson Tucson, AZ	Rev. 19 Isaac Fynn Tucson, AZ
Rev. 20 John Gonzales Tucson, AZ	Rev. 21 James Hobert Tucson, AZ	Rev. 22 Bill Kohler Tucson, AZ	Rev. 23 Liam Leahy Tucson, AZ	Rev. 24 Rudolf Ofori Tucson, AZ	Rev. Msgr. 25 Domenico Pinti Tucson, AZ	Rev. 26 Thomas Quirk Tucson, AZ
Rev. 27 Ray Ratzberger Tucson, AZ	Most Rev. 28 Vitalij Skomarovski Ukraine	Most Rev. 29 Richard Baawobr Wa, West Africa	Rev. 30 Gervase Angsotinge Wa, West Africa	Rev. 31 Leo Dabuoh Wa, West Africa		

Modern Technology Makes an Ancient Practice Ubiquitous

By Fr. Robert J. Carr – Boston Fraternity

One of the most unique side-effects of the pandemic has been for me the discovery of Eucharistic adoration available online. I also discovered it to be ubiquitous. You can find on YouTube, for example, chapels offering live twenty-four-hour adoration from the Kolbe Shrine in Illinois to the Chapel of Divine Mercy in Vilnius, Lithuania and more. There are expositions of the Eucharist in Singapore, Australia, all over Europe and many other places worldwide.

As the host of the parish radio programs heard locally on a couple of Salem Radio stations (WROLRADIO.COM and 950 AM, WEZERADIO.COM and 590 AM and https://www.catholicaudiomedia.com). I often remind listeners who have concerns about the virus that these become great options. They can adore the Lord on a regular basis even though they do not have the ability to make it to the local parish.

In my own experience, I found that I can begin my day sitting before the live stream of the Eucharist from various places privately in prayer and adoration. It is an essential aspect of my ministry. Without it, I could not really function in these times. Even

on the days we have our Fraternity of Priests meetings I still begin my day in adoration before the live stream of the Eucharist mostly from the Kolbe Shrine in Illinois. I did the same during my recent vacation on Cape Cod.

I am what is known as a cord-cutter. I do not use cable and I live stream anything I watch on video. I receive my local channels on an attached antenna as was the practice prior to the proliferation of cable television. So, I watch television in small bites (or maybe even bytes). The exception is when I will pray before a live streaming of the Eucharist.

It is no secret that during these terribly discouraging days that prayer is an essential practice for us not only in the Fraternity but also for all people of faith. Catholics have the unique ability, unlike many other Christians, to sit in adoration before either a tabernacle or the Exposition of the Eucharist. This is a powerful expression of our relationship to Christ.

We as members of the Fraternity have a call to do this daily and I think there is an essential element to it that we must share with others. When we are in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, we are able

to let go of our other priorities for that time and make our focus our relationship with Christ. We are also able to share our struggles, pains, joys and experiences with Our Lord. We engage in an essential practice that I believe all priests and even all Catholics can share. It is not completely unique to Catholics but, certainly, other Christians who reject our teaching on the Eucharist cannot even dream of doing what for us is a tremendous gift.

We have that ability through the traditions and beliefs of our Catholic Faith. The advent of live streaming on YouTube and other venues allows us to sit before the Blessed Sacrament in various times and places. Granted many of us have chapels in our rectories and that is always the option too. However, this also allows us to sit in adoration quietly in our rooms and engage in our prayer privately.

We can then share the fruit of our prayer with others.

I teach on the radio about this practice to encourage the laity to try it as well. I do not know how many do use this method but I heard from one man who tells me he will stream the channel next to his bed so that he can sleep in the presence of the Lord.

We are living in a unique age. Many years ago, when the sex abuse

...continued on page 3

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.
PO Box 442
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 _____

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.

This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.

Dear Fr. Von DeKosia,

_____ \$ Other \$ \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100

Dear Fraternity Brothers and Friends of the Priesthood

EPISCOPAL ADVISORS

Bishop Sam Jacobs
Houma-Thibodaux, LA

Bishop Mark O'Connell
Boston, MA

Bishop Richard K. Baawobr
Wa, Ghana

DIRECTORS

Fr. Volney DeRosia
Manchester, New Hampshire
Chairman

Fr. Robert Carr
Boston, MA

Fr. Gregory Paffel
St. Cloud, MN

Fr. Joseph Meagher
Newark, NJ

Fr. John Kiley
Boston, MA

Fr. Sylvester Nankpi
Wa, Ghana

Fr. Tom Sparacino
Pittsburgh, PA

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:

\$5,061.00

Budget Surplus:

\$311.00

Current as of
December 31, 2021.

Just after the new year, I spent a week in St. Augustine, Florida with the men of the Mary Immaculate *Comunitá Cenacolo* (www.hopereborn.org). Mother Elvira envisioned Cenacolo as a place for young people who are in darkness to find light and hope. Most of those who are in Cenacolo are struggling with addictions, especially drug addiction. Cenacolo does not get money from the government nor the local diocese, nor do they charge the residents to be part of community. They live off of providence – God providing for their needs.

What struck me about Cenacolo were twofold: its dedication to *ora et labora* (prayer and work), and the transparency expected of those who live there.

Throughout the course of my week with them, I prayed and worked with them. We prayed the Rosary together three times a day, as well as other prayers during the day and in the evening, spent time in Adoration (even 2am Adoration on Sunday morning!), and I celebrated Mass and Reconciliation for them. We also worked together. For me, this included working in the garden, the greenhouse, the kitchen, and helping prepare light poles for a walkway (this included grinding the rust off... a first for me). By working with them, they felt comfortable opening up to me and I had some incredible and profound conversations.

There was much of both *ora* and *labora*!!

The other aspect that struck me was the expectation of transparency. Every few weeks they have a "Revision of Life" (which happened while I was there). They gather in small groups to discuss how well they have kept their commitments, and what their new commitments will be. Sometimes the commitment would be a "Stand and State." This meant that every day, they would have to stand in front of the community to fulfill their commitment. For some, their commitment was to withhold their first reaction – and so at the end of they day, they would Stand

and State how they had withheld their first reaction that day... or how they had not kept their commitment. For others, they had to share what was good about their day, since they were told that they focus too much on the

negative. After the Stand and State, they pause to receive "help." "Help" means correction or guidance from the brothers. They also have to learn to receive this "help" with a "Thank you."

What struck me most was how they shared after sports. After a game of soccer, I witnessed the men thanking God, apologizing for any failures on their part in the way they played the game, and sharing if they had any "reactions" with any of the brothers – for example, reactions of anger, pride, fear, or anxiety.

After a week with these men, I thought about how much our Fraternity is designed to be like this. While we don't live in community, we come together as priests to pray together, and to share our lives. There is an expectation that we will be transparent with each other, and that at least one other brother will know what's going on in our lives. As I pondered over this, I realized that I have not been as transparent with my brothers as I should. Cenacolo was a "help," calling me deeper in my relationship with my brothers. I hope I can live up to this!

Maybe you've found that you are not sharing your life with your brothers in the Fraternity as much as you should. I pray that we can all have that transparency so that we may walk together in truth toward the Heart of Christ!

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

crisis first broke in Boston, I warned that God was taking this time to strengthen and purify His Church for tough times were coming and there would be a need for a strong church during those times.

I was extrapolating from my experience so I was not drawing off of any inside knowledge, however, clearly, we are living really tough experiences physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. If there is a time we must be united to our Lord daily in prayer, we are living in the times.

Our daily prayer which must extend beyond the minimum required as priests is something that we have to draw upon in our experience. I do not believe I would have the strength to serve in these times if I did not engage in the practice of daily prayer in adoration. The streaming of the Eucharist on the internet makes it so much easier to fit into my schedule.

Others have taken this to another level. There are priests in various parts of the country including our local diocese who are participating in a live streaming adoration from their various rectories at various times in the night including three to four AM once per week. I will admit I am not one of them feeling my calling fits better in the morning before I start my workday. It does not matter. The fact that other priests see the advantage of using this technology to offer their prayers and seek to draw closer to the Lord is important.

I believe the next step, as I mention on the radio, is to encourage the laity

to pray as well.

Right now, we have a problem with social media especially in the Catholic Church where people take this time to cite everything wrong with the Church. They attack others and create division between those who prefer one form of worship over another. However, throughout the Bible, we see desire God has for all to be in relationship with him and live his commands prophetically in his friendship. Such times appeared in the past but I do believe even more they are here now.

Possibly, the current struggles in our Church are not to turn people away from our faith but a call to all the baptized members of our faith to take upon themselves the call to deepen their prayer daily.

I grew up in a time when the call of the Catholic was seen by many as simply to go to Mass on Sunday and then try to live a good life the rest of the week. However, true Catholicism involves going to Mass and then being deeply rooted in that relationship with the indwelling of the Holy Trinity that comes to us at Baptism and Confirmation. We have a mission to live our faith prophetically. We cannot do that if we do not root ourselves in Christ who reminded us that he is the vine and we are the branches.

St. Paul reminds us in Ephesians that we must draw our strength from the Lord but this message is not just for priests, bishops or for that matter Ephesians but it is for all baptized members of the Christian faith. We as Catholics have a special call to embrace that teaching because we have the special presence of Christ

that many other Christian religions do not.

There is no secret that we are living in a time where people need to see the hope to which Christ calls them and that we as Catholics are like a ship being tossed by the waves against the rocks. This is the time we desperately need to be in a relationship with Christ. This need is not just among the ordained but the entire Church from the young families bringing their children to be baptized to the Pope himself. All of us need that devotion that draws us closer to him and the Lord has provided us through modern technology the ability to practice it and share it with all the members of our faith.

The presence of the Eucharist streamed online is ubiquitous, based in places all over the world and available to Catholics and other Christians everywhere there is any form of an internet connection.

Therefore, Eucharistic adoration is available wherever the internet may be.

We need to let more and more people know about this practice because now is the time when we need to promote all forms of good prayerful Eucharistic devotion to our fellow Catholics.

As I said for years, troubled times are coming and the Lord needs a strong Church. Our Church becomes strong through prayer. Our modern technology gives us access to a powerful devotion we can practice anytime and almost anywhere which we need for these troubled times in our world which indeed arrived.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

