



# THE VISITATION

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## 9/11 And Our Witness to the World as the Fraternity of Priests - By Fr. Tom Galvin, Pittsburgh

So here we are, members of the Fraternity of Priests gathered in Middletown, New Jersey, a quaint little town where George Washington slept when he passed through during the Revolutionary War -- or something like that, depending on who you listen to. We were together for our annual international meeting, brothers gathering from India, Uganda, Ghana, Trinidad, and (as best as I can remember) from seven or eight states in the United States.

The Wednesdays of these weeks is always spent as "Fraternity Day" for social activity of one kind or another. This year we left this suburb (they probably won't like me saying that, but that's what we call these hamlets in Pittsburgh) and headed to the Basilica Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Newark. Waving to the Statue of Liberty, we then hurried to New York via ferry in order to tour the 9/11 Memorial and Museum.

I'm not going to give you all the details of what we did and what did not happen on our brief sojourn. That's not what this is all about. No, I wish to share with you what was experienced while at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum. While taking in the outside memorial, one could not help but notice the quiet reverence displayed by young and old alike. It was almost as eerie as the actual event. Silence was noticeable! Inside the museum the

atmosphere was not much different. As Bob Carr and I meandered through the displayed artifacts, I couldn't help but feel a reverence, even among the children. It was a reverence, a beautiful hush that we could only wish we could have sometimes in our churches.

Most noticeable in all of this was that there was no hiding of religious symbols. It was as if the designers wanted to display faith. I'm probably right as anyone who has studied this event, or that which occurred in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, will speak of faith in oneness with courage. They went hand-in-hand that day, especially among the first responders. But in showing the work that was needed (and done) following that time of devastation, faith remained. And you couldn't help but feel a strong sense of faith motivating action.

The iron cross which came to be atop a pile of rubble was prominently displayed in the museum. And the stories of Mass often being celebrated at that site had to leave many with lasting impressions. At the same time, knowing or unknowingly, these accounts provided an examination of individual faith (or lack thereof) for those seeing and studying this phenomenon which many believed was God's involvement in the midst of evil. One had to question whether or not God's hand was involved in providing this sign of faith for the

world.

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The next day, Thursday, we would review the literature concerning the Fraternity which begins with our Mission statement:

*"To bring about renewal in Jesus Christ to Catholic parishes and institutions through the power of the Holy Spirit."*

Now, my brothers and sisters, ordained and lay, it is never good enough to simply make a mission statement. The necessary steps to accomplish the goal of the mission are also essential. That's why the Fraternity of Priests provides Ten Disciplines meant to guide us in the formation of this mission in our lives. And we also are given instructions called Disciplines and Formation for the Mission.

-- By living a life of conversion to a deeper and more personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

-- By coming to walk, live and minister in the power of the Holy Spirit.

-- By learning to evangelize in the power of the Holy Spirit.

-- By seeking pastoral care and support from brother priests.

I highlight these so we never forget that every opportunity provides us with the capability to respond effectively through committed brotherhood, and in the gift of courage from the Holy Spirit -- an absolute essential which was seen in the 9/11 museum.

...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:

**\$2,970.00**

Budget Deficit:

**\$1,780.00**

*Current as of  
July 31, 2024.*

The Annual International Fraternity of Priests Conference was held from Sunday, August 4, through Friday, August 9, at the Loyola Jesuit Center in Morristown, New Jersey. Twenty-nine priests attended: five from Ghana, two from India, one from Trinidad, one from Uganda, and twenty from the United States. Due to airline delays, cancellations, and weather-related issues, arriving for the conference was problematic for some of us including myself. I finally arrived at Loyola on Tuesday afternoon and I was not the last to arrive. We thank Father John Wassell and the members of the New Jersey Fraternity for agreeing to host the conference. Special thanks go to those who managed to get us from the airport to the conference.

Our presenter this year was Deacon Joe Cooley from the Archdiocese of Boston. Deacon Joe heads up the Encounter School of Ministry in the Boston area. Like the vision of the Fraternity, Encounter stresses the importance of ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit and growing in and employing the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Deacon Joe, along with two members of his Music Ministry, offered five presentations on Monday and Tuesday. Unfortunately I am unable to reflect on his presentations. Due to my late arrival, I missed four out of the five. The brothers who were present for them commented favorably.

Brotherhood day on Wednesday consisted of a tour of the magnificent Newark Cathedral, a boxed lunch on the bus due to rain, a ferry across the Hudson River, a visit to the 9/11 Museum, and a dinner put on by Fr. Joseph Meagher's parishioners at St. Antoninus parish in Newark. We thank them for preparing this meal.

On Thursday I made a presentation on the Vision of the Fraternity of Priests, emphasizing especially the

components of a Fraternity Meeting: prayer and praise and receiving a word from the Lord, a time of teaching and appropriating the teaching, pastoral care in small groups,

and priestly fellowship. We also reviewed the importance and necessity of the Kingdom Disciplines. On Thursday evening there was a Eucharistic Holy Hour with the opportunity for each person to be prayed with before the Lord.

This year there was no election for board members. Two members were completing their first term and were willing to serve again. There were no other nominations and the board remains the same for the next year. Also, Fr. Von DeRosia of the Boston Fraternity is the recipient of this year's Brotherhood award.

The board and the gathered brothers agreed that the 2025 Conference will be held in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Priests Conferences at Franciscan University in Steubenville. I ask my brother priests to plan to be there. The dates are Monday afternoon, June 23, to Friday Noon, June 27. During the Conference there will be several opportunities for the Fraternity to gather.

I ask our lay supporters to keep the Fraternity in your prayers. Pray that we will be more effective in inviting others to be part of this work of the Holy Spirit for the renewal of priests.



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

In our commitment to our Lord and to one another, we need to remember that discipleship is not an activity for when nothing else is happening in our lives. It is 24-7-365.

We all know brother priests who struggle with attending weekly gatherings, saying it's impossible or just too hard. They stand against what was witnessed by the first responders whose offerings were shown at the memorial. We need to realize that people -- young and old -- will respond to acts of courage and faith. Some brother priests just are not comfortable speaking about the Holy Spirit's actions in their lives. Is that a concern of ours? Yes, since we all need to be motivated and moved by the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Our disciplines are meant to have us move out of ourselves to a sense of "clic" is not created or falsely perceived by others. Strength, humble service and humility need to be cornerstones of our living the fraternal disciplines, and of being the example of faith in a world that has fallen into darkness as it was in 2001. I'll highlight a few of our disciplines that each of us should meditate on.

**THE DISCIPLINE: To proclaim the Visitation Message.**

**THE DISCIPLINE: To empower God's people in the Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit, the power and life of God transmitted to our Blessed Mother, the enabling of God coming to us at Pentecost, reminds us that He visits believers every day. Needed from each of us is openness to the Holy Spirit so we may say as Mary did, "*Let it be done to me according to your word.*" Where does this happen? In Cursillo we say it is in the one square meter where you are at that moment. Therefore, it is where we stand or sit at any time.

It happened at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum, giving us an opportunity to see the Spirit of God touching lives in unexpected ways.

As fraternity members, how we share experiences such as these is important. It will speak of what we allow to affect us at any given time. Our response is what others will react to. If we display courage, boldness will be their response. If we display cowardness, they'll find someone else to follow.

The backlash to the opening and closing of the Paris Olympic Games stand in sharp contrast to the boldness found in the event and in those who participated -- some walking amidst jeers in various towns. Thankfully, many believers have and are responding with disgust to the Olympic Committee, letting it be known that such disrespect will not be accepted in Los Angeles in 2028. Courage and Faith are essential when expressing the truth and not simply voicing opinions. This needs to be done now and not after the wrong is committed. A catholic Christian response now will display the Holy Spirit's gifts active in the world -- just as at Pentecost when there was no holding back.

We sometimes forget that the institution of the world is the Kingdom of God -- and when God was finished with creation, it was handed over to man to safeguard and care for. We sometimes forget that the Church is the institution of Jesus Christ, handed on to the Apostles to be made known in the Kingdom of God and led by the Spirit of God. Those not aware of the visitation message fail to see their own responsibility to proclaim the message, including our statement: "*...We believe that God is at work visiting His people and that it is causing a New Pentecost*

*being poured out on the Church and the universe."*

But.....my brothers and sisters who also receive these newsletters and hold your priests in prayer, we need to recognize, believe, and announce without hesitation, that the New Pentecost is not a one-time event as some may be looking for. Nor is it going to be a quiet revelation. No, the New Pentecost is already happening in some believers -- and will come to happen in others -- as each person opens to the Spirit of God given to them when baptized and when they confirmed their faith. Their response, when a New Pentecost causes a dynamic change in the heart, will also cause a reaction for the world to see, and just, perhaps, enter into with conviction, faith and courage.

Yes, courage and faith need to be strong. They need to be fostered in the gatherings when we stand before the Lord in prayer, in small and large groups, with friends and with strangers.

To my brother priests, next summer we'll gather at Franciscan University at Steubenville to celebrate 50 years of conferences -- when the Fraternity began and where our disciplines were settled in prayer. There we will find time for renewing and strengthening our living of the disciplines which are meant to daily empower each of us and affirm our oneness with the Holy Spirit, His power and gifts, We'll do this as we remember that it is imperative to encourage and strengthen each other in our priestly ministry and in our willingness to call for the baptized to awaken Pentecost in the lives of all believers.

We may be living in a world where evil is very evident. Courageously and faithfully displaying the work of the Spirit in our lives and the lives of others is the sure remedy.

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

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# THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

October 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Msgr. 1 Stan Jaworski Winnipeg	Rev. 2 Michael Nault Winnipeg	3 <b>For the souls of our deceased FOP members</b>	4 <b>For prayer requests received</b>	5 <b>For our Holy Father, Pope Francis</b>
Rev. 6 Francois Paradis OMI Winnipeg	Rev. 7 Ray Ratzenberger Tucson, AZ	Rev. 8 George Dunkley Worcester	Rev. 9 Jean-Paul Gagnon Worcester	Msgr. 10 John Mraz Allentown, PA	Rev. 11 John Brennan Boston, MA	Rev. 12 Robert Carr Boston, MA
Rev. 13 William Carroll Boston, MA	Rev. 14 Donald Clinton Boston, MA	Rev. 15 Volney DeRosia Boston, MA	Dcn. 16 Paul Dow Boston, MA	Rev. 17 Gerry Fraser Boston, MA	Rev. 18 Christopher Gaffrey OFM Boston, MA	Rev. 19 Patrick Gilbert Boston, MA
Dcn. 20 Chuck Hall Boston, MA	Rev. 21 Elson Kattookkaran Boston, MA	Rev. 22 Richard Kelley Boston, MA	Rev. 23 John Kiley Boston, MA	Rev. 24 Maurice Larochelle Boston, MA	Rev. 25 Jurgen Liias Boston, MA	Rev. 26 Paul McManus Boston, MA
Rev. 27 Thomas Reilly Boston, MA	Rev. 28 Roarke Traynor Boston, MA	Rev. 29 Chris Wallace Boston, MA	Rev. 30 Daniel Zinger Boston, MA	Rev. 31 Matthew Tuurosong Burlington		

## A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

### Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

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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.

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 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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