



THE VISITATION

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Pardon the English - By Fr. Dwight Merrick, Trinidad & Tobago Fraternity

Many of us noticed how movies, video clips and news reports in recent times have adopted interesting ways of describing their content. All of a sudden, we hear of audio material containing adult language, videos and film containing adult content and also explicit images. More often than not, these terms refer to obscene language, indecent or sexually explicit images. Borderline pornographic images may also be covered by such terminology. How far have we fallen from my childhood days when the word "sex" was neither heard on the radio nor television and sparingly even seen in print. Such has been our accommodating publicity of what was traditionally considered offensive and unacceptable for anyone not just children. I guess we must simply pardon the English.

As gender goes so does morality. Way back in the 80's when I was a secondary school teacher, the promotion of condom use as the solution to HIV spread was hit a hard blow by scientific reports showing that the natural pores of latex rubber are larger than the human sperm and thus cannot guarantee against HIV aids virus. Thus, the term "safer sex" was created to reflect the importance of using the condom rather than nothing at all. Pardon the English. It does not matter if you got

pregnant or HIV or some other type of STD available through sexual contact. Be comforted that at least you TRIED to be safe. Safer sex? Pardon the English.

Pushing a little further this notion of safe or safer sex, we were told that condom use was also recommended by experts claiming to be concerned about our overpopulation. So, when last did you look at the face of a new-born baby and feel threatened in some way? When did a baby become a danger to their parents and society? Why do we need to be protected from a baby; be kept safe or safer from them? Pardon the English.

"Responsible sex" has come to describe a certain feature of intimate relationships between two persons. A man for instance can say to a woman that he is only interested in a partner with whom he can have responsible sex. By this, his female partners need to understand and accept that it would be their responsibility to ensure that they do not get pregnant. By disassociating himself from all responsibility for an unwanted pregnancy, such a man is claiming to be engaging in responsible sex. Pardon the English. How illogical and nonsensical have we become, to accept such ludicrous abuse of women facilitated by the English language? His unfortunate female partner must understand that he

will not accept any responsibility for fathering a child he never wanted. She must also agree that her body be used for his lustful pleasure rather than a loving union. She must accept total responsibility for the fate of a child who may appear. All these consequences women are expected to accept playing the game of practicing "responsible sex". Pardon the English and God save us.

The above discussion raises the issue of rights going all wrong. The so-called rights of the men in the scenario above, seem all wrong in the eyes of many. Yet, we live in a world and at a time when the rights of persons are sacrosanct and untouchable, regardless of how wrong hurting persons may be affected. Imagine a school of one thousand students where two of them protest that they feel uncomfortable when prayers are being said, and claim they have a right to be protected from this discomfort. The result; the banning of prayer at that school and the snowball effect catches on everywhere. Why do the rights of two trump the "rights" of nine hundred and ninety-eight who may actually feel comforted by prayer being said at school? Pardon the English but I just don't get it.

While I have heard that the movie "50 shades of Grey" has broken all sorts of records for its popularity around the world, and though I have

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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:
\$1,086.00

Budget Deficit:
\$3,664.00

*Current as of
November 30, 2022.*

So, we've begun a new year. We always look to the new year with hope. The world, in this crazy time, may put hope in a new year – that it will be better, less troubled than last year. We know that the simple passing of time will not help us. “Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 124:8 RVSCE).

In case you didn't notice, there is a lot of evil out there. I'm remembering the conversation that Pope Leo XIII overheard between God and Satan. God allowed Satan a century to try to destroy the Church. I'm not sure when the century began, but looking back over the last century, it seems like this heightened evil has been going on for over 100 years! With the rise of communism in Russia, the utter evil of Nazism and destructiveness of the second World War, the throwing off of all moral norms with the sexual revolution of the 60s, fast-forwarding to the complete break-down of any form of objective-truth about anything in the socio-political realm in the last several years, the lock-downs of 2020, and now economic spirals! Some might wonder when we will be brought to destruction.

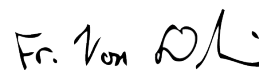
Yet, “Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.” My hope is the spiral of the last decade is simply the last fight of the devil knowing that his time is at an end. But even if it is not... even if our culture is going to continue to spiral into deeper and deeper moral decadence, I know that the Lord is in charge. In my local Fraternity, we keep getting the word that *we were made for this time. Each one of us.* God knew us from all eternity and knew that we would be right here, right now, so that in the present circumstances of our individual lives and the larger

experience of the world, we would have the opportunity to become the saints we were made to be. This is our crucible of holiness – right here, right now. We might look back and wish to have walked with St. Francis, or to have lived with St. Jean Vianney. But that is not where God wanted us to be. God, in His infinite wisdom, chose for you and me to live right here, right now. This gives me great hope, for that means He has a wonderful plan for my life as it is... not as I would have liked it to be.

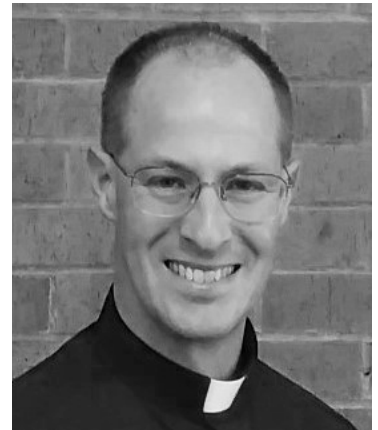
In this new year, let us turn again to the Lord and beg for the graces to accept the cross given to us in this time so that we can be the saints He calls us to be, and so help to form those around us into the saints they're called to be. Let us keep our eyes fixed on the Lord. “Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.”

Please note that the 2023 Fraternity of Priest Conference – celebrating 40 years – will take place where we began: at Franciscan University at the Priest, Deacon, Seminarian Conference. More information about registration will be forth-coming, but the dates are June 11-16, 2023.

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. Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted.

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not seen it myself, I do think I've heard enough jokes to imagine what it is about generally speaking. In what seems like a similar way, we now hear claims of some 100 genders existing at present. That gender has evolved from being a binary entity into a very fluid spectrum between absolute maleness and femaleness with possibility to move back and forth. Today gender is today being viewed with entirely different eyes compared to fifty years ago, is more earth shaking than most changes taking place in life today. That such significant changes are being propagated among children at a rapid rate is clear and disturbing. That there seems little tolerance for any other point of view is most disturbing. This silence to my mind is sinful if only because future generations will have to live with any changes regarding genders and would be questioning our silence when these changes were being made.

Finally, I must close with observations which started me off on this article. Recently, a friend of mine was referring to a time when persons were beginning to make "mature decisions." It took me some time to understand what exactly that meant. Soon enough I realized that mature decisions were in fact on onset of fornication and adultery. A criteria now for adulthood and maturity is the the right to sin without being challenged for it. One concluding observation came from the show Family Feud now hosted by Steve Harvey. A young man was asked for an answer referring to an area of the body. His answer was the genital area. His description of this part of his body however, was

his "junk." Here I must confess I am still remained dumbfounded to make sense of the male genitals being thought of by a male as junk. God help us and the modern use of the English language.

Fr. Dwight Merrick is also the author of Testimony Time 1 available through Amazon Kindle

Should We Teach on Prayer As Baptized Catholics

In the Chronicles of Narnia, C.S. Lewis gives a unique dignity to the human characters of the books. He refers to them as daughters of Eve and sons of Adam. I used this as an example in speaking to my parishioners not on Narnia but on the description of Baptized Catholics.

The citizens of Narnia particularly in the first book, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe refer to the human visitors as daughters and sons of Eve and Adam. They recognize the humans have a special identity and dignity that citizens of the fictitious land do not have.

Building off of Galatians 4 in which St. Paul explains that we are no longer under the law but are adopted children of God, I proposed the idea to my parishioners. What if we met the great prophet Jeremiah. How would he treat us?

If you remember from your office of readings St. John Chrysostom says we as Catholics have a greater mission than the prophets because they only preached to the twelve tribes of Israel, we have to preach to the whole world. Understanding the words of St. Paul in Galatians, I proposed this scenario.

Imagine you met the Jeremiah.

You might be fascinated that you are speaking to the actual prophet who spoke to the people of Judah, one of the major prophets. You go to bow down before him and he stops you and bows down before you because unlike him, you are an adopted child of God by your Baptism and Confirmation.

Is this a possibility?

If you have read my material in any of the venues where you may find them, you will notice I focus on prayer as the first step in our life of Christ. Both the Council of Trent and Vatican II taught that prayer is an essential element of living our Catholic faith. Ironically, it was not emphasized in the Baltimore Catechism which was an oft used basic text for some of the previous generations. We used it in my classes until about the sixth grade.

This may explain why many of the older generations do not have the same focus of prayer as do the younger generations although many young Catholics have a desire to return to the days prior to 1967.

This may create a gross misunderstanding in many of the youth seeking a return to the Catholicism prior to Vatican II.

Many understand the rules but not the call to a friendship with Jesus Christ through prayer. So, is it reasonable to understand that they need a deeper level of catechesis on prayer than they have been getting and that we need to seek to give it to them. This might be a good issue to look at for the calendar year of 2023. —ed.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

February 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Rev. 1 Richard Goellen <i>Fargo, ND</i>	2 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	3 For prayer requests received	4 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. 5 Dale Kinzler <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. 6 Gary Luiten <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. 7 Bernard Schneider <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. Msgr. 8 Dennis Skonseng <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. 9 Peter Pienaa Donzing <i>Ghana</i>	Rev. 10 Robert Sackey <i>Ghana</i>	Rev. 11 Charles Antekeier <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>
Rev. 12 George Fekete <i>Grand Rapids</i>	Rev. 13 Donald Lomasiewicz <i>Grand Rapids</i>	Rev. 14 Mark Mitchell <i>Grand Rapids</i>	Rev. 15 Ayub Nasar <i>Grand Rapids</i>	Rev. 16 Michael Shea CM <i>Grand Rapids</i>	Rev. 17 Robert Hilz T.O.R. <i>Greensburg, PA</i>	Msgr. 18 Cyril Lamontagne VG <i>Grenada</i>
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A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

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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,

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

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

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