

September 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	2 For prayer requests received	3 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. 4 John Lynam Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 5 Daniel Mahoney Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 6 Nicholas Mastrangelo Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 7 Kenneth Oldenski Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 8 Thomas Sparacino Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 9 John Sweeney Pittsburgh, PA	Rev. 10 Paul Zywan Pittsburgh, PA
Msgr. 11 Cuthbert Alexander Port-of-Spain	Rev. 12 Gerard Bernier Port-of-Spain	Rev. 13 Rignald DeFour Port-of-Spain	Rev. 14 Raymond Francis Port-of-Spain	Rev. 15 Clifford Graham Port-of-Spain	Rev. 16 Harold Imammshah Port-of-Spain	Rev. 17 Dwight Merrick Port-of-Spain
Rev. 18 Ian Taylor Port-of-Spain	Rev. 19 John Theodore CSSP Port-of-Spain	Rev. 20 John Dreher Providence, RI	Rev. 21 Robert Giardina Providence, RI	Rev. 22 Michael Kelley Providence, RI	Rev. 23 Rolan Lepire Providence, RI	Rev. 24 Michael Roy Providence, RI
Rev. 25 Gerry Sabourin Providence, RI	Rev. 26 Terry Brenon San Angelo, TX	Rev. 27 Rober Bush San Angelo, TX	Rev. 28 Bernard Gully San Angelo, TX	Rev. 29 Santiago Udayar San Angelo, TX	Rev. 30 William McCarthy Sioux City, IA	

**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](mailto: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)

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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.

**Discerning Our Charismatic Gifts as Priests**

By Fr. Mark Botzet - St. Cloud Fraternity

Being ordained to the priesthood on June 15th, 2019. I reflect back on the impact that Steubenville has played on the discernment of my vocation and continues to have an effect on my priesthood. It was while I was in the seminary that I came to recognize the charismatic renewal that was going on in the Catholic Church. These gifts, these charisms that God has given us seem to play an important role in building up the church. I noticed that people seemed drawn more to these parish communities and certain priests seemed to know their gifts. It was during my time at the minor seminary that the Fraternity of Priests sent us seminarians an invite to attend the priest, deacon, seminarian conference out at Steubenville Ohio. This was the first time that I ever attended a Steubenville conference.

As I was getting ready to head out, I was informed that I would be the only seminarian going from our St. Cloud Diocese. Yet, that did not really bother me because, I quickly found out, even us seminarians who are in formation have a special connection. Part of the reason for that is because we

are all studying philosophy. Meaning we are all thinking and reasoning in the same thought process together. We shared a lot of great conversations as we ate meals together at the conference.

I remember at one of the conferences the priest mentioned that if "God calls you to the priesthood you will be ordained a priest." This was a reassurance for me as I was discerning my possible call to the priesthood. Because I found my studies at the seminary to be very challenging at times. It is often in these times of weakness that God has other plans for us. "Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.'" (2 Cor 12:9) It has often been said that when God calls someone, he also equips them to do the ministry that God calls us to do.

After the summer conference, I returned to Saint John Vianney College Seminary at the University of St. Thomas. Fr. Michael Becker, the rector of the seminary, was starting a new ministry that occurred at the campus chapel. It was called Charismata. Charismata occur

once a month on Friday evenings. It was adoration with praise and worship music that lasted for over an hour. Also, there were prayer teams gathered throughout the chapel that were available to pray over people. It was while being prayed over by a prayer group. That one of the members of the team had words of knowledge for me. That assured me and kept me focused on my priesthood discernment as I continued into my third year of studies. I also decided to continue attending Charismata because I wanted to be made aware of the Charismatic renewal that was present in the Catholic Church. I felt that it was important for me to experience and be aware of this spirituality because I figured that I would run into parishioners that have also experienced these Charismatic gifts. As a seminarian I also noticed that parishioners were often drawn closer to priest's that are more charismatic. It was like their priesthood was enriched in some way.

It was during a formation talk that was given during my seminary formation that I was introduced to the Charismatic gifts that we find in St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians. "Some people God has designated in

# 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:

**\$4,459.00**

Budget Deficit:

**\$291.00**

Current as of  
June 30, 2022.

I was praying recently and felt called to open *In Sinu Jesu* to see what the Lord had for me that morning. (For those who don't know, the book *In Sinu Jesu* is a spiritual diary of a Benedictine priest and how God speaks to him, specifically about holiness for the priesthood, especially in adoration.) This was what I read:

*There has never in all of history been a single priest whom I have not destined for a great holiness. My Heart has suffered much because so many of My chosen ones have refused My gifts and, preferring their own ways to Mine, gone into the outer darkness where it is night.*

*My Heart burns to see My priests all ablaze with Eucharistic holiness. The Altar is the source all priestly holiness. The kiss given to the altar at the beginning and end of Holy Mass means that the priest recognizes this. By kissing the altar, he makes himself vulnerable to My piercing love. By kissing the altar, he opens himself unreservedly to all that I would give him and to all that I hold in the designs of my Heart for his life. The kiss to the altar signifies total abandonment to the priestly holiness that I desire and to the fulfillment of My desires in the soul of My priest. (In Sinu Jesu, Thursday, May 29, 2008, p. 64).*

This call to holiness, of course, is why the Fraternity was established – to help us help each other grow in holiness. This emphasis on Eucharistic holiness is what makes us priests.

I saw this word as a specific call to me because of a story that was sent to me and has made its way into several homilies (you can find the whole story by going to [www.aleteia.org](http://www.aleteia.org), and searching “a kiss from Jesus an altar boy in training teaches a priest

a lesson”). In this story, a priest recounts how a new altar boy was doing everything the priest did, including kissing the altar. The week after the priest told him not to kiss the altar, so the

boy put his cheek on the altar. When told not to do this, the boy said, “I didn't kiss it; it kissed me.” When pressed on this, he said, “It's true! He filled me with kisses.” After everyone left, the priest put his cheek against the altar and said, “Lord, kiss me like you kissed Gabriel.”

Since reading this article, I have striven to pay more attention to this simple act we do at the beginning and end of each Mass. For a while, as I would venerate the altar, I would say in my mind, “Lord, fill me with kisses.” Of late, though, I have turned the tables, realizing that Jesus in His Passion is in need of consolation. I now say, “Jesus, let me fill *You* with kisses.”

Reading this passage from *In Sinu Jesu* revealed to me that this moment of intimacy with the Lord is not just a fancy of my imagination, but truly is a way of opening myself more to the Lord, to holiness, to surrender to Him.

I pray that my brother priests will be inspired to share more deeply in these intimate moments at the beginning and end of every Mass.

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](mailto:editor@fraternityofpriests.org). Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted.

...continued from page 1

the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third teachers; then mighty deeds; then gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues.” It is clear that these gifts exist in our lives to help build the church.

My New Testament teacher brought up a point that some people feel pushed away from the Charismatic renewal because they have not figured out what gift they have. Since they have not been able to properly discern the gift, they feel left out. When actually charisms are not about you. We are to humble ourselves as we discern these gifts to see their impact on other people. These charisms are not about us. God gives us these charisms for other people in order to build up God's church. We do need to focus on ourselves making sure that we are open to receiving the Holy Spirit in order to discern these gifts. The Catherine of Siena Institute Called and Gifted discernment process mentions that “there are obstacles that can block the reception of the Holy Spirit. The lack of personal faith. The lack of understanding. The lack of desire to live a new life. The lack of repentance.” It is clear that we need to be open to receiving what God has given us.

We are to open ourselves up to discern the gifts that have been given, allowing ourselves to see how God is working through us. The question is what Charismatic gifts have we been given? How does one discern that Charismatic gift? The Catherine of Siena Institute

has a called and gifted survey. I have taken it once prior to my diaconate ordination and I just recently took the survey again. Some of the results did not change while other areas did. There is also a one day workshop that is put on to help build some understanding about the gifts. Followed up with an interview. Currently, I am observing my interactions that I have with my parishioners in the areas of these charismatic gifts. Keeping notes by journaling. As the discernment process flushes out if I really have that charism or not. It is a kind of experiment, but yet it is being observant to how the Holy Spirit is working through me as a priest. Because it is by our very baptism that we receive the power to respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the sanctifying gifts, and charisms. God calls us to be open to using these gifts to help grow the church. The sacrament of Confirmation strengthens these charisms even more.

Why should we as priests be open to the spirituality of the Charismatic renewal and Steubenville? I think the answer to that question is so that we can build the church as Christ called us to. All of us priests have been given different gifts for that task. Furthermore, we are in need of meeting the people where they are at with their spirituality. I often hear that we send our youth off to a Steubenville conference. They often return home on fire or even have a conversion that occurred. The problem is that the youth come back home with nothing to fan that flame in their home parishes. I do not hold the answer to this problem. My experience would tell me that I

believe the impact of a Steubenville conference on our youth can be supplemented by offering praise and worship music with adoration and the sacrament of reconciliation as a possible starting point. Often, the youth will attend a few conferences once every summer.

Since attending two priest, deacon and seminarian conferences as a seminarian, I have returned to the conference for the first time as a priest last year. I have enjoyed many of their speakers. When I returned back to my parish for the following weekend to say Mass. Some of my parishioners noticed a change in my preaching. They mentioned to me that I seemed more on fire with the message that I delivered. They were very appreciative of it. This also made me aware that it is good for us priests to step away and get spiritually recharged from time to time.

Looking back at these past three years of priesthood. The Steubenville conferences and other resources have impacted my priesthood. I hope more of our brother priests are open to discerning their charismatic gifts and are open to the charismatic renewal: I hope they are allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us as we minister to our people, drawing more people into our parishes, bringing them closer to God by sharing more completely in the mission of Jesus Christ and fullness of Spirit with which he has been filled.

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.*

Please send us your prayer intentions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_