



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

August 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Rev. Darryl Pepin Marquette, MI	Rev. Benjamin Rivard Marquette, MI	Rev. Michael Steber Marquette, MI	For the souls of our deceased FOP members	For prayer requests received	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. Larry Van Damme Marquette, MI	Rev. Michael Woempner Marquette, MI	Rev. Raymond Zeugner Marquette, MI	Rev. Anthony Bekpare Nasaalbeteryeb	Rev. Nicodemus Unezumeh Nasaalbeteryeb	Rev. Eugene Bettinger O. Carm. New Jersey	Rev. Paul Cannariato New Jersey
Rev. John Gordon New Jersey	Rev. William Halbing New Jersey	Rev. Joseph Meagher New Jersey	Rev. Brendan Murray New Jersey	Rev. Lewis Papera New Jersey	Rev. John Primich New Jersey	Rev. Ernest Rush New Jersey
Rev. John Wassell New Jersey	Rev. Ben Williams New Jersey	Rev. William Cosgrove New York	Rev. Tom Devery New York	Rev. Ala Shnob Ogdensburg	Rev. Robert Boyle Pittsburgh	Rev. John Brennan Pittsburgh
Rev. Tony Gargotta Pittsburgh	Rev. Stan Gregorek Pittsburgh	Rev. Thomas Kredel Pittsburgh	Rev. Joseph Luisi Pittsburgh			

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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<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

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

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

Dear Fr. Von DeKosia,

You may or may not know I run a parish radio show. We rent our school and in an effort to build up the community, I came up with the idea of doing a daily radio show (actually 2), therefore, reinvesting a part of the rent into outreach. I do not broadcast on Catholic radio as that is a closed system, rather I air these programs on Salem which is the largest Christian broadcaster in the country.

A large group of the audience for our radio stations WROL 950 am and WEZE 590 am are actually unchurched and, I learned, former Catholics. Many others became evangelical. This means that I must broadcast Catholic doctrine to former Catholics, evangelicals and others with no church connection at all. The key thing that I learned through some feedback is my audience is filled with people who feel alienated from the Catholic Church. One woman went through twelve years of Catholic school, she is my age, but feels she was looked down upon during all those years because her parents were divorced when she was younger. She felt leaders in the parish and the school treated

Lessons from Radio Ministry

By Fr. Robert J. Carr - Boston Fraternity

her negatively because of reality over which she has no control. She left the Church and has not returned although she explains she does pray and she does believe.

Another is a Bible believing evangelical and former Catholic who does not understand the pope and the Catholic teaching of tradition with the Bible instead of just the Bible. He feels his faith was not well presented to him when he was in Catholic religious education.

When I speak on the radio, I emphasize prayer and relationship with Christ. I am quite well aware that this is foreign to some Catholics particularly the relationship part. However, that is literally what it means to be Christian to have a prayer relationship with Christ. My audience often gets that but does not feel it was emphasized in their formative Christian years.

More so, I see an over emphasis on morality in many online Christian forums including well known Catholic YouTube celebrities and of course on Catholic Radio on which I do not appear. My parishioners know that I put out that Catholicism is not a moral code but it is through our prayer relationship that we respond to the moral code. So, we live our faith in a way where the

focus is on pleasing God, drawing close to him and avoiding what will separate us from him. This is where the moral code comes.

Many Catholics still believe the idea that they must live a moral life so that they can go to Heaven. They believe that good people go to Heaven and bad people go to Hell. Whereas this is not exactly Catholic teaching.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church to say nothing of the writing of the saints teaches that one cannot live the morals of our faith if we do not pray. This is an ancient Catholic teaching but you will find Catholics who know nothing of prayer and seek to do the right thing without it or they will give up on the faith because they long ago believed they cannot be good enough to so much as walk in the door to a church. I had an interesting conversation with a tour guide in Mexico over that point once he realized I was a priest.

This is a problem and one that needs to be addressed well. We need to be teaching people about prayer and deepening their relationship with Christ and be careful of focusing exclusively on morality. One reason, I often point out on the radio is you can be an atheist and live Catholic morality. There are even churches for atheists to attend on Sundays. I like to explain if an atheist can live what

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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:

\$655.00

Budget Deficit:

\$4,095.00

Current as of
May 31, 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. Here again is the full text of the word:

"Fraternities are dying. What began, like many things in the Church, over time is not bearing fruit. You have been told many times that the Fraternity of Priests was established for the time in which you are now living.

"I call you, I challenge you, I command you to prayer and fasting for the renewal of the Fraternity. Recover the vision, recover the disciplines. Reach out constantly and invite brother priests. As the Holy Father consecrates Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Mother of My Son, I ask you to find a time and an opportunity soon to consecrate the Fraternity of Priests to her Immaculate Heart. She is the Mother of Priests and has a great love for every priest, even the fallen ones, and especially the hurting, broken, and discouraged ones. This consecration will bring about tremendous fruit and will be an important means for the renewal of the priesthood."

After prayer and discernment, the Board 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. This may mean a change of schedule for your regular meetings, but we strongly encourage you and ask you, if at all possible, to meet as a Fraternity on Thursday, August 4th for the Consecration to Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. For the text of the Consecration, see the June 2022 Newsletter (www.fraternityofpriests.org/newsletter/).

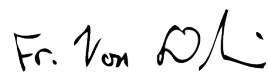
This past June, on the anniversary of my ordination, the Lord spoke a word to me asking me to recommit myself to

holiness. He was very practical in the things I needed to cut out from my life. These things were distracting me from prayer and keeping me from being recollected. Since then, I have worked on reorienting myself. I see this word the Lord gave to me in the same line as the word given at the Board Meeting for the whole Fraternity. This is a call to conversion. This is a challenge to re-root ourselves in Christ. God is calling us to recover to the original vision and disciplines of the Fraternity.

As priests, Mary holds us in a special place in her heart, for we have been called to be intimate friends of Christ, her Divine Son. I have great confidence that as we entrust our priesthood and our Fraternity to her, she will mold us into Christ! Sometimes, we can be afraid or discouraged by what is asked of us, but Our Lady will make the road easy! And we always have to remember that Mama wants *only good things for us!* When we entrust ourselves into her hands, she will not act in spite or malice, but only draw us to love.

A reminder that the **Fraternity Conference in Tucson, Arizona is 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.

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you are teaching then you are not teaching the Catholic faith correctly.

I believe this is one reason why many people do not go to church. They feel they are good enough to get to Heaven already and do not need to attend Mass. This is all a part of a teaching that focuses exclusively on living a moral life and has no connection to a relationship with Christ whatsoever.

Many people are alienated from the faith for various reasons and others seem to exploit it through online media endeavors to proclaim why their brand of Catholicism is the only correct brand. They tell us we have to teach their morality and if we do not then we are not good Catholics. I never hear them talking about prayer.

I like to remind people that everyone to whom St. Paul and other epistle writers in the New Testament wrote were Christians. So, if I take a letter and use it to proclaim a morality to people who may or may not be Christian, I am already misusing the Bible. I can tell people that something is a sin in the Bible but if they do not believe or are alienated from the faith, it will not convince them. I explain it will be citing the Bhagavat Gita to me. It, I assume, is filled with wise sayings but I am not a Hindu, I am not a member of any element of that religion so it would not really have the same impact on me as it would a practicing Hindu.

If, on the other hand, I begin to teach people of Christ and teach them the important elements of simply learning to pray to Him then

I do what was common in the Gospel times, simply bringing people to meet Christ. This is what I invite us all to do.

I teach on the radio, it is not the good person who we are called to be but the holy person. The holy person will be good but not in the same way as one who will win the key to the city. For example, one of the interesting servants of God on her way to canonization is Dorothy Day. Some people celebrate her life others reject it. They consider her too radical and despise her socialism not realizing she was not a socialist—She was a Christian anarchist. Dorothy Day influenced many people in her time and even today. Some are most influenced by her teaching on social justice not realizing she spoke Catholic social teaching. They do not realize that she was a deeply devout Catholic whose favorite book was The Imitation of Christ. Others hear the Catholic social teaching and get turned off considering her to be too radical for our times.

She is, however, recognized to be a Servant of God and is a candidate for the canonization process.

Thomas Merton wrote about the plaster saint. This is the false image of the saint—inhuman, two dimensional. Saints are real people who do not seek to do good for good's sake but to draw closer to Christ. Many of our Catholics do not understand this. Some saints even had faults that would lead others to dismiss their model.

Recently, I heard the quote on Catholic radio "You can go to Hell reading bad books." This is a tragic

quote. First, what is a bad book? Notice the focus on morality. So, someone reads a bad book which was not defined and can go to Hell. However, would it also make sense that if a person really sought to draw closer to Christ he or she would not read bad books not out of fear of Hell but out of love of Christ and that can only be accomplished through relationship.

Guido Schaffer, who also is a Servant of God put forth by the Diocese of São Sebastião de Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, was a surfer, doctor and seminarian when he died in a surfing accident on one of the beaches of Rio. He promoted partaking in the Sacrament of Reconciliation by explaining why he needed to confess in an apparent straight forward and honest way. That must have taken great courage. He was rooted in a love of God and spent his life trying to share it with others. He promoted prayer and a deep understanding of God.

There is so much of this missing from so many Catholic venues. If we talk about acting in the right manner so that we may go to Heaven then focus on the reality we will be held responsible for introducing people to Christ. If we teach them a morality they can learn from atheists then we are not doing our role. Our teaching must begin with introducing people to Christ and encouraging them to foster that relationship with him. Then they will seek to do the right thing far more than just trying to be good. This will be a great model for learning what true Catholicism is really about when it is lived correctly.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

