

July 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. Brandon Oman Marquette, MI					1 For prayer requests received	2 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. Donald Lomasiewicz Grand Rapids, MI	3 Rev. Mark Mitchell Grand Rapids	4 Rev. Ayub Nasar Grand Rapids	5 Rev. Michael Shea CM Grand Rapids	6 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	7 Rev. Robert Hilz T.O.R. Greensburg, PA	8 Msgr. Cyril Lamontagne VG Grenada
Rev. Robert Grant Hartford, CT	10 Rev. Paul Halovatch Hartford, CT	11 Rev. Joseph Looney Hartford, CT	12 Rev. Will-Roger Malave Hartford, CT	13 Rev. Robert Rousseau Hartford, CT	14 Rev. Francis Dabre India	15 Rt. Rev. Dr. Bryan Eyman Indianapolis, IN
Rev. Paul Landwerlen Indianapolis, IN	17 Rev. George Joseph Nangachiveettil Indianapolis, IN	18 Rev. Thomas Cawley C.M. Kansas City	19 Rev. Earl Dekat Kansas City	20 Rev. Roderic Giller OSB Kansas City	21 Rev. Rheal Forest Manitoba, Canada	22 Rev. Timothy Ekaitis Marquette, MI
Rev. Ryan Ford Marquette, MI	24 Rev. Christopher Gardiner Marquette, MI	25 Rev. Benjamin Hasse Marquette, MI	26 Rev. Jeff Johnson Marquette, MI	27 Rev. Dustin Larson Marquette, MI	28 Rev. Thomas Merkel Marquette, MI	29 Rev. Aaron Nowicki Marquette, MI
						30 Rev. Marquette, MI

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.

Please cut and return this form with your donation.

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<input type="checkbox"/>		

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

Dear Fr. Von DeRosia,

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



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Understanding Our Role

By Fr. Robert J. Carr - Boston Fraternity

The role of parish priest is one that not only includes bringing forth the sacrament. We also take the teaching of the Catholic Church and bring it to the individual members of the parish. Unlike those who teach in seminaries and offer what the Church teaches on a general level, the parish priest in the pulpit, in counseling and in the confessional offers the same teaching pastorally and at times on an individual level.

One aspect of Catholicism, for example, is that our church never declares something not a sin that traditionally is a sin. Other Christian churches changed their teaching over time whereas in many ways Catholicism does not. We, rather, understand levels of culpability. For example, we always teach that for something to be a mortal sin, three conditions must be satisfied. If they are not then the sin was not mortal. It may still be a sin but the action does not cut off one's relationship with God.

Other Christian religions do not have this understanding. Our helping parishioners understand the actual teaching is where we are doing our job for the persons who come to us. This is especially important today

because many people get their information from the internet. Say for example Twitter or the Catholicism subreddit on Reddit, two of the worst places to get Catholic teaching. People will ask questions and get answers from the less informed and this will lead them astray. The same can be said for some Catholic media outlets such as those on certain Catholic radio stations that promote the Latin Mass and tell people coming back to the Church they should find a Latin Mass and avoid what they call the Novus Ordo—the actual name of the Mass is the Paul VI Mass.

All of these sources of information are out there and our role is to give accurate information that affects them personally. Our prayer is important in this role and encouraging their prayer is just as important.

We make a great error if we do nothing more than simply repeat rules on a general level. People get enough of that in less than healthy "Catholic" forums.

Our role also must help people to live the faith better in their own daily lives. We cannot do that if we do not understand our teachings or have not wrestled with them in our own lives to better appreciate them.

This is also why our prayer is so important and it is there that we bring to prayer our issues and our understandings. If we do not then we can become discouraged in our work and that leads to burnout.

Let me give you an example: Currently, there is a great discussion about Archbishop Cordileone's mandate that Speaker Pelosi not receive the Eucharist. We see much discussion of it not only among the laity but also among the bishops. We know the pope's concern about politicizing the Eucharist and his desire to see the issue addressed in more pastoral ways. Other bishops may agree with the archbishop's actions but not his public manner. At least one bishop who called other politicians privately not to receive the Eucharist in light of the position on abortion stated his manner of addressing this within his diocese and his disagreement with a public pronouncement.

However, not only are some people concerned about this while others agree with the archbishop's actions but others ask why someone who is in favor of the death penalty is not also denied reception of communion. Nancy Pelosi is a member of the Democratic party and in the latter days of the previous administration under

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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:
\$3,341.00

Budget Deficit:
\$1,409.00

Current as of
April 30, 2022.

Over the last couple of months, I have written about the word we got at our Fraternity Board Meeting. Our Lord asked us to consecrate the Fraternity to Mary. After prayer and discernment, we decided to invite all members to consecrate themselves, their priesthood and their Fraternity to Mary on August 4, 2022, the Feast of St. Jean-Mary Vianney. Below is the text (altered from *Total Consecration to Mary: The Theology and History of Marian Consecration With a Nineday Preparation, in the Spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe* by Fr. Anslem Romb, OFM Conv., Marytown Press).

I, (name), a repentant sinner, cast myself at your feet humbly imploring you to take me, with all that I am and have, wholly to yourself as your possession and property.



Leader: My brothers, are you resolved to renew, the promises you once made?

The priests, all together, respond: I am.
Leader: Are you resolved to be more united with the Lord Jesus and more closely conformed to him, denying yourselves and confirming those promises about sacred duties towards Christ's Church which, prompted by love of him, you willingly and joyfully pledged on the day of your priestly ordination?

Priests: I am.

Leader: Are you resolved to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God in the Holy Eucharist and the other liturgical rites and to discharge faithfully the sacred office of teaching, following Christ the head and shepherd, not seeking any gain, but moved only by zeal for souls?

Priests: I am.

Leader: May the Lord keep us all in his charity and lead all of us, to eternal life.

Priests: Amen.

Leader: Dear Brothers, The Lord has inspired you to entrust yourselves wholly to Mary in order to become instruments of this grace in the Fraternity of Priests,

for the conversion and sanctification of all mankind.

Do you wish, therefore, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live your lives in perfect union with the Immaculate Mary,

and to be for all your brothers and sisters an example of Christian life?

Priests: Yes, I do.

Leader: Let us, then entrust into our mother Mary's hands our souls, our priesthood, and the whole Fraternity of Priests:

A T T : O
Immaculate Mary, Queen of heaven and earth, Refuge of Sinners, Mother of all priests and our most loving Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy to you.

I, (name), a repentant sinner, cast myself at your feet humbly imploring you to take me, with all that I am and have, wholly to yourself as your possession and property.

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President Trump (Republican), there was a push for more state-sponsored executions.

As one against the death penalty, I can see the concern of those who see the silence on the death penalty while vocal against abortion can appear to be passive support for the Republican party but a rejection of the Democratic Party. It is not. I can also explain it because that is my job as it is for all parish priests. We as Catholics do not hold any situation in which an abortion is acceptable.

However, we do believe the death penalty can be permitted in extremely rare circumstances. Granted, according to Catholic teaching such times are virtually non-existent as Pope St. John Paul II explained. However, that is the difference. The state does have the right (not necessarily the duty)

to execute criminals according to Catholic social teaching albeit as a last resort; it never has the right to permit an abortion.

You can teach that all you want in the seminary but it is the role of the parish priest regardless of the stand on the matter by his bishop or himself to teach the laity in a way they fully understand. Catholicism does maintain a difference of weight between abortion and the death penalty.

However, from a general aspect, we can say what the Church teaches but we need to bring that to the laity in a way they can fully understand. They may nor may agree, they may have to bring it prayer and wrestle with Catholic teaching but they have a right to hear the teaching in a way that

helps them most understand it.

They can also lobby for the government to outlaw the death penalty in all cases. There is nothing in Catholic teaching that says that is not permitted. However, the two issues are there and some people see the practical application of them as they play out in their news sources every day as of equal weight. They see it as a democratic/republican thing rather than two moral rules where one has the higher weight than the other.

This is where our role becomes more personal. Especially, when we are talking to a parishioner who is angry at the church for one reason or the other.

We may even offer our disagreement on how Catholic teaching is carried out. For example, in the case of the bishop who stated that he addressed the issues of politicians receiving the Eucharist privately and never by public announcement. He agreed with the teaching but not the manner it was carried out. We can do the same with the parishioners.

When people ask me a question and receive an answer they do not like, I always point out that my role is to give them Catholic teaching. We can discuss it further but if I give what they may want to hear instead of what the Church teaches then I am not fulfilling my role. However, I have to help them with the teaching pastorally.

I also have to make sure their understanding is accurate.

Once a group of parishioners asked me about a couple living together but not married if they could receive communion. I explained that they

could not unless they were "living like brother and sister." They all laughed including the couple and said that this was not going to happen. I responded that they asked me what the church teaches and I will explain it but I will also give them church teaching as my answer because that is what I represent. However, it is my role to look at all the pastoral issues and help them work through it. That is what we do.

Our prayer is essential in all of this so that we can fulfill our role. We must understand that few people in seminaries or in chanceries have to work on the level we do. We have the mandate to take what the Church teaches and bring it into people's homes and into their lives. We cannot leave it in the air and give the same answer as they will find in an online forum. We have to make the answer more personal so they can understand it better. They may not like it but that is not the point. We have to make sure they understand it as best we can and address it on the more personal level we can.

This is the unique role we have and our personal experience with them can help them in ways that others cannot address their issues at all.

So many people receive so much information that is just not accurate from so-called Catholic sources, we can give the more accurate information just as a doctor can help someone understand a person's situation and sort through all the accurate and inaccurate advice they may find on and off the internet.

This is what we do along with the sacramental ministry that is part of it. It is an irreplaceable job that allows us to bring what is true to those who most need to hear it.