



# 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.

## A Letter from Fr. John Dreher

*Sometimes we try to give our ministry the best and still we go through times of discouragement. This is especially true during this time when so called devout Catholics across social media are quick to dismiss every priest as being bad, except those who celebrate Mass in Latin.*

*We can easily lose a sense of what we are doing. One thing I often remind my parishioners is that we are to the world around us today like those from our time would be if they were suddenly transported to the Sixteenth Century. If you imagine that scenario, you would be aware of so much but you could not say anything because no one would understand your message. In fact, they may burn you as a witch if they really became nervous about what you know. So you can only act in the wisdom you know and hope others catch on.*

*To give you an example: If someone you met suffered from some virus, others from that time may encourage him to go immediately to the doctor where he can be leeches. You would realize that is not an effective treatment but what could you say? How could you correct them saying the doctor did not know anything, really? You could not. However, you could*

*encourage them to wait a day and see if the virus gets better and if it does not leeching it is. It is a hidden way to impart your knowledge that will communicate well the wisdom you have that is beyond the others.*

*We are in a similar predicament. We know so much through our prayer and our worship of God but those in the secular environment think they know so much but actually they do not. They will not listen to us but we can act on what we know and hopefully lead others to a new way of understanding. Our fountain is the divine wisdom that informs our human wisdom.*

*We can, at times, get discouraged and when we do, we have to look back at what brought us here. We can remember our mission. It is, as I often teach my parishioners, to be those in the world living by divine wisdom and witnessing to a greater truth through our relationship with Jesus Christ. When we do that, then we can strengthen our witness because we ground ourselves in our original call.*

*This week, I received a letter to the editor of article length reminding us of the origins of the Fraternity of Priests and the call to community. Fr. John Dreher, a fellow New Englander from the great state of Rhode Island tells us*

*about his experiences in the early days of calling priests to community and the early days of the Visitation House in Steubenville, Ohio.*

*This brings us back to what we are all about in our fraternities and maybe even the need for them. We can always go to our fellow priests in our respective fraternities and talk about our struggles. Other priests do not have that luxury. So, not only can we share our experiences about them but also recognize other points of view that we need to hear.*

*When we have it all figured out on our own, it is then we are officially lost. Our reliance on the input of others is something we humbly need and when we feel we do not need, it is then others need our input in their greatest needs for strength in ministry. —ed.*

*In the mid-seventies, I was part of a lay charismatic community. It was a significant revival of faith, family and Christian life. I thought priests need something like this. I talked with several priests. We went on retreat and agreed on format. I think it was in 1977 that we began to meet on Monday afternoons and contacted other priests. Our format was a time of praise and worship and sharing of prophecies and Scripture readings. Within the year I began to*  
*...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:  
**\$1,764.00**

Budget Deficit:  
**\$2,986.00**

*Current as of  
January 31, 2024.*

**Y**ou will be reading this Newsletter during the first or second week of March as we are well into the Holy Season of Lent. I am writing it, however, on Mardi Gras or Shrove Tuesday.

I have just returned from a five-day retreat at Bethany Retreat House in Lutz, Florida. Each February a group of about forty-five priests from the Archdiocese of Boston gather there for what one of our regional bishops, Bishop Robert Hennessey, calls a "fraternal retreat". He makes the point that while it is wonderful and profitable to go to a monastery or to make a "private retreat", the diocesan priest on a regular basis should make a retreat with priests of his archdiocese or diocese. It is good for brothers working together in the local vineyard to listen, pray, share, eat together, and especially to celebrate the Eucharist together.

Several years ago, a retreat master made the point that it was a gift and a privilege to be on retreat. We priests are required to make an annual retreat and many of our wonderful laity do likewise. He stressed that most people never have this opportunity. Family responsibilities, work, financial constraints prevent them. We who have the opportunity should never take it for granted but welcome it as a grace from the Lord. This is where Lent comes in.

Lent, in a sense, is the annual retreat for all of God's people. The Church, our mother, gives us a period of forty days to be spiritually nourished by the beautiful Lenten readings, to examine our lives, to focus on prayer, fasting, and deeds of charity. As Pope St. Leo the Great once taught: "to do in a more focused and intense manner what should be a normal part of our Christian life at all times". This is "love of God and love of neighbor".

During Lent, we focus not only on our personal spiritual growth, but we hold up in prayer those in our parishes and throughout the universal Church who

will be baptized, confirmed, and receive Eucharist for the first time at the Easter Vigil - this year on Saturday, March 30.

While we only have several weeks of Lent remaining, I would encourage my brother priests to make every effort to stress the importance of inviting our people to participate in the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. While many of our laity see Lent as preparing for Easter, Lent rather readies us for the most important three days of the entire year which then lead into the Easter Season.

I ask our lay supporters to participate in the Triduum and to prepare to renew in a deeper way than ever before your personal commitment to Jesus Christ as you renew the vows of your baptism at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday. May the Lord grant each of you a blessed Lent and a joyful Easter Season.

we begin this New Year, please reflect on two of the Fraternity Disciplines – Numbers 9 and 10: *To proclaim the Visitation Message* and *To empower God's people in the Holy Spirit*. Both disciplines focus on the presence and work of the Holy Spirit. The Visitation Message proclaims that God is active today in the Church and in the world pouring out His Holy Spirit as in a New Pentecost. To empower God's people in the Holy Spirit means that we ourselves are growing in the gifts of the Holy Spirit and ministering in the power of that same Spirit. Is this true for each of us and is it happening in our lives, in our ministries, and in our Fraternity groups?



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](mailto:editor@fraternityofpriests.org). Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted.

*...continued from page 1*

give short teaching. Those attending were very faithful, and we grew to 18 to 20. The Steubenville priests' conferences were added to our dynamics. Fr. Mike Roy from Worcester got up at the end of a conference and said, "when I am here, it is "All glory be to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit." When I go back home it is, "As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be." If you were there, you would remember the roar of laughter.

What we were doing in Providence reached Fr. Michael Scanlon, and I was given the microphone at the end of the next two conferences to share what was happening in Providence. Fr. Jim Ferry was on a year-long sabbatical there around 1980, and Fr. Scanlon asked him to bring together a team in Steubenville. Jim asked me, and I was surprised that the bishop let me go. The other two members were Frs. Ed Wade and George Kosicki.

The People of Hope community from New Jersey bought for us what is now known as Visitation House. We moved in at the end of September 198(?). When I met privately with Jim in October, he surprised me with the news that he would be leaving next June and that I would be the new leader. I have the impression that Fr. Scanlon and Jim had in mind a kind of retreat house, but, as we prayed, we kept getting Scripture passages about Jesus sending his disciples out two by two.

We got an invitation in the spring to make a presentation at the end of a priests' conference in Bismarck, ND. Those interested stayed on. I

remember telling them about what we were doing in Providence. The key moment came (for them and for us) when the team asked them to meet and to decide to embrace the Providence format and to commit themselves to meeting regularly. They made the commitments. This was the beginning of the two Fraternities, one in Bismarck and one in Fargo. It was also the beginning of the focus of the Steubenville team's concentrating on the founding of local fraternities of priests. As I remember it, when I went back to Providence in 1989 there were 37 Fraternities in the US, 2 in Canada, 1 in Ireland, 2 in England, 2 in Scotland and one in Trinidad. I also remember that I had 57,000 airmiles!

I will also include below some material that you could use to increase the size of the paper on Committed Brotherhood:

*"You come from where you go." If you go to God, then you come from God. If, on the other hand, you go to self and the world, then you come from self in the world. The source or root of our ministry must be from God to be fruitful. Likewise, our brotherhood is from the common source of our life and our ministry from God. In our fallen state, coming from God is not a simple matter. Even Jesus in his humanity needed the forty days in the desert to begin his mission. From the beginning, Jesus proclaimed that "the Kingdom of God is at hand." The culmination of his ministry was to be the offering of his human life on the Cross. His "going to God" became a coming from God in the*

*resurrection and ascension of his humanity.*

*At Pentecost, God the Father then sent the Spirit, not only through Jesus' divinity, but through his humanity. The apostles and the disciples were incorporated into his incarnate and now glorified humanity. They were freed from original sin; they were incorporated into his mystical body; and they became the Church. The union they received from God had to be lived out in a communion of life with – and love of – God. The Catholic Church has continued the life and mission of Jesus in our fallen world now for two millennia. However, I would place before the reader my belief that modern culture presents the Church with its biggest and most rampant heresy; it is called "secularism."*

*The secular culture of the modern world has so immersed human life in this world that people have lost their grasp of transcendence. Secularism has operated as a belief system in excluding religious beliefs from education and governmental activities. However, the most tragic outcome of secular culture has been the loss of awareness that we are creatures and that reality goes way beyond us in the origin and goal of our life. I had only one course in my undergraduate years that explicitly included a transcendental dimension. Now the transgender philosophy is taking over education and culture. And the younger generation have lost hope and are dropping out of education. If you go to self in the world, you come from self and the world!*

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

# THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

April 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Rev. Paul McManus <i>Boston, MA</i> 1	Rev. Thomas Reilly <i>Boston, MA</i> 2	Rev. Roarke Traynor <i>Boston, MA</i> 3	For the souls of our deceased FOP members 4	For prayer requests received 5	For our Holy Father, Pope Francis 6
Rev. Chris Wallace <i>Boston, MA</i> 7	Rev. Daniel Zinger <i>Boston, MA</i> 8	Rev. Donald Roy <i>Burlington</i> 9	Rev. Andy Bord <i>Cardiff, Wales</i> 10	Rev. Barry English <i>Cardiff, Wales</i> 11	Canon John Griffiths <i>Cardiff, Wales</i> 12	Rev. Matthew Jones <i>Cardiff, Wales</i> 13
Rev. David O'Donnell <i>Cardiff, Wales</i> 14	Rev. Barnabas Page <i>Cardiff, Wales</i> 15	Rev. Ryan Cubera <i>Cleveland, OH</i> 16	Rev. Kevin Elbert <i>Cleveland, OH</i> 17	Rev. Robert Franco <i>Cleveland, OH</i> 18	Rev. James Mazanec <i>Cleveland, OH</i> 19	Rev. Homer Blubaugh <i>Columbus, OH</i> 20
Rev. Peter Gregor <i>Comayagua</i> 21	Rev. Robert Shaldone <i>SOLT Corpus Christi</i> 22	Most Rev. Sam Jacobs <i>D.D. Episcopal Adv</i> 23	Most Rev. Mark O'Connell <i>Episcopal Adv</i> 24	Rev. Duaine Cote <i>Fargo, ND</i> 25	Rev. Richard Goellen <i>Fargo, ND</i> 26	Rev. Dale Kinzler <i>Fargo, ND</i> 27
Rev. Donald Leiphon <i>Fargo, ND</i> 28	Rev. Gary Luiten <i>Fargo, ND</i> 29	Rev. Steven Meyer <i>Fargo, ND</i> 30				

## A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

**Fraternity of Priests, Inc.**  
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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. John Kiley,

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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*(Please print legibly)*

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