

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

October 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. 30 Nicholas Weibl Toledo, OH	Rev. 31 Dale Branson Tucson, AZ					1 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Msgr. 2 Edward Burian Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 3 John Helmueller Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 4 Joseph Vogel Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 5 Richard Baumberger Sioux Falls, SD	6 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	7 For prayer requests received	8 Rev. Rodney Farke Sioux Falls, SD
Rev. 9 Edward Pierce Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 10 John Rasmussen Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 11 Joseph Short Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 12 Gregory Frankman Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 13 Roger Geditz Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 14 Randy Phillips Sioux Falls, SD	Rev. 15 Jerome Ranek Sioux Falls, SD
Rev. 16 Peter Kirchner St. Cloud, MN	Rev. 17 Gerald Mischke St. Cloud, MN	Rev. 18 Gregory Paffel Cloud, MN	Rev. 19 Todd Schneider St. Cloud, MN	Rev. 20 James Dyer St. Louis, MO	Rev. Msgr. 21 Edmund Griesedieck St. Louis, MO	Rev. 22 Martin Mannion St. Louis, MO
Rev. 23 Aaron Nord St. Louis, MO	Rev. 24 David Novak St. Louis, MO	Rev. 25 Charles Tichacek St. Louis, MO	Rev. 26 James Brown Toledo, OH	Rev. 27 Norbert Howe Toledo, OH	Rev. 28 Edward Littelmann Toledo, OH	Rev. 29 Thomas Oedy Toledo, OH

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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City, State and Zip _____

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This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.
Dear Fr. Von DeKosia, _____ \$ \$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.

Our Lady of Fatima and the Gift of Providence

By Fr. Nathaniel Sanders at the Invitation of Fr. John Kiley, Boston Fraternity

This past May 13, on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops called for a day of fasting and prayer for all Catholics. Such an invitation was issued on the occasion of the leaked Dobbs Supreme Court Decision and the subsequent tumult. The US Bishops asked that such fasting and prayer be done for the intentions of our nation, for the overturning of Roe vs. Wade, and for the conversion of hearts. They also encouraged all to pray the Rosary for such ends, following the example of Our Lady of Fatima. While the specific date of the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima may have been an accident of events outside the Church, it was nonetheless providential. For Our Lady of Fatima has much to teach the Church and our nation about reliance on God's grace for the conversion of the world.

There is a general principle in the spiritual life that God, in his infinite and particular love, gives charisms where they are most wanting. Grace always comes in incarnate forms, according to the specific needs of a culture and time. Providence isn't vague. It's personal - giving graces, saints, and messages to specific people for a specific purpose. For example,

I once heard it remarked that God gave St. Josemaria Escriva to the Spanish, because a German wouldn't need spiritual motivation to rise from bed when the alarm sounded. And if the Lord saw it necessary to give the bombastic, belle epoque French a "little way" through St. Therese of Lisieux in order to come to know him and love him, he sent his mother a few years later to give a rather different message to three children in Portugal.

For, to the seemingly insignificant and truly little, Our Lady proclaimed that their lives had eternal worth and influence. For those who are tempted to think that grace is limited in the face of a culture that is set against it, Our Lady of Fatima teaches us that God's ways of acting are far beyond those of this world. For it would be hard to find less important persons in Europe than the three little children Our Lady appeared to with a message of universal consequence. To three young shepherds, in a town whose name indicated Moorish conquest, while the entire world was consumed by the horrors that mankind had unleashed, Our Lady came to teach the power of grace. In the midst of a Great War in which Portugal could hardly get out of her own harbors because of U-Boat attacks, in the midst of Communist fervor which

would eventually consume half the continent, in the midst of a pandemic that claimed far more lives than the war, and in the midst of a confident age who thought it could conquer nature, the world bore witness to the "big way" shown by Our Lady at Fatima. In the midst of the greatest conflict the world had yet seen, Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta would play the greatest of roles.

Our Lady came with a message. A message to tell the world that our actions have eternal consequences and that the Lord is ruler, and, above all, that he even has dominion over the actions and forces of this world. While Our Lady warned them of an even more devastating war on the horizon, and the terrors that Russia would unleash, and most importantly, of the terrors awaiting those who fell away, she also told them that the rosary would be far more powerful than any of these forces. And while she told them of the evils that were coming, both in this life and the next, for much of mankind, she showed them the greatness of God's grace and mercy. That the devotion intreated to three shepherd children, and the message they shared with the world, would be far greater than anything that would oppose them.

In a world tempted to despair of the value of its actions, Our Lady ...continued on page 3

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:

\$1,673.00

Budget Deficit:

\$3,077.00

Current as of
July 31, 2022.

In August, we had our Annual Fraternity conference in Tucson. Our main speaker was unable to attend, so we were able to get Dr. Ralph Martin to do two Zoom calls with us. We also decided to break open the word that we received at the March board meeting (see my articles from the April, May, June and July newsletters). Fr. John Kiley spoke about the word, "Fraternities Are Dying," and I gave two talks, "Where Do We Go from Here" and "Preparing for Marian Consecration" (all five talks can be found on the Fraternity website: www.fraternityofpriests.org).

What were the "take-aways" from the Conference? Ralph spoke very well (as always), giving us a shot in the arm. He spoke about the need for both kindness and severity, to remind people of the need for saving our souls. There needs to be more preaching about the four last things (death, judgment, Heaven and Hell), and for us to be prophetic and courageous (because silence is consent). Too often, people fall into the darkness because no one is willing to shine the light. He did emphasize that we should not be preaching only severity and judgment, but that we should "preach the Lectionary." So often the Lectionary shares both sides of the Gospel message – the kindness and mercy of God, as well as the "severe" call to repentance. If we just follow the Lectionary, there will be ample opportunity to preach both kindness and severity.

As we unpacked the Word from the March board meeting, several points were emphasized. The first, of course, is that Fraternities are dying. We can see this, as many no longer are in existence, and in many that

are still around the members are dying. The Lord seemed to be saying to us, though, that He is not done with Fraternity – that we are to recover the disciplines and reclaim the vision. An

important point is that many Fraternities have stopped listening for the Word. It should be obvious, but when we stop listening, we stop hearing. If we aren't hearing God's Word to us, we won't allow Him to lead us. We also discussed where to go from here. Beyond reclaiming the disciplines and vision, the Lord told us to continue inviting people. We should spend dedicated time in prayer asking God whom we should invite, and then spend time praying for that priest – at least two weeks – before inviting him. We have to allow God to lead us, and not be afraid of rejection.

Finally, one of the brothers reminded us that next year is the 40th Anniversary of the Fraternity. Since the Fraternity came out of the Priest Conference at Franciscan University of Steubenville, he suggested that we hold next year's Fraternity Conference at the Priests, Deacon, Seminarian Conference next year. This has not yet been confirmed with the University's Conference Office, but we are working on it. When we know more details, we will pass them on.

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

of Fatima declared that the Church, through her, had power over world wars, communism, and even the sun in the sky. This is why Our Lady of Fatima is eternally relevant and a source of hope. She shows us that the victory is through her, not in our own efforts to conquer the world. It may not be that the overarching fault of Americans in general (or of American priests in particular) is a lack of ambition or an excess of diffidence, but it can be easy to think that we are powerless over the forces at work in our world, to despair and consider ourselves insignificant in the face of a dominant culture. For, by ourselves, we are. Portugal, a nation, was. And three small children certainly were but through our Lady they brought the light of her son into the world.

This is why, I presume, the US Bishops asked all Catholics to participate in a day of prayer and fasting for the legal protection of the unborn and the conversion of our nation on the Feast of our Lady of Fatima. We are not praying for something small, but the complete establishment of a culture that no longer sacrifices its children to the gods of production, convenience, or fear. This "big way" of our Lady is a complete path to holiness. If Our Lady, through three shepherd children, began a rosary campaign that would end two World Wars and see the end of Communism in Europe, then certainly she can convert our country. She could even convert us.

The apparitions in Portugal that occurred over a century ago are

thus relevant in a particular way to our world today. We inhabit a world where the particulars are not so very different. The world may be in the midst of war, disease, and the spread of anti-human ideology but Our Lady shows herself capable of conquering all. For priests, in particular, shepherds of their own flocks, the message of prayer, penance, and reparation is eternally valid. We are no less unmerited recipients of her mediation than the three children in Fatima. We may be just as unlikely to change the world, but such instruments can be made perfect in the order of grace.

May Our Lady of Fatima, who preached a message of conversion, reparation, and prayer be our patroness of hope in the power of grace over the forces of this world. And may she who caused the sun to dance in the sky, be through us her children, a light to our nation. The Little Way may be eternally valid, but so is the greatness of Our Lady's mission to convert souls to her son. It is by grace alone that such deeds are accomplished, but it is a grace that is particular in God's universal providential care. Such graces may be incarnate in unexpected ways but are always accounted for in the divine plan to bring souls back into communion with love itself. By Our Lady of Fatima's mediation, may our world, our society, ourselves, be brought to the glory of the all-encompassing love of Christ.

God Cannot Be Silenced

Did our Lady give another sign of hope to those tempted to despair?

There are some disturbing issues of oppression of the Church in Nicaragua happening as I write this. Government forces of the Sandinista government of Daniel Ortega forced the bishop of Matagalpa, Bishop Rolando Álvarez to remain in his Cathedral, he cannot leave. Other priests in the diocese similarly received orders to remain in their churches by the Sandinist government showing hostility to the Church. CELAM (The bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean) reports: *the hostilities of the Sandinista Regime led by Daniel Ortega and Rosario Murillo against the Church do not stop.*

On August 13, the Regime prevented a procession to Our Lady in celebration of her appearance at Fatima. Interesting because the government of Portugal prevented the children from seeing Mary on August 13th of 1917. God's grace, as Fr. Nathan reports, continues. Is it possible that this action by the anti-Catholic government of Daniel Ortega is actually becoming a channel of communication of God's presence by not allowing the procession to occur on August 13?

The Bishop still held a communal rosary through social media and thanked all for participating. The fact is humanity and its philosophy cannot really silence God and by forcing the church to be silent as do the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, they may be presenting God's words even louder. This is especially true when they imitate the actions of government authorities in Fatima 1917 in order to silence the message of Our Lady. They just allowed the message to grow stronger. -RJC

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

