

June 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Rev. Chris Wallace Boston, MA 1	For the souls of our deceased FOP members 2	For prayer requests received 3	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis 4
Rev. Donald Roy Burlington 5	Rev. Andy Bord Cardiff, Wales 6	Rev. Barry English Cardiff, Wales 7	Canon John Griffiths Cardiff, Wales 8	Rev. Matthew Jones Cardiff, Wales 9	Rev. David O'Donnell Cardiff, Wales 10	Rev. Barnabas Page Cardiff, Wales 11
Rev. Ryan Cubera Cleveland, OH 12	Rev. Kevin Elbert Cleveland, OH 13	Rev. Robert Franco Cleveland, OH 14	Rev. James Mazanec Cleveland, OH 15	Rev. Donald Clinton Columbus, OH 16	Rev. Peter Gregor Comayagua 17	Rev. Robert Shaldone SOLT Corpus Christi 18
Most Rev. Sam Jacobs D.D. Episcopal Advisor 19	Rev. Duaine Cote Fargo, ND 20	Rev. Richard Goellen Fargo, ND 21	Rev. Dale Kinzler Fargo, ND 22	Rev. Donald Leiphon Fargo, ND 23	Rev. Gary Luiten Fargo, ND 24	Rev. Msgr. Dennis Skonseng Fargo, ND 25
Rev. Peter Pienaa Donzing Ghana 26	Rev. Robert Sackey Ghana 27	Rev. Charles Antekeier Grand Rapids, MI 28	Rev. George Fekete Grand Rapids, MI 29	Rev. Thomas Hack Grand Rapids, MI 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
<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

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Do you know anyone who would like to receive our Newsletter? (Please print legibly)

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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.

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

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.

Using the Disciplines to Serve Christ

By Fr. Robert J. Carr - Boston Fraternity and Editor of The Visitation

I do not have to tell anyone in the Fraternity of Priests how difficult our ministry is during the sex abuse crisis all these years. Even more so when you see the Catholic media push back at the idea that many of us, still years later, are in shock and pain. We entered the priesthood to preach the Gospel and those people who committed these acts as well as the doctors and chancery officials who reassigned the priests nevertheless damaged severely what we gave our lives to proclaim—the Gospel in the hearts of our parishioners.

We need as priests, in the midst of this pain, and as a church to look at what God may be saying to us. He may be calling Catholics to a complete change in outlook.

Lately, I found myself reflecting on the balance between the rules and living the relationship with Christ. If you hear any of my homilies (Monday podcasts at catholicaudiomedia.com) you will recognize that I rail against a Catholicism that follows rules without deepening our encounter with Christ. Similarly, in some of the secular writing venues I publish, you will find Christians walked away from their respective

faith communities—Catholic and otherwise—because they decided if a relationship with Christ is the key why be part of the church at all.

We are seeing this come to a head with the pontificate of Pope Francis. He seems to be calling us to see a whole new way of being Catholics without casting away the old. Maybe the focus again is on that balance between rules and relationship with Christ.

As members of the Fraternity of Priests, we have a set of disciplines that we must do daily including a holy hour. On my radio show/podcast during the pandemic, I instructed Catholic listeners to consider going to an online streaming of Eucharistic Adoration and do the Holy Hour themselves. It was a call I made to all Catholics and not just priests. We priests may have ready access to adoration but during the pandemic, many Catholics did not. One man told me that he goes to sleep with the streaming next to him all night.

I later learned in a recent interview I did with professor emeritus David Pinault of the University of Santa Clara that Charles de Foucauld also slept in front of the tabernacle in his little hermitage chapel.

He had a small chapel really I guess sort of a hut like where he would spend the night in prayer

before the monstrance, before the consecrated host and he would often sleep there curled up before the altar on the ground. Basically, he described himself as rolled up like a dog. He says a dog for Christ. (cf: <https://catholicaudiomedia.substack.com/p/david-pinault-on-charlesde-foucauld>)

Our disciplines do not do anything for us if they are not making us draw closer to Christ. They must help us deepen our relationship with him and turn from distractions that lead us away from Him.

The Church at this time does not need priests who will recite rules and tell the faithful how to live by some moral standard. Our parishioners need priests who will lead them to Christ.

I happily boast of getting a D minus in Canon Law. My professor at the time was one of those who never returned tests and did not discuss them. I have no idea why I did so badly. Now, I boast that grade is my 'out' if I make a mistake—"Sorry, I got a D minus in Canon Law." I know that the most important lesson is to call the tribunal with any question; that part I learned.

If you look carefully at some of the online forums, you will notice so many asking questions about whether something is a sin. That is their focus. This is tragic but in many ways, this

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:

\$1,787.00

Budget Deficit:

\$2,963.00

Current as of
March 31, 2022.

Last month, I shared the word we received during our annual board meeting in March. Just a reminder that we were asked to consecrate the Fraternity to Jesus through Mary. In our discernment, we have decided to consecrate the entire Fraternity on August 4th, the Feast of St. Jean-Marie Vianney. We ask that each Fraternity choose a form of preparation for consecration, and consecrate themselves and each Fraternity on August 4th.

Another part of the word was to **“Recover the vision, recover the disciplines.”** This is a reminder that at our core as a brotherhood is sharing the Visitation Message. The Visitation Message is that God is visiting His people as in a new Pentecost. God is continuing to send us His Holy Spirit, and we are called to respond to His Visitation! We have our committed brotherhood in order to help us to live out and share this Visitation Message.

As part of our Fraternity, we agree to ten disciplines:

1. To **pray** at least an hour a day.
2. To **attend Fraternity meetings** faithfully and not to be absent without reason and notice.
3. To read **Scripture daily** and keep a prayer journal.
4. To **tithe** ten percent of income.
5. To **fast** weekly.
6. To **accept leadership and teaching** from the Fraternity.
7. To receive **discernment** and spiritual direction from the Fraternity.
8. To be **zealous** for personal committed relationships with the Lord Jesus and brother priests.
9. To **proclaim the Visitation Message**.
10. To **empower God's people** in the Holy Spirit.

To be part of the Fraternity is to embrace these disciplines, and strive

to live them. I know for me, some are far easier than others, yet, they are all part of Fraternity. Some Fraternities have lost the vision and the practice of the disciplines. The Disciplines are

part of living Fraternity well. If you're not at least trying to live the Disciplines as Fraternity, what you are doing is not the Fraternity of Priests.

When I first joined the Fraternity (in 2003), we renewed the covenant every year with a special Mass and then we re-signed the covenant. Then we fell away from doing this (I think we just forgot). Last year, we began this practice again. I strongly encourage every Fraternity to revisit the Visitation Message and the Disciplines so as to re-root yourselves in the Fraternity. I also encourage you to recommit to these Disciplines every year.

When we lose our vision, we lose the reason for being. The Father spoke to us to share how Fraternities are dying. We need to re-root ourselves in the original vision in order to begin bearing fruit again.

I invite you to join us for the **Fraternity Conference in Tucson, Arizona**. This year's conference will be held **July 31-August 5, 2022**. Registration can be found on the Fraternity website.

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
is their concept of Catholicism.

As you know there was a huge battle over whether or not President Biden should receive the Eucharist and so many focused on the law (canon 915) and the rules. Some clergy and laity demanded the bishops to excommunicate him. Then they insisted that the bishops failed the people when they followed government protocols when the pandemic hit. Fortunately, in Massachusetts, we were able to stay open under restrictive circumstances.

I took both incidents as a time to help the faithful reflect on what we are doing in receiving the Eucharist. I pointed out that receiving is an option, not a requirement. Not to receive because you feel you cannot reconcile your lifestyle or your positions with Catholic teaching both honor God and ministers to others.

The person who chooses not to receive says to others: “Hey you are not alone, we too are here trying to reconcile our positions with Church teaching. Meanwhile, we are focused on deepening our relationship with Christ and opening ourselves to Him more and more until he leads us to where we are ready to receive properly.”

I also invited parishioners who do not receive to come and discuss with me why in case they are mistaken about their reasons. For example, how many divorced parishioners believe falsely they cannot communicate. Others grew angry when Bishop Doerfler of Marquette, Michigan issued a letter about those who could not receive communion in the same-sex

attracted community. I am not sure critics realized he emphasized that the restriction applies only to those in a sexual relationship not just in a relationship. I pointed out that his restriction found in Church teaching applies to all Catholics not as his letter implied only to those in a same-sex relationship and for which he was criticized by the LGBTQ community.

Some bishops use Twitter as their personal sound bite pulpit and I wrote elsewhere that they do great damage. Often they will use the platform to sound off, for example, about sexual morality when Church teaching on the virtue of chastity is eleven paragraphs. Elsewhere, the Catechism of the Catholic Church also teaches it is impossible to live our morality without prayer (CCC 2098). No one can teach that in 280 character bites. The focus on Twitter will always be on following rules by its nature and not on knowing Christ. However, you cannot follow the rules without knowing Christ. (This paragraph was 641 characters by the way.)

The saints did not focus on just following rules for the sake of it but on turning from the world to deepen their relationship with Christ. This is the kind of priest the people need, someone in love with Christ who can teach them the same. He is not the bus driver on the route to Heaven bringing his parishioners along. Rather, he leads his parishioners to encounter Christ. Our disciplines help us to live this mission because with fasting, praying and sharing those experiences in meetings as well as opening to the charism of prophecy, we use them to deepen our relationship to Christ.

One of the complaints I hear from time to time is in the aftermath of the sex abuse crisis the bishops relegated their apostolic responsibilities over to lawyers. That is sad. The fruit of the problem was a lack of relationship with Christ and not fixing that issue, the only result will be a reducing the relationship with Christ and focusing on the rules. Further, as Cardinal Avery Dulles warned, the Dallas charter caused a break in the relationship between a bishop and his priests.

God called Ezekiel to prophesy over dry bones. Some say often those bones represent a Judaism reduced to rules and nothing more. Our faith begins with the law of Christ written on our hearts which inspires us to live the law as Jesus did. I often teach that if we live the rules perfectly we will have lived, perfectly, the minimum standard of Catholicism. This is not our call. We must lead others to know Christ personally and powerfully and let that challenge them and us.

Maybe this difficult time is causing us to break down walls created by dry boney material in the rules with no emphasis on prayer. Maybe Christ is calling us to use this time to know him more so that we can teach Him more.

Maybe Christ is seeking to awaken his Church by sending a message to his Church that the ship is in danger of running aground on dry land made of old bones. Maybe Christ calls us to refloat the ship based on growing in our relationship with Him powerfully and teaching this to others.

We live the disciplines to strengthen our witness to Christ not because they are the rules.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

