

THE VISITATION

! "The Visitation" is now digital! Visit 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.

Where Is Your Joy? Where Is God? - By Fr. Tom Galvin, Pittsburgh/Greensburg Fraternity

I am constantly inviting priests to join us in the Pittsburgh/Greensburg Fraternity. I fear many have trepidations because of the regular commitment or because they do not wish to commit to the Ten Disciplines. These can be daunting and considered "rules" which many priests just don't need any more. Growing in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit can be yet another reason (and has been given). Too many expectations can easily remove any sense of joy in a priest. We all know priests need to have a sense of pure joy in the Lord if their ministry is to be fruitful, and, if they are to attract others to personal commitments to Jesus Christ, to bear the Visitation message, and to open themselves to the Holy Spirit. This true joy differs drastically, as we know, from the joy offered by the world.

I befriended Rosemary while working as a substitute teacher prior to entering seminary formation. We kept in contact through those short formative years -- I in the seminary, she at Duquesne University completing her studies in spiritual direction. I said my seminary training was short -- so short that I really did not

know many priests in the diocese and had no contacts concerning a priest spiritual director. I turned to Rosemary who answered my call.

When we met one day she looked at me, and even before sitting down asked, "*Where's your joy?*" and then, to drive the nail in further, she asked, "*Where's God?*" You couldn't hide anything from this mother of seven and wife of a WWII veteran who continued to struggle with PTSD forty years later. I was not pleased with a new assignment, and she knew it. Her specialness to me was pulling out the spiritual gifts that I had not recognized or accepted, thereby making me more and more aware of how I was cheating myself (and ultimately God and others) by not acknowledging spiritual gifts in my person, priesthood and ministry.

I deal with people and priests in parishes all across the Diocese of Pittsburgh and a number of other dioceses through the Cursillo Movement. I love to agitate all of them while challenging them to make a difference. I'll ask these and other questions: If I visited your parish would I find a joyful, joy-filled faith community? Would

I receive a warm welcome that would last until I was out of the parking lot? Tougher questions concern our liturgies. Are your liturgies engaging and enlivening? Do they solicit a spiritual faith-filled response? Do they first give God praise and glory where joy is found?

I encourage you to become a wallflower and observe people coming into the church for Mass. Ask yourself the above questions concerning each person. During communion, what do you see on the faces of those who come to receive our Lord in the Eucharist? Tired mugshots or beaming children ready to get a Christmas gift? Too many have come to believe that we need to be stoically cold when encountering our Lord and Savior.

Where's Your Joy -- True Joy>

So where do we derive our joy? Is it in what we find in the secular worldly reality? Or is it tooted in a growing spiritual oneness with the very One who promised the completeness of joy for those ready to be joined with Him? Can we have the fullness of joy as was promised by Jesus before His death? [see *John, chapters 15-17*]

So I ask the above questions

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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:
\$2,208.00

Budget Deficit:
\$2,542.00

*Current as of
July 31, 2023.*

Over the years I have frequently been asked a particular question both by priests and members of the laity. The words are sometimes varied, but the basic question is the same – “How many priests are members of the Fraternity of Priests?” My usual answer is – “I don’t have a clue” or a more spiritual response – “Only God knows”. Back in the 80s and 90s it was easier to answer that question when members of the Fraternity Board were released for full-time Fraternity ministry and lived at Visitation House in Steubenville, Ohio. They would visit various Fraternities and work at establishing new groups by leading Fraternity Retreats. The annual summer Leaders Conference was also a way to keep track of the health of Fraternities in the USA and other parts of the world. For many years now with the shortage of priests, board members do their best to assist the Fraternity in addition to their full-time assignments in their respective dioceses.

At our recent June conference at Franciscan University of Steubenville we discovered that at least one Fraternity Group listed on our website is no longer meeting or in existence. There are indications that some other listed groups no longer meet. As chairperson and with your help I would like to bring our website as up to date as possible and work together to strengthen our groups.

There are priests who were members of a group that no longer meets but do receive our Monthly Newsletter. If that is you, please go online and check the status of your group. Does it still exist? Is it still meeting? What needs to be updated? Please let me know. If you have difficulty getting into the members area of the website, www.fraternityofpriests.org send me an e-mail at stjolin@hotmail.com and I will respond.

Even though it is early let’s look forward to next year’s summer conference. All the details are not yet worked out, we do have dates and a location for the Fraternity Conference 2024. The



Conference will be held from Sunday evening, August 4, to Friday morning, August 9 at Loyola Retreat House in Morristown, New Jersey. I hope I am not dreaming, but it would be awesome if each active fraternity is represented by at least one priest, the leader or another. Also, if any former group discerns that they should begin to meet again or be formed anew, send a priest to the conference.

By updating the website and attending next year’s conference, with God’s help and grace we can strengthen our Fraternities. I ask our priests and lay supporters to pray and even fast that the Fraternity of Priests will become all that the Lord desires. We believe that the Holy Spirit guided the establishment of the Fraternity for the challenging times in which we are living to assist priests to minister effectively in the Holy Spirit and to be a strong support and encouragement to their brothers.

May the Lord bless and keep you.



Fr. John Kiley

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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because I have come to realize that many answer them with secular responses, with eyes fixed on the here-and-now and not on the Kingdom of God -- just as I was doing when meeting Rosemary. Joy can quickly be fixed on what our senses see, smell, hear, taste and touch. There is a spiritual awareness of oneness. Unfortunately, for many the joy of the Lord is no different than joy when treated to an ice cream cone on a hot evening walk.

The Problem of Wanting Joy without the Giving of Self

I've learned that this can be a common problem for many in the world. It can be most difficult for Catholics who are called to joyfully offer their lives for the sake of bringing others to know Jesus Christ. To many -- priests and the Catholic laity alike -- I have been asking those questions of Rosemary "Where is your joy? Where is God?" If these questions can be asked of us who are supposedly joyful in the Lord, what do those people not connected with God -- family members, friends, neighbors or coworkers -- have to say about us? We have to admit that we're often less than joyful in faith.

Let's take a look at the basic principle of the gift of joy. How do we attain it? We know that it is given by the Holy Spirit (Gal :22). But when is it given, and why? We believe in the fruits of the Spirit or the result of our

living the gifts of the Spirit. If so, then in a particular way, we need to be seen living the gifts of courage and fortitude. The fruits of the Spirit should show others (and ourselves) our union with our Lord in every aspect of our lives. There should never be a reason for someone named Rosemary to ask us those questions -- despite what is being encountered in our daily experiences. We are invited to open ourselves as Catholics ready to offer the fullness of self, of putting all that we think important aside for the sake of the Kingdom. Each of us should examine whether we seek our joy by working in the Kingdom, or from happenings the world offers at a particular moment.

I Do Not Ask That You Take them Out of the World...

For those laity who support the Fraternity of Priests through this newsletter, many of the challenges encountered in the world today can seem not much different for you as they are for priests. That can be a truthful statement since we all face the culture's failures to provide dignity of life for the unborn and elderly; the sin of abortion wrongly promoted by many who have lost their own dignity as children of God; We all face society and families being lied to as children are not properly guided in sexual understanding and the distortion of the body. In the Church, there are so many who remain silent preferring personal opinion rather than Church teaching. Priests more

so than the laity, must face the scandals of recent years of sexual abuse while inviting other young men to consider the priesthood; who must live with the gawking of those who would scorn. Yet all of us are called to continue on, showing all the above the joy that only God can provide. We must invite them into the Body of Christ -- the giving of life and love.

Let's face it, the world in which we live doesn't offer many reasons (some would say no reasons at all) to be Catholic filled with joy. As priests, living our Ten Principles is difficult without joy. As members of the Church, we are asked to be beacons of hope and truth, standing against cultural efforts to destroy personhood as meant by our creator God, to minimize personal dignity.

Brothers and sisters, "Where is our joy? Where is our God?" Despite everything which surfaces in our lives, our joy needs to be seen in our giving for the sake of the Kingdom, of our oneness with our lord and Savior. It is not to be contingent on what is received as it is in what is offered, in what it may call others to experience. Joy, as we will learn in time, has one effect -- a greater desire to grow in our own personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and to bring others to that same relationship.

As priests, I pray we always find ourselves joyful and joy-filled. I pray we can move our people to these same gifts. We will, in the long run, change our parishes and change our environments.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

October 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. 1 Peter Pienaa Donzing <i>Ghana</i>	Rev. 2 Robert Sackey <i>Ghana</i>	Rev. 3 Charles Antekeier <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	Rev. 4 George Fekete <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	5 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	6 For prayer requests received	7 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. 8 Donald Lomasiewicz <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	Rev. 9 Mark Mitchell <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	Rev. 10 Ayub Nasar <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	Rev. 11 Michael Shea CM <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	12 Msgr. Cyril Lamontagne VG <i>Grenada</i>	Rev. 13 Robert Grant <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 14 Paul Halovatch <i>Hartford, CT</i>
Rev. 15 Joseph Looney <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 16 Will-Roger Malave <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 17 Robert Rousseau <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 18 Francis Dabre <i>India</i>	19 Rt. Rev. Dr. Bryan Eyman <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>	Rev. 20 Paul Landwerlen <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>	Rev. 21 George Joseph Nangachiveetill <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>
Rev. 22 Thomas Cawley C.M. <i>Kansas City</i>	Rev. 23 Earl Dekat <i>Kansas City</i>	Rev. 24 Roderic Giller OSB <i>Kansas City</i>	Rev. 25 Rheal Forest <i>Manitoba</i>	Rev. 26 Timothy Ekaitis <i>Marquette, MI</i>	Rev. 27 Ryan Ford <i>Marquette, MI</i>	Rev. 28 Christopher Gardiner <i>Marquette, MI</i>
Rev. 29 Benjamin Hasse <i>Marquette, MI</i>	Rev. 30 Jeff Johnson <i>Marquette, MI</i>	Rev. 31 Dustin Larson <i>Marquette, MI</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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to receive our Newsletter?**
(Please print legibly)

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