

# THE VISITATION

! "The Visitation" is now digital! Visit [fraternityofpriests.org](http://fraternityofpriests.org) to sign up to receive this newsletter via email and to access our online donation form. This will help the Fraternity of Priests be more efficient and to simplify costs as we enter the new year.

## The Fraternity of Priests Is Not Homogenous - By Fr. Robert J. Carr, editor of *The Visitation*

When you think of a fraternity, you realize it is a group of men who come together to support each other. The Fraternity of Priests is exactly that. It is a group of priests who come together to pray together, to study together and to share the realities of priestly life together. This does not mean the group is or should be homogenous.

When the Fraternity was looking for an editor to this newsletter, I was new to the group. We were at my first Priest, Deacons and Seminarians Conference at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. (PDS). They needed to find one of us who would volunteer to edit the newsletter.

I am a writer, I come from a media family. I have a history in radio, magazine article writing, video production, podcasting and blogging. You are looking for someone to help with a newsletter? I am there and I immediately volunteered. So, I edit the newsletter and if someone does not get their article to me, I write one unless it is my turn.

This month I have bad allergies which also gives me a bad case of writers' block, hence why the newsletter is a bit late.

One thing about the Fraternity and we have spoken about this at other meetings, we are there as a fraternity but this does not mean it

is a homogenous group.

I hate to use the terms conservative and liberal within Church circles. They are inaccurate really because Church teaching has a wide berth that many do not recognize. One of the strongest influences in my life is the Catholic Worker Movement. It is pacifistic, non-violent and works from a personalist philosophy. Founder Dorothy Day had a strong devotional life and her favorite book was *The Imitation of Christ*. She prayed on the steps of the Vatican during Vatican II and told every priest, bishop and cardinal to do the right thing as they walked by her.

Hypothetically, it is possible another in the Fraternity may be a firm believer in the American philosophy of peace through strength, be in support of wars the United States participated in, owns firearms and wears a cassock, which I have never worn. So naturally, we would disagree on several fronts. However, we would agree on spreading the gospel, we agree in being loyal to the Church and we agree on the power of the sacraments for us and our parishioners. We also can help each other in improving our ministry.

This is the reality of a fraternity. It is not supposed to be a homogenous group. In fact, that would probably be counter-productive. We have

different ideas to share but we come together under the banner of the cross of Jesus Christ and as members of his Church. We learn from each other, and we learn different techniques from each other in how to best serve our parishioners.

I know priests who often teach on sin; I often teach on mission. So one may teach on the need to avoid sins so that we do not get condemned in final damnation. My position is we need to be missionaries to the faith so the reason to avoid sin is to strengthen our witness.

One priest may be focused on the ministry of deliverance, I avoid that ministry like the plague. If a parishioner talks to me about exorcism and deliverance, I remind them what many exorcists taught me—the most powerful form of exorcism is the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Together, we learn of different ways to deepen our understanding of Church teaching even though we may have been ordained for several years or more. (I celebrated my 30th this year.)

Fraternity helps us to minister to our people well. One of the reasons it is important that we all come from different perspectives is that our people do the same. One person may be ministering in a homogenous suburban parish. I never served in the

...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:  
**\$3,820.00**

Budget Deficit:  
**(\$930.00)**

*Current as of  
May 31, 2023.*

**M**y diocese recently had our Convocation which focused on the Eucharistic Revival going on here in the U. S. Among other things, the presenter spoke about the two saints of the Revival: Bl. Carol Acutis and St. Manuel Gonzalez Garcia. I had been introduced to Blessed Carlo before, and we had a replica of his Eucharistic Miracles display come to our parish. I never even heard of St. Manuel before. In the midst of the Convocation, I came to a better knowledge and love of these two patrons.

Bl. Carlo, if you haven't heard, is the first Millennial to be raised to the Altar. As a boy, he encountered the living Christ in the Eucharist, and was amazed at the power of Eucharistic miracles. Sharing his experiences of his pilgrimages to different miracle sites, his classmates were awed at the greatness of God. Carlo wanted to share this good news not just with his classmates, but with everyone, and so taught himself programming skills in order to create a website with all the Eucharistic Miracles listed. He died after a very short bout with cancer at the age of 15 in 2006.

St. Manuel was only a year ordained when he was sent to preach a parish mission in a rundown church. Though the Church was used weekly, it was a mess, filled with cobwebs and dust. The Tabernacle light had gone out after dripping wax all over the Tabernacle – and the wax was covered in dust. Here, he encountered Jesus in the abandoned tabernacle. This experience was a key moment in his call as a priest, and he spent his whole life trying to draw people to the abandoned Tabernacle – to keep Jesus company. He died a bishop at 62 in 1940.

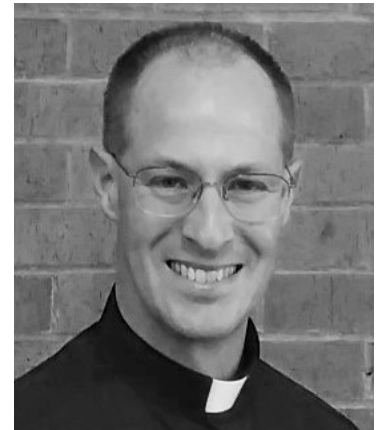
Both of these saints had an incredible love for Jesus in the Eucharist; both shared that love with those around them, striving to stir up Eucharistic amazement.

The Eucharistic Miracles that drew Bl. Carlo in, include the incredible revelation that the Eucharist is the Heart of Jesus. The call from the Tabernacle which stirred St. Manuel to keep the lonely Jesus company was from a Heart that loves so much, and is so little loved.

As priests, Jesus calls us in a special way to be His friends. He invites us into a special intimacy. His Heart is crying out to our hearts that we may keep Him company. I pray that as we move through these three years of Eucharistic Revival, that we may keep Him company, that He not be abandoned in the Tabernacles of our Churches, our rectories, our Chapels. As we celebrate the solemnities of Corpus Christi and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, may the intercession of St. Manuel and Bl. Carlo draw us into a deeper love of the Heart of Jesus – which we hold in our hands in the Blessed Sacrament – so that He may not be abandoned.

Grace and Peace,

*Fr. Tom Galvin*



**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*  
suburbs and I speak three languages. So, our approach to ministry might be different because our parishes are different. The teaching is the same but the approach to it would be different.

There are many popular media teachers on the web and on TV. Some of the members of the Fraternity enjoy listening to some of them and recommending them. I may not appreciate the same people they do. My influences in Catholicism may be different than theirs so I do not really have the same appreciation for the same personalities.

One of the most important aspects of Fraternity is to openly talk about prayer. I not only am thirty years ordained but I am a veteran and a revert. So, I am ten years older than my ordination classmates. In my formative years, especially for First Communion, we studied out of the Baltimore Catechism and back then there was a strong focus on avoiding sin so we do not end up in Hell. So it was after that time that the catechisms used in school changed and there was more a focus on knowing that God loves us.

An older relative of mine from the generation previous to baby boomers used to complain when I was younger— "We did not learn God loved us, we learned He was to be feared."

I often teach that in those days many learned an image of God similar to the first Wizard of OZ in the movie—the green holograph screaming, "Silence!"

After the Council, we attended Mass where the music was with the guitars and the lyrics projected on the wall by a sister running the

overhead projector. You mention some of those songs today and immediately I watch people turn about seven shades of some color. It is not anger, of course, it is more a kind of "Thankfully, we don't sing those songs anymore."

Some of my fraternity brothers never experienced this time type of prototype folk Mass. They may be familiar with guitars and the songs of the time that continue today, unlike the ones of my time, but they did not experience this transitional period to this new way of doing Mass and all that came out of it. Even though I was only eight when we went from the Pope John XXIII Mass to the Pope Paul VI Mass, I also remember parts of the older Mass that others may have never seen.

Therefore, we can share our experiences and this together enhances how we minister. We may be able to teach each other perspectives of our parishioners that we may not fully understand ourselves.

For example, we want to attract people back to Mass. One suggestion I received from some of the older parishioners is to bring back the guitars. I remind them that although we grew up with them, the current generation is looking more for the traditional music with organs and chant. The congregation and I now chant the Sunday Mass dialog from the Preface to the Communion hymn except for the actual Eucharistic prayer. Not only is this popular, we see more attending our Mass now than we did prior to COVID and I can hear a lot of the congregation chanting the responses. Remember, I am in New England doing the responses at Mass is often not done by many congregations.

Maybe if I did not have the input of my younger and older brother priests in the fraternity, I would not have that insight and we would be using guitars. Uniquely, the neighboring parish does use them at one of their Masses.

We may also share ideas that work in one parish and see if it works in another. When I arrived at the current assignment there were no confessionals in the church. One thing I learn in fraternity is the importance of offering decent times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and I do not hear confessions face to face if possible. So, I asked some of my Brazilian parishioners to design and construct a traditional confessional—two doored compartments with a screened window in the wall separating them. They did a great job and now I use it prior to Mass on Saturdays and during an hour of adoration I started on Wednesdays. Since there is a sliding panel over the window, I even used that during COVID even though one medical advisor recommending not hearing confessions in a confessional at all. I think a plywood slat is more effective than a mask or screen any day. I would also sanitize the penitent compartment between confessions and doing it in such a way I never saw who just confessed or who was waiting.

Part of this process has its origin in the other fraternity brothers emphasizing the importance of the Sacrament and increasing the hours currently offered.

The Fraternity exists to help us as priests and to help us strengthen our ministry. We are not a homogenous group and that is a good thing.

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

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# THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

June 2023						
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
Msgr. 4 Edmund Griesedieck <i>St Louis, MO</i>	Rev. 5 Martin K. Mannion <i>St Louis, MO</i>	Rev. 6 Aaron Nord <i>St Louis, MO</i>	Rev. 7 David Novak <i>St Louis, MO</i>	Rev. 8 Charles Tichacek <i>St Louis, MO</i>	Rev. 9 James Brown <i>Toledo, OH</i>	Rev. 10 Norbert Howe <i>Toledo, OH</i>
Rev. 11 Kishore Kottana <i>Toledo, OH</i>	Rev. 12 Edward Littelmann <i>Toledo, OH</i>	Rev. 13 Nicholas Weibl <i>Toledo, OH</i>	Rev. 14 Dale Branson <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	Rev. 15 Isaac Fynn <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	Rev. 16 John Gonzales <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	Rev. 17 James Hobert <i>Tucson, AZ</i>
Rev. 18 Bill Kohler <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	Rev. 19 Liam Leahy <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	Rev. 20 Rudolf Ofori <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	Msgr. 21 Domenico Pinti <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	Rev. 22 Thomas Quirk <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	Rev. 23 Ray Ratzenberger <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	Most Rev. 24 Vitalij Skomarovski <i>Ukraine</i>
Rev. 25 Bennette Tang Becheyie <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 26 Stephen Dassah <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 27 John Bosco Eledi <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 28 Paul Gaa <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 29 Victor Ganaa <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 30 Stephen Kantubog <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	

## A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

**Fraternity of Priests, Inc.**  
PO Box 442  
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Email: [contact@fraternityofpriests.org](mailto:contact@fraternityofpriests.org)  
<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

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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Dear Fr. Von DeRosia,

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