



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.

About God's Mercy Firsthand - By Fr. Damjan Mlinarič, Slovenian Fraternity

When I was not yet a Christian and did not yet know Jesus, I was turning to some higher power, especially when water was running down my throat. I even knelt in a corner once and asked this force to help me get a good grade. I was still a child then. I was looking for something more. Something that would help me. I was far from Him. I was looking for it without knowing it existed.

And he entered my life. He revealed himself to me. He showed me that he loved me even though I wasn't worth it. I was lost, wandering like a sheep without a shepherd, but our God is looking for us. He never gets tired. He is looking for us so that he can embrace us, show us his goodness. Just like me, who had many things to say about Christians in my time, he made fun of her because I didn't understand. I did not know that He really lives. That it really works, that He is Great and Mighty.

God touched me

He touched my heart, he turned my life upside down. I lived for the moment, for this world, for enjoyment, for what life offered me, but I didn't even dare to think that there is a personal God who is crazy about me and wants to be a part of my life. And the craziest thing

I experienced was that he touched me; I literally felt His closeness, embrace, love. Physically. I couldn't believe it was Him. I thought the energy was my imagination, but He began to work. He began to forgive me. I felt God's forgiveness.

He who died two thousand years ago. He who suffered and rose from the dead. It is He who works even today, even today He heals. He is not just a theory, he is above all what God is in his essence. God who saves or that heals. I remember how they prayed for my healing when I sprained my leg. I was instantly healed. He even cares about such details! He doesn't care. He loves you. And when you receive such mercy, you get the strength to share it further.

To become merciful

When are our eyes merciful? When we see the good in others. When is our mouth merciful? When they speak well of others. When are our feet merciful? When we are ready to do good. When is our heart merciful? When he forgives. He teaches us all this. He expects, invites, encourages that you and I also spread God's mercy.

The Lord invites us to make our lives a song of joy and goodness. It means being merciful. The extraordinary messenger of God's

mercy is St. Faustina Kowalska. God chose her to spread mercy, and we too are invited to spread it. When I heard about the Rosary of Divine Mercy, I immediately adopted it as my own. Even before I was baptized, I was already praying it, spreading it, encouraging people to pray it. I also chose the words for the New Mass motto, for which Jesus ordered St. Faustina, let them be under the image of God's mercy: *Jesus, I trust in you*. So many times we don't trust, so many times we are disappointed with people, with the world, but Jesus only invites us, he invites you, to trust him and shout again and again, no matter what: *Jesus, I trust you!*

God does not give up

And I'm still learning that trust. For almost 20 years. And I know that this is a lifelong mission. I don't know why I deserved such mercy that He revealed to me, but I know that he offers it to everyone. He wants to touch everyone. He also wants to enter your life. He also wants to bless you even more, to fill you even more with his Love. And every time you are disappointed, when you fall, when you are hurt, you can turn to His mercy. He is always ready to help. He never gives up on us because that's just the way he is. :)

In closing, all I can say is that eternity will be too short to give
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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:
\$563.00

Budget Deficit:
\$4,187.00

*Current as of
February 29, 2024.*

One of the highlights of our year is the Annual Conference of the International Fraternity of Priests. I am asking both our fraternity brothers and wonderful lay supporters to keep this conference in your prayers. Our hosting fraternity this year will be the brothers of the New Jersey Fraternity. The event will take place from Sunday evening, August 4, through Friday morning, August 9. The location is: Loyola Jesuit Center, 161 James St., Morristown, NJ 07960, Phone: 973-539-0740, E-mail: retreathouse@loyola.org.

Our presenter will be Deacon Joseph Cooley. Deacon Joe is Director of the Encounter School of Ministry: Boston Campus. He is also deeply involved with the Unbound Deliverance and Marriage Ministries. He and his wife, Ceci, are transplants to New England from the Midwest. He was ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2016 and will be speaking both on Monday and Tuesday. He will share with us how the Holy Spirit is working in the world and the Church with a special focus on Encounter Ministries. For more information on Encounter Ministries, please check www.encounterministries.us.

All priests who are members of the Fraternity should have received either a letter or an e-mail spelling out the details of the conference. If you did not, please e-mail me at once at JKiley70@bostonclergy.org. This information is also posted on our fraternity website. www.fraternityofpriests.org

We need to know as soon as possible from those of you who plan to attend. We have reserved 20 to 25 rooms at the Jesuit Center. If we have fewer in attendance and have not reduced the number of rooms by the beginning of May, we will have to pay the registration fee for each of the unused rooms! I

know that there are always some last-minute emergencies that can prevent attendance. However, please send me an e-mail also at JKiley70@bostonclergy.org by April 28

if you plan to be present. This will enable us to book some additional rooms, if available, or to reduce the number. You can register for the conference by filling out and mailing the registration form in the letter you received or by visiting the Fraternity of Priests website, www.fraternityofpriests.org where you can also pay online. Provided that you have informed me by April 28 that you plan to attend, the completed registration must be received by May 31.

As usual we will cover some business at the meeting, particularly the election of board members. Two of our board will be completing their first term. Prayerfully consider serving on the board and/or surface the name of a brother willing to serve. We will also be nominating a brother for the Annual Brotherhood Award. Please indicate this name on your registration form. Even if you are not attending the conference, you may nominate a brother for this award.

Because of the urgency of getting an early registration, I am using all available means to get the word out. Have a Blessed and Joy Filled Easter Season.



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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enough thanks for what He has done for us. Can you imagine? Eternity will be too short. *Thank you, Jesus, for loving us with an eternal love.*

On Divine Mercy Sunday

On the White Sunday, when we celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy, invite him into your life once again and tell him: *Jesus, I trust in you. Thank you, Jesus, for the grace of Holy Baptism and thank you for persevering with me and for sending me brothers and sisters who help me to persevere on this path.*

Every year I thank him for this day when I was baptized, when I became a child of God. It was April 19, 2003. :) I remember that then my godfather gave me a Bible. The most beautiful gift was the community that followed me, stood by my side, cheered me on, was with me. We were one because He connected us. We helped each other all the time and that was really how the first Christians lived. We were so connected, so at home. This is what our Church needs. What you and I need. That we will pass on the enthusiasm we receive from Him. The most beautiful testimony is when we live beautiful relationships. It attracts, just as it attracted in the beginning when Christianity was born. I want you too to always be at home with Him and to be ready again and again to spread the goodness and joy that He gives. :)

Preaching the Truth—the Mercy and Love of God

As I write this, we are in the midst of hearing that March 31st this year

will focused on a sexual morality. An internationally known political pundit says that if your pastor does not address this at Easter Mass, then leave the Church.

I did not address it at Easter Mass. I am hoping to be able to address the pundit's disturbing demand directly at some time. The obvious question some may ask is why did I not address this? The answer is simple, our mission is to preach the Gospel and on Easter the Gospel reminds us that Jesus Resurrected from the dead. So, in my homily I focused on this. For me to preach anything else could reflect being yanked into a political battle which could detour the exact mission we have—to encounter Christ crucified and risen. So, I proclaim Easter is for proclaiming the Resurrection of Christ not getting drawn into political battles.

One thing I often warn is that one can be an atheist and follow Catholic morality. However, if we truly understand Christ then we can be his servants in the way he wants us to serve him. The Lord calls us to be as gentle as doves and wise as snakes. We can be distracted easily from his teaching by following political battles in the name of morality. We may think we are preaching the Gospel but we are actually playing into political hands.

One political side wants us to celebrate a secular concept while celebrating Easter. Another political side would want us to condemn the secular concept while celebrating Easter. If you look at the focus there, it is not that Jesus resurrected from

the dead, it is the pro or con of the secular concept. Whereas if we focus on preaching Christ then we will serve God the way he calls us to speak of his mercy and his love to those who came to hear of it.

In our main article today, we hear a celebration of the mercy of God. This is the message we must preach. Many priests may use the pulpit to add their two cents in the moral battle we encounter in our world today. However, as I always teach, you can be an atheist and live Catholic morality. Our mission is to proclaim the mercy of God in Christ.

This is the most important message we need to preach and it is the same one the pope is calling is to proclaim. His message of “*Todos, todos, todos*” is to remind us that we need to invite everyone into the Church and guide them to Christ.

On the social media website X, one person going by the name “No Place Like Rome” explains:

The Francis side of the Church believes that God loves us and our discovery of his love for us makes us want to repent. Mercy precedes and causes repentance.

She preceded this with the opposite idea promoted by the pope's opponents who say we repent first and then seek his mercy and love.

I teach the former and my mission in my parish is to encourage the parishioners to live the mission to which we all have a baptismal.

Let us focus on knowing Christ and not be distracted by both sides of political battles outside of Christ. —ed.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

May 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Rev. 1 Bernard Schneider <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. Msgr. 5 Dennis Skonseng <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. 6 Peter Pienaa Donzing <i>Ghana</i>	Rev. 7 Robert Sackey <i>Ghana</i>	Rev. 8 Charles Antekeier <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	Rev. 9 Donald Lomasiewicz <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	Rev. 10 Mark Mitchell <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	Rev. 11 Ayub Nasar <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>
Rev. 12 Michael Shea CM <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	Msgr. 13 Cyril Lamontagne VG <i>Grenada</i>	Rev. 14 Robert Grant <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 15 Paul Halovatch <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 16 Joseph Looney <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 17 Will-Roger Malave <i>Hartford, CT</i>	Rev. 18 Robert Rousseau <i>Hartford, CT</i>
Rev. 19 Francis Dabre <i>India</i>	Rt. Rev. Dr. 20 Bryan Eyman <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>	Rev. 21 Paul Landwerlen <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>	Rev. 22 George Joseph Nangachiveetill <i>Indianapolis, IN</i>	Rev. 23 Thomas Cawley C.M. <i>Kansas City</i>	Rev. 24 Earl Dekat <i>Kansas City</i>	Rev. 25 Roderic Giller OSB <i>Kansas City</i>
Rev. 26 Rheal Forest <i>Manitoba, Canada</i>	Rev. 27 Timothy Ekaitis <i>Marquette, MI</i>	Rev. 28 Ryan Ford <i>Marquette, MI</i>	Rev. 29 Christopher Gardiner <i>Marquette, MI</i>	Rev. 30 Benjamin Hasse <i>Marquette, MI</i>	Rev. 31 Jeff Johnson <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. 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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to receive our Newsletter?**
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