



THE VISITATION

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Faith in Action - By Fr. Francis Dabre, India (Former Board Member)

A young man once approached a priest and said "Father, I see you celebrating charismatic mass, involved in charismatic prayer, conducting healing services, giving talks. I also know that you are deeply involved in the social apostolate of the Church. How can you be in both? I know those who are in prayer are not in social work or those who are in social work are not in prayer" The priest explained that Scripture, Sacraments and Service are the three constitutive elements of the Catholic Church. We also call them the three W's of Word, Worship, and Work. We may pray ardently, attend Mass and prayer services, but if we fail to reach out to our less privileged brothers and sisters, then our prayer is futile. As corroborated by Pope John Paul II, "Today more than ever, the Church is aware that our social message will gain credibility more immediately from *the witness of actions* than as a result of its internal logic and consistency" (John Paul II, *Centesimus Annus*, no. 57) Pope Benedict XVI also stressed the basis of the Church's Social Teachings and its relation to faith, reason, and charity in action in his encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*.

Jesus – Our Role Model

Jesus shows us a unique way of justice which goes beyond our human thinking. Jesus adds love

or agape (Unconditional Love) to justice, it means it goes beyond what we deserve in just manner, charity is attached to divine love. There are innumerable examples and actions of Jesus that demonstrate this kind of justice. We read this in the parable of the workers in the vineyard Mt.20, 1-16. The parable shows that the owner is just to those who came early and charitable to those who came at the last minute. That sounds unjust to many but the message that we need to decipher is that it is the compassionate heart of God that takes care of the weak. God is always generous in his dealings. Look at the blessings we have received. Are we truly worthy of receiving them? Our loving Father blesses us despite our undeserving nature.

Prayer and Justice

"It is not those who say Lord, Lord who are taken to heaven but those who do the will of my Father" Mt, 7, 21. Our prayer should lead us to the poorest of the poor; our prayer has to be seen in action, our faith should lead us to the others. James, 2, 17-18, says, "So it is with faith, if it is alone and includes no actions. But someone will say, one person has faith, another has action, my answer is Show me how anyone can have faith without actions" Prayer and action should go hand in hand, if we go to the Church or prayer meetings

regularly, then one should have faith in action in one's personal life and in reaching out to others.

Religiosity and Spirituality

It is unfortunate that many of us are highly religious but few of us are spiritual. We are meticulous with worship. This is definitely appreciated but we need to reflect and check whether this devotion flows into action. Do we care for the less fortunate? Do we translate our faith into action? A spiritual person lives an integrated life, translating his faith into action. Let us remember "Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do it to me". The command of Jesus is to be charitable; our faith has to be seen in action. "Faith without good works is dead faith" James 2, 17-18.

The Church's Teaching on Social Justice:

It is the command of Jesus to reach out to all in faith. Love of neighbour, grounded in the love of God, is first and foremost a responsibility for each individual member of the faithful; it is also a responsibility for the entire ecclesial community at every level: from the local community to the Universal Church.

The modern era of Catholic social teaching begins with the encyclical *Rerum Novarum* where Pope Leo XIII defends the rights of workers, the need for justice and solidarity, but at the same time he affirms the natural right

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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:
\$997.00

Budget Deficit:
\$3,753.00

*Current as of
June 30, 2024.*

I believe that we need to review from time to time what the Fraternity of Priests terms “the Visitation Message”. As brothers in the Fraternity we make a commitment to “Proclaim this Visitation Message”. Over the course of the years more than one priest, new to fraternity, has raised the question: “What is the Visitation Message?”. In the Fraternity Conference that launched many of our Fraternity Groups it was put this way: “God is visiting His people today in a unique outpouring of His Holy Spirit as of a new Pentecost calling His people to conversion in order to establish His Kingdom.”.

As Christians we know that God is always visiting His people. God has intervened in human history to bring about and accomplish His plan of salvation. The divine Son of God has come from heaven to earth. In His earthly ministry Jesus wept over Jerusalem because it did not recognize the time of its visitation.

While God is visiting His people and is always present to them, we believe that there are special and unique times of God’s visitation. We are living in one of these special times of grace. We recognize the work of God in a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit going back to the days of Pope Leo XIII who wrote: “We ought to pray and invoke the Holy Spirit for each one of us regularly needs His protection and His help. The more a man is deficient in wisdom, weak in strength, borne down in trouble, prone to sin, so ought he the more fly to Him who is the never ceasing fount of light, strength, consolation and holiness... We ought confidently and continually to beg of Him to illumine us daily more and more with His light and inflame us

with His clarity; for thus inspired with faith and love, we may press earnestly towards our eternal reward” (Divinum Illud Munus par. 11, 1897). We have experienced the



hand of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in the Second Vatican Council. This visitation continues in the charismatic renewal movement of the 20th century and many other renewal movements. We have been blessed in a special way in the recent Popes who have led our church towards renewal especially in the call to the New Evangelization. One of our new saints, Pope John XXIII, who convened the Second Vatican Council, had the church praying for a “new Pentecost”.

God is visiting His people today and our responsibility is to teach, preach, and proclaim this message. We are charged with calling people to repentance and deeper faith and to committed discipleship that all may embrace the work of God and take an active part in the mission of the Church. We are to bring people into personal relationship with Jesus and help them to be disposed to be filled with the Holy Spirit. In this way we live out “the Visitation Message”.



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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to private property.

Pope Pius XI reaffirmed the principles set out by Leo XIII and applied them to the then situation. Pope John XXIII welcomed new systems of social welfare and social security, while rejecting inordinate state control. He repeated the teaching of Pope Pius XII in favour of small business enterprises, based on the principle of subsidiarity. But he raises the problem of the growing disparity between rich and poor nations. Confronting the ever-widening disparity between rich and poor nations, he affirmed that justice is inseparable from development. The bishops, gathered in Rome for the 1971 Synod, gave voice to the desire of millions of people in developing countries not only for an end to poverty and oppression, but for everlasting peace and true justice.

Saint John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI have extensively written on the Social Apostolate, that presence of the Church in the world. Recently at the World Youth Day in Brazil, Pope Francis told the slum dwellers in Brazil that the world's rich must do much more to wipe out the vast inequalities between the haves and the have-nots. The pope also urged Brazil's youth, who had taken part in protests showing discontent with the status quo, to keep alive their "sensitivity towards injustice" and be a catalyst in the fight against corruption.

Conclusion

Our faith needs to be practised and experienced. Then we can say we are working for the Kingdom of God. We must bear witness to Christian values in our personal lives and in our Catholic institutions and thus emulate

Jesus' example. Our Catholic church is known for its Social Apostolate, so let us pledge to work in the vineyard of the Lord and uphold the values that the Church embraces and proposes.

Where Did the Catholic Intellectual Tradition Go?

On Tuesday nights in the parish, we have a discussion group talking about different issues within the context of our Catholic faith. Recently, Chris Hedges a world renown journalist, author, professor and minister who is highly respected in many of the less mainstream circles of our country had a question and answer session on the election live on YouTube. Many of us watched at least part of it on Monday and this led to a deeper discussion of our faith in the world.

Among the names we brought up was, of course, Noam Chomsky and his teaching on the disturbing role the media takes in forming consent. Chomsky long before any of our local politicians ever condemned the media warned that it was filled with propaganda servient to the elites in our country. I took the time to rewatch the documentary about Chomsky's ideas Manufacturing Consent on YouTube this week. I would highly recommend it to you. As I would also recommend watching Chris Hedges' video now on his YouTube channel on the election. You can find it by searching for his channel on YouTube. The video will be under the "live" heading.

This led me to wonder about what ever happened to the Catholic intellectual tradition. In our meetings many famous topics come up and I started reading Lee Drutman's Breaking the Two Party Doom Loop. This we also bring to the discussion. However, at one time Catholicism had an intense intellectual tradition with such names as William F. Buckley, Jr., Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, Peter Maurin, Richard John Neuhaus, Ralph McInerny, Michael

Novak. They all come from different elements in the political spectrum but these great writers seemed to have given way to others who are advocating for an end to Pope Francis' Pontificate, a schism rooted in the Latin Mass, and a political conservatism that they seem to either equate with Catholicism or hold to a higher standard. In fact, it seems that this intellectual tradition gave way to Catholic fundamentalism.

Where did our more storied intellectual tradition go as Catholics? Maybe it is time for us as priests to foster it again.

I bring this up as we are in the aftermath of the Olympic opening ceremonies and members of our more robotic Catholic media are already bringing out the exorcists and teaching that Satan has infiltrated the Olympics. They, by default, rally their viewers to feel they are under attack by the secular elites. I did not watch the opening ceremonies, I had other things to do. I saw the controversy the next day. I actually felt when they were live that I had more important things to do than watch boats go by. I would rather see clips of the athletes in their sports on YouTube.

So, our once intellectual tradition which fought over the use of nuclear weapons is now, reduced to a collection of exorcists warning us the devil infiltrated the Olympics? I think the best message coming out of that controversy, as indicated by some, is that maybe it is a sign that Christianity and especially Catholicism has become irrelevant. It should be a warning to us to see why. One reason may be the pass too many in our Catholic media get for putting forth a banal understanding of Catholicism.

May I invite all our readers to begin to return to the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and raise it up again. It has a long history long forgotten in much of in today's Catholic media.

I should add here that I do not include CatholicTV in my complaint. They are local to me and do a wonderful job far from other more banal Catholic media. —ed.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

September 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. 1 James Hobert <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	Rev. 2 Bill Kohler <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	Rev. 3 Liam Leahy <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	Rev. Msgr. 4 Domenico Pinti <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	5 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	6 For prayer requests received	7 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. 8 Thomas Quirk <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	Rev. 9 Ray Ratzenberger <i>Tucson, AZ</i>	Most Rev. 10 Vitalij Skomarovski <i>Ukraine</i>	Rev. 11 Bennette Becheyie <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 12 Stephen Dassah <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 13 John Bosco Eledi <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 14 Paul Gaa <i>Wa, West Africa</i>
Rev. 15 Victor Ganaa <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 16 Stephen Kantubog <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 17 Aloysius Kpiebaya <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 18 Cletus Kulah <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 19 Chrisantus Kulbile <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 20 Vincent Kuubatge <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 21 Godfrey Naagyie <i>Wa, West Africa</i>
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Rev. 29 Frederick Tantie <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 30 Matthew Tuurosog <i>Wa, West Africa</i>					

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

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