



THE VISITATION

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FOP Annual Conference 2024: Introduction to Encounter Ministries - Presented by Deacon Joseph

From August 4 to 9, 2024, the Fraternity of Priests hosted its annual conference. It was organized and led by Deacon Joseph Cooley, a prominent figure within the Archdiocese of Boston and Director of the Boston Encounter School of Ministry. The central theme of the conference, "An Introduction to Encounter Ministries".

Deacon Cooley's leadership and expertise in Encounter Ministries proved to be a vital asset to the gathering, providing the attending priests with a unique blend of spiritual formation and practical tools to deepen their ministry. Throughout the week, participants were immersed in an intensive program designed to introduce them to the theological, pastoral, and charismatic dimensions of Encounter Ministries, with an emphasis on healing, prophecy, and empowerment through the Holy Spirit.

The Fraternity of Priests: A Gathering of Renewal and Brotherhood

The Fraternity of Priests is an international network of Catholic priests founded with the mission to foster deeper spiritual relationships among priests while promoting personal holiness, support, and accountability in ministry. These annual conferences are pivotal moments for the members, as they provide not only a space for learning and formation but also an environment for priestly renewal and the sharing of experiences from their various dioceses

and ministries.

The theme for this year's conference, centered on Encounter Ministries, was particularly timely as the Church seeks new ways to engage both clergy and laity in a deeper experience of the Holy Spirit and in the mission of evangelization.

Introducing Encounter Ministries: The Vision of Deacon Joe Cooley

Deacon Joseph Cooley, a highly respected voice in the Archdiocese of Boston, has been a key advocate of Encounter Ministries. As the Director of the Boston Encounter School of Ministry, he has worked tirelessly to introduce priests, deacons, and lay ministers to the dynamic approach of Encounter Ministries, which focuses on empowering Catholics to live out their faith with boldness and power, inspired by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Encounter Ministries was founded with the mission of equipping Catholics to demonstrate the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in everyday life. The ministry is built upon the foundation of charismatic renewal, with a particular emphasis on the gifts of healing, prophecy, and evangelization. Its training programs have been designed to activate and mobilize disciples to become instruments of healing and transformation in the world, all while remaining faithful to the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church.

During his presentations, Deacon Cooley laid out the core principles of Encounter Ministries, which are

grounded in a few key pillars:

1. **Identity in Christ:** Encounter Ministries emphasizes the importance of understanding one's identity as a beloved child of God. This foundational understanding helps participants to receive and activate the gifts of the Holy Spirit more fully.

2. **Healing and Prophecy:** The ministry encourages active participation in healing and prophetic ministry, following the example of Jesus in the Gospels. Deacon Cooley emphasized the importance of cultivating these gifts as essential tools for ministry in the contemporary Church.

3. **Activation and Empowerment:** Through prayer, teaching, and hands-on practice, Encounter Ministries equips participants to "step out in faith" and begin using the gifts they have received to evangelize, heal, and minister to others.

4. **A Life of Holiness:** At the heart of Encounter Ministries is the call to personal holiness. Deacon Cooley made it clear that the goal of the ministry is not merely to engage in spiritual gifts for their own sake but to allow these gifts to lead participants into a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church.

The Structure of the Conference

The week-long conference was carefully designed to create a balance between spiritual refreshment, learning, and practical application. Each day began with morning prayer and Mass, followed by a series of presentations led by Deacon Cooley. These sessions were enriched by testimonies from priests who had already

...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:
\$1,099.00

Budget Deficit:
\$3,651.00

Current as of
August 31, 2024.

At our recent International Conference in August we reviewed the necessary elements of a Fraternity of Priests gathering. I would like to revisit them for the sake of those not present at the Conference. I believe that many of our lay supporters are interested in knowing what happens at our meetings. 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.

1) **Worship and Prayer:** Worship and prayer are the heart of our gatherings. Wherever possible, this happens in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. If there is a music ministry or musician, we begin with upbeat songs of praise and thanksgiving. This leads to quieter hymns of worship. We are seeking to enter prayerfully into the "throne room" of our Heavenly Father where God can speak to our hearts. We then spend time in silence before Jesus in the Eucharist. If we sense the Lord leading us to a particular passage of scripture and/or placing a word in our hearts, we write this in our journal to be shared at the conclusion of our prayer time. Often in the sharing a consistent word from the Lord emerges.

2) **Teaching:** A disciple of Jesus is a lifelong learner. This is why teaching is an essential element of a Fraternity gathering. There are many outlines of teachings on the Fraternity website. A member of the group can present a teaching or it could involve listening to an audio or watching a video. At present our Boston Fraternity is discussing the book *Jesus and the Jewish*

Roots of Mary by Brant Pitre. Appropriating the teaching is necessary. Teaching is not just for the mind. How we live out the teaching is what matters.

3) **Pastoral Care:** A dimension

of the Fraternity of Priests that differentiates it from some other priests groups is Pastoral Care. As shepherds we are entrusted with caring for others. Who, however, is caring for the shepherds? The vision of the Fraternity presumes that we gather in small groups of three or four for open and honest sharing. What has happened in my life and ministry since we last met? What has given me life and joy? What am I struggling with? Are there areas of sin that I need God's grace and fraternal support to break free of? These groups have the confidentiality of the confessional and often we go to confession with a member of our group.

4) **Social Time:** As members of the Fraternity of Priests we are called to be a committed brotherhood. This means that we need to care for one another beyond the official meeting. At our Boston meeting we have a brief social time between our weekly worship and our teaching. We have a fraternity dinner after Christmas and Easter. There are groups that socialize more regularly and groups that offer Masses and Healing Services in various parishes. There is always more that could be done to build a sense of fraternity.

I am asking each Fraternity to review the elements of a meeting and if some aspect is lacking, begin again. I urge our lay supports to pray and fast that our groups may be faithful to the Fraternity vision for the renewal of the Church.


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.



...continued from page 1

integrated Encounter Ministries into their parishes, sharing stories of renewal, healings, and evangelization efforts that had transformed their communities.

The afternoons were dedicated to small group discussions, where participants could reflect on the teachings and share insights from their own pastoral experiences. These discussions fostered an environment of mutual support and fraternity, as priests discussed the challenges and opportunities they faced in their ministries. Deacon Cooley was present during many of these discussions, offering his pastoral wisdom and practical advice on how to integrate the principles of Encounter Ministries into parish life.

Hands-On Ministry and Activation Sessions

One of the unique aspects of the Encounter Ministries model is the emphasis on hands-on ministry and activation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The priests attending the conference were not merely passive recipients of teaching; they were invited to actively engage in ministry throughout the week. Deacon Cooley, along with a team of experienced facilitators, led a series of activation sessions where participants were encouraged to pray with one another for healing, prophetic words, and words of knowledge.

These sessions were both powerful and transformative. Many priests shared testimonies of experiencing the gifts of the Holy Spirit in new and profound ways. Some reported receiving words of knowledge for the first time, while others prayed for physical and emotional healings that took place during the conference. The atmosphere of faith and expectancy was palpable, as the participants witnessed firsthand the power of the Holy Spirit at work.

Building a Culture of Healing and Evangelization in the Parish

A significant portion of the conference

was dedicated to exploring practical strategies for building a culture of healing and evangelization within the parish setting. Deacon Cooley emphasized that while the gifts of the Holy Spirit are essential, they must be integrated into the everyday life of the parish in a way that fosters ongoing renewal and transformation.

He encouraged the priests to consider implementing healing services, prayer teams, and discipleship programs in their parishes. He also highlighted the importance of cultivating a spirit of hospitality and openness, creating an environment where people feel welcome and supported as they seek healing and deeper conversion. The testimonies shared by priests who had already begun this work in their parishes provided valuable insights into how these initiatives could be successfully implemented.

The Impact of the Conference on the Attendees

By the end of the week, many of the priests expressed a renewed sense of purpose and excitement for their ministry. The emphasis on healing and evangelization resonated deeply with those who recognized the need for a more dynamic expression of faith within their parishes. For many, the conference offered a fresh perspective on how to minister to their communities in a way that was both faithful to the Church's teachings and responsive to the needs of the contemporary world.

Several attendees shared testimonies of personal healing and spiritual renewal that had taken place during the conference. One priest, in particular, spoke of experiencing healing from long-standing physical pain during one of the prayer sessions. Others mentioned receiving a new sense of direction and clarity for their ministry after participating in prophetic prayer.

The sense of fraternity that had been

built over the course of the week was another significant takeaway. Many priests expressed gratitude for the opportunity to connect with one another, share their struggles and successes, and receive encouragement and support from their fellow clergy.

Moving Forward: The Future of Encounter Ministries in the Church

As the conference drew to a close, there was a palpable sense of excitement about the future of Encounter Ministries within the broader context of the Church. Deacon Cooley concluded the week by encouraging the priests to take what they had learned and experienced back to their parishes, where they could begin to implement the principles of Encounter Ministries in their own unique contexts.

He also invited the attendees to consider further training through the Encounter School of Ministry, which offers a two-year program designed to equip participants with a deeper understanding of the charismatic gifts and how to use them effectively in ministry. Deacon Cooley's invitation was met with enthusiasm, as many of the priests expressed a desire to continue their formation in this area.

The 2024 Fraternity of Priests conference was a resounding success, offering a powerful introduction to Encounter Ministries and providing priests with the tools and spiritual nourishment needed to revitalize their ministry. As Deacon Cooley so eloquently stated during his closing remarks, "The Holy Spirit is calling us to step out in faith, to heal, to prophesy, and to evangelize, so that the world may encounter the living Christ through His Church." With this renewed sense of mission, the priests left the conference ready to bring the power of the Holy Spirit into their parishes, confident that they had been equipped to carry out the work of the New Evangelization in a bold and transformative way.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

November 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 For prayer requests received	2 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
Rev. 3 Donald Roy <i>Burlington</i>	Rev. 4 Andy Bord <i>Cardiff, Wales</i>	Rev. 5 Barry English <i>Cardiff, Wales</i>	Canon 6 John Griffiths <i>Cardiff, Wales</i>	7 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	Rev. 8 Matthew Jones <i>Cardiff, Wales</i>	Rev. 9 David O'Donnell <i>Cardiff, Wales</i>
Rev. 10 Barnabas Page <i>Cardiff, Wales</i>	Rev. 11 Ryan Cubera <i>Cleveland, OH</i>	Rev. 12 Kevin Elbert <i>Cleveland, OH</i>	Rev. 13 Robert Franco <i>Cleveland, OH</i>	Rev. 14 James Mazanec <i>Cleveland, OH</i>	Rev. 15 Peter Gregor <i>Comayagua</i>	Rev. 16 Robert Shaldone SOLT <i>Corpus Christi</i>
Most Rev. 17 Sam Jacobs D.D. <i>Episcopal Advisor</i>	Most Rev. 18 Mark O'Connell <i>Episcopal Adv</i>	Rev. 19 Duain Cote <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. 20 Richard Goellen <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. 21 Dale Kinzler <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. 22 Donald Leiphon <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. 23 Gary Luiten <i>Fargo, ND</i>
Rev. 24 Steven Meyer <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. 25 Bernard Schneider <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. Msgr. 26 Dennis Skonseng <i>Fargo, ND</i>	Rev. 27 Peter Pienaa Donzing <i>Ghana</i>	Rev. 28 Robert Sackey <i>Ghana</i>	Rev. 29 Charles Antekeier <i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>	Rev. 30 Donald Lomasiewicz <i>Grand Rapids</i>

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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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 \$ _____

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