

THE VISITATION

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How Are Your Relations? - By Fr. John G. Kiley, Boston Fraternity

From its very beginning one of the foundational principles of the International Fraternity of Priests is "relationship before mission". While not explicitly listed as one of the ten fraternity kingdom disciplines, this principle provides a foundation for who we are and how we minister to the Lord and to God's people. In plain English, it means that our relationship with Jesus Christ and our relationship with our brother priests takes precedence over what we do, our ministry. If we understand and generously embrace this principle, so many other aspects of our fraternity way of living and ministering fall into place and become the catalyst for a faith filled life and ministry.

"Relationship before Mission" finds its origin in God, in the life of the Blessed Trinity. From all eternity Father, Son, and Holy Spirit exist in relationships of life and in embraces of love. It was out of this community of life and love that the "work" of the creation of the universe and the creation of human persons in the image and likeness of God came forth. We do not know much about the creation of the angelic hosts, but we do know they were not eternal beings, but creatures of God. They were also brought into being out of the love and creative power of the Trinity.

We also find this emphasis on

relationship in the public life and ministry of Jesus. During His earthly ministry, as we read the account of the appointment of the Twelve in Mark 3:13 – 19, "He appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) that they might be with him, and he might send them forth to preach and to have authority to drive out demons" Mark 3:14 – 15. The apostles were chosen and called first to be with Jesus and then to be sent out on mission.

Clearly if they were called to be with Jesus, they were also called to be with each other. Relationship with Jesus and with their brothers had to be nurtured and developed over time so that their mission or ministry would be effective. We also read in the New Testament, Mark 6: 30 – 32 that the Lord invites them to come apart and rest awhile after their mission. Spending time with the Lord and each other was important. However, it did not happen on that occasion because of the crowd that followed that needed to be fed with the Word of God and through the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. Even when it was not the twelve apostles, but the seventy-two disciples who were sent out on mission, it was never alone but two by two. (Luke 10:1) Pope St. Gregory the Great teaches that this was because the two great

commandments are love of God and love of neighbor. Priests or anyone in ministry must therefore guard against and never be or allow themselves to become the so-called "lone ranger".

This principle is also essential in the vocation of marriage. If husband and wife fail to place their relationship with the Lord first and their relationship with each other next and then with their children, that marriage very likely will be problematic. So many marriages run into serious difficulties when work, career, friends, interests, sports take first place. We priests can slide into similar difficulties when we consistently put our ministry in first place. We tend to justify this by thinking that what I do is certainly not "work", but it is simply being faithful to my call to serve the people.

Let's take a few moments to examine humbly, honestly, and prayerfully our relationships. In fact one of the fraternity disciplines states that we are to be zealous for personal committed relationships with the Lord Jesus and brother priests. We begin with the basic question: do I accept and then strive to live out the principle that "relationships come before mission/ministry"?

My Relationship with the Lord

Without a doubt relationship with the Lord must be primary for all

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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:
\$830.00

Budget Deficit:
\$3,920.00

*Current as of
February 28, 2023.*

In this beautiful month dedicated to Mary. You remember last August, we consecrated the Fraternity to Jesus through the heart and hands of Mary. She is such a beautiful, caring and attentive Mother! She is always looking out for her children, and drawing us closer to her Son, Jesus.

Our faith also tells us that she is the spouse of the Holy Spirit. In fact, St. Maximilian Kolbe said that her title, “The Immaculate Conception” is actually a divine title – the title of the Holy Spirit, conceived from all eternity as the love of the Father and the Son. When Mary, then, was wedded to the Holy Spirit at the Annunciation (“The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” Luke 1:35 NABRE), she took on the name of her Divine Spouse. And they never got a divorce! Mary is so close to the Holy Spirit and has become the Mediatrix of all of His Divine Graces.

This is a great reminder that when we get close to Mary, we get close to the Holy Spirit, and when we get close to the Holy Spirit, we get close to Mary. As we celebrate this month of Mary, we also celebrate the great Feast of Pentecost, and we remember how Mary was there in the Upper Room with the Disciples assisting them in receiving the Holy Spirit. We can turn to Mary to help us receive the graces from the Holy Spirit that we need for our life and ministry.

Mary also received a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, giving her the grace she needed for her new role – as Mother of the Church. The lectionary in early Easter shares the story of Peter and John – after having been released by the Sanhedrin – praying with the

community, and “As they prayed, the place where they were gathered shook, and they were all filled with the holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:31 NABRE).

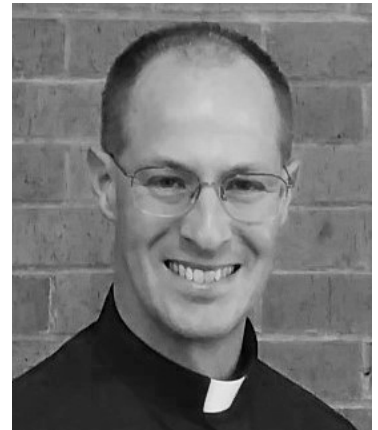
They had received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, but now needed a new outpouring.

Let us pray that we may not be satisfied with yesterday’s grace but may hunger ever and anew for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Church, in our parishes, in our ministries and in our lives. May Mary help us to seek out God’s will in our lives, receiving His graces for today. May we not be afraid to ask for and receive the new power from on high for completing the mission God has given to each of us!

I pray that many from the Fraternity will be able to join us for the PDS Conference and Fraternity Meeting at Franciscan University. The conference is next month – June 11-16, 2023. The PDS Conference goes June 12-16, but we will gather on the 11th and meet and pray together on the 12th before the PDS begins. If you are able to come in Sunday, when registering on the Franciscan Conferences website (steubenvilleconferences.com/events/pds), use promo code **FOPHousing-2023** to waive the fee for the Sunday overnight. If you fly in, please fly into Pittsburgh International Airport.

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. Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted.

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Christians and especially for priests, a relationship that is certainly personal, but never private. We are members of the Church, the Body of Christ, the community of faith. Our relationship with Jesus is strengthened by celebrating the Eucharist and the other sacraments, especially the sacrament of reconciliation. Commitment to the extended daily hour of personal prayer, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament whenever possible, is one of the most important and essential fraternity disciplines. This hour is in addition to the Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. (It is acceptable to pray the appropriate liturgical hour during this committed prayer time.) What is the excuse of many priests that keeps them from regular prolonged prayer? "I don't have time. I have so much to do." Daily prayerful reading of the Word of God in sacred scripture is also what strengthens our faith and our friendship with the Lord. Reading scripture simply because it is the Word of God and not only as a means of preparing a homily or a teaching is key.

Keeping a journal of what we sense the Lord is saying to us in prayer and discerning this word when necessary with a brother keeps faith alive and prevents us from forgetting significant moments of God's grace. The more our friendship with Jesus is growing, the better we are able as His priests to bring our people into that relationship with Jesus and lead them through Christ to God the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

My Relationship with My Brother Priests

While priests in religious orders belong to a specific community, diocesan priests at ordination become part of a local presbyterate in union with their bishop. This is correct theology, but all too often not our lived experience in our dioceses. Today when many priests, especially diocesan priests, are alone in a parish or often responsible for multiple parishes, consistent priestly fraternity is vital. It can be a matter of life or death. In the Archdiocese of Boston, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, is continually urging every priest to be part of a support group. While the Fraternity of Priests offers us outstanding support, it is much more than a support group. We are called to be a committed brotherhood. We are called to encourage each other to a deeper and more personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We are to seek the empowerment of our priesthood in the Holy Spirit especially for evangelization and the renewal of parishes and institutions. We are called to come to know and love each other as brothers. We are to hold one another accountable. We are to share our lives honestly and openly in our small groups. We are to be there for a brother in need. We are to be available to one another beyond the time of the official meeting. We also need to cultivate priestly fraternity beyond our group with priests of our diocese.

All of this can be extremely challenging to us in our busy and at times over busy lives of ministry. Having said this, the bottom line is that our fraternities will rise or fall on

how faithful we are to our meetings. Just as our daily prayer hour must be a committed appointment with the Lord, our regular fraternity gathering is also a committed appointment with the brothers. The original vision of fraternity was the weekly meeting. This is still the norm and ideal wherever and whenever possible. Our gatherings, however often we meet, must be our priority. This fraternity meeting must have a prominent place on our calendars. Only a life-or-death situation, sickness, retreat, inclement weather, vacation will keep us away. Notifying the leader if we have reason to miss a meeting is common courtesy.

Our Boston Fraternity has been meeting since 1988. Over the years our weekly gathering has taken place for some of the brothers on their day off and for others on a day in the parish. Sometimes there can be an unhealthy sense of guilt when we take time away from the parish. However, parishioners usually do not mind, but in fact are supportive if a few hours away from the parish each week can help their priest to become holy and serve them better.

I encourage each of you to reflect on this theme of relationship before ministry, first personally, and then with the brothers in your group. By continuing to live out this principle or, if necessary by recommitting to it, and depending always on the Lord's grace, we can internalize and embrace this challenging aspect of fraternity life. May we then generously and effectively minister to God's people with the continuous support of our brothers in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

May 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Rev. 1 John Theodore <i>Port of Spain</i>	Rev. 2 John Dreher <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 3 Robert Giardina <i>Providence</i>	4 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	5 For prayer requests received	6 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. 7 Gerry Sabourin <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 8 Michael Kelley <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 9 Roland Lepire <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 10 Michael Roy <i>Providence</i>	Rev. 11 Terry Brenon <i>San Angelo, TX</i>	Rev. 12 Robert Bush <i>San Angelo, TX</i>	Rev. 13 Bernard Gully <i>San Angelo, TX</i>
Rev. 14 Santiago Udayar <i>San Angelo, TX</i>	Rev. 15 William McCarthy <i>Sioux City, IA</i>	Msgr. 16 Edward Burian <i>Sioux Falls, SD</i>	Rev. 17 John Helmueller <i>Sioux Falls, SD</i>	Rev. 18 Joseph Vogel <i>Sioux Falls, SD</i>	Rev. 19 Richard Baumberger <i>Sioux Falls, SD</i>	Rev. 20 Rodney Farke <i>Sioux Falls, SD</i>
Rev. 21 Edward Pierce <i>Sioux Falls, SD</i>	Rev. 22 John Rasmussen <i>Sioux Falls, SD</i>	Rev. 23 Joseph Short <i>Sioux Falls, SD</i>	Rev. 24 Gregory Frankman <i>Sioux Falls, SD</i>	Rev. 25 Roger Geditz <i>Sioux Falls, SD</i>	Rev. 26 Randy Phillips <i>Sioux Falls, SD</i>	Rev. 27 Jerome Ranek <i>Sioux Falls, SD</i>
Rev. 28 Gerald Mischke <i>St Cloud, MN</i>	Rev. 29 Gregory Paffel <i>St Cloud, MN</i>	Rev. 30 Todd Schneider <i>St Cloud, MN</i>	Rev. 31 James Dyer <i>St Louis, MO</i>			

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

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<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.

Please cut and return this form with your donation.

Dear Fr. Von DeRosia,

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

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

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 carefully and wisely, and not to ask for money that is not needed.

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