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MAY 2025

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.

Personal Reflection on Easter and the Jubilee Year of Hope. - by Rev. Fr. Sylvester Nankpi, Ghana

"Theme: Could you not watch one hour with me?" (Mt. 26:40 – 41) - The value of Eucharistic Adoration for us Priests and Religious. (Fraternity of Priests).

Permit me to start my presentation with this quote by (St. Albert the Great).

"He who enters into the secret place of his own soul passes beyond himself, and does in very truth ascend to God. Banish, therefore, from thy heart the distraction of earth and turn thine eyes to spiritual Joys, that thou mayest learn at last to repose in the light of the contemplation of God" (St. Albert the Great).

During the great seasons of Christmas and Easter, Mother Church calls us to a deeper and conscious reflection on our relationship with God and neighbor in three special ways. 1. Deeper and fervent prayer life 2. Charitable works (works of mercy) 3.To be more aware of our Baptismal vows.

This season is a beautiful reminder of how we can truly be present to our every moment and experience of our lives: St. Ignatius of Loyola says it is a way of waiting on the Lord. "Don't get ahead of God's grace" (St. Ignatius of Loyola)

As we go through uncertainties in the world and the Church it is more urgent to heed the call of Christ; "Could you not watch one hour with me?". In the light of all the difficulties, and dashed hopes, so many missed opportunities terrible suffering, bad choices; what to do?

There is always one thing we can do ….. what is that "light the Advent wreath and start over" (Francis comic trip Advent 2024, Dec. 3). There is always the assurance of freshness on the way, a newness awaits us. "the Divine presence is Summing us forward from the future, making a way in the wilderness of our messy world and our messy lives where no path forward is yet visible. The path forward in our country, our church, our religious life in the world is indeed unknown a foreign territory of wilderness, a desert. The courage to walk into an unknown future has always been there, and the desire to be faithful to the gospel remains at the Center. Yet God is doing something genuinely new!"(GSR) Global Sisters report) NCR. Dec. 2, 2024

We need to build more attentive expectation. We can only do this through fervent prayer as we are admonished by Pope Benedict XVI.

"Dear brothers and sisters, let us learn to savor in our prayers the beauty of being able to call on Him with the trust that a child has for the parent, who love him, let us open our prayers to the action of the Holy Spirit so that he may cry to God in as 'Abba Father!' and constantly convert our way of thinking and so that our prayers may transform and our action to bring us ever more closely into line with Jesus Christ the only begotten son of God. (from the school of prayer: Wednesday audience Discerning Hearts). "Prayer actualizes and deepens our communion with God, our prayer can and should arise above and from our hearts, from our needs, our hopes, our joys, our suffering, from our shame and sin and from our gratitude from the good. It can and should be wholly personal prayer". (Pope Benedict XVI Jesus of Nazareth from the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration, Discerning Hearts).

As we prepare the Jubilee year of Hope, we need to consider the following: 1. Personal prayer, prayer actualizes and deepens

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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:
$1,957.00
Budget Deficit:
$1,999.00

Current as of March 31, 2025.

We are in the month of May, a month dedicated in a beautiful way to Mary. May I suggest that during this month we reflect prayerfully on the chapter dedicated to Mary in the Vatican II Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*. Some of you may recall that there was a debate among the bishops at the Council whether they should issue a separate document on Mary or include Mary in the document on the Church. The result: chapter VIII in *Lumen Gentium* is entitled *The Role of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, in the Mystery of Christ and the Church*. Mary is seen as the pre-eminent member of the Church and as the Mother of the Church. She is the woman of faith, the model disciple, the one human person who most perfectly heard and was obedient to the will and word of God.

Consider Mary as the woman of faith. Mary certainly demonstrates a magnificent example of faith at the Annunciation when, not knowing the future, she surrenders her life completely to the will and the plan of God. *"Fiat, let it be done unto me according to your word."* (Luke 1: 38) We call the Annunciation the First Joyful Mystery. Having surrendered completely to the will of God, Mary must have experienced intense joy. Mary continues to exhibit great faith in times of sorrow. She is still saying "yes" to God as she stands at the foot of the cross on that first Good Friday. As the model disciple she can say "yes" both in good times and in bad. May she pray and intercede that each of us may share in that kind of faith.

Faith, however, does not eliminate questions. An aspect of Mary that is often overlooked is "Mary the Questioner". At the Annunciation she asks the angel Gabriel: "How can this be, since I do not know man?" (Luke 1: 34) When Mary and Joseph come upon Jesus in the temple after three days of searching, Mary questions Jesus: "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." How often scripture tells us that Mary would ponder things in her heart! Questions do not necessarily indicate lack of faith. Questions can be the springboard to a deeper and more mature faith. We should never be afraid of the honest and sincere questions that arise within us. We need to bring these questions to God in prayer and to other people of faith.

As we observe this Marian Month, consider the place of Mary in your life presently. We are her children and she loves us. If needed, rededicate yourself to the daily praying of her rosary, a powerful prayer she constantly requests in her apparitions. Mary desires nothing more than to bring us into a deeper relationship with her Son. May we share in her faith on earth and one day in heaven behold the blessed fruit of her womb, Jesus.

Fr. John Kiley Father John

(You need to be registered now for our summer conference that takes place at the Steubenville Conference for Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians June 23 – 27. Consult our website: www.fraternityofpriests.org Register directly at Steubenville: *https://steubenvilleconferences.com/events/priests-deacons-seminarians-retreat* A letter of suitability is necessary. For **those in need of financial assistance** a reimbursement of up to $1,000 is offered)

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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our communion with God. 2. Practice fervent prayer, for personal transformation and conversion, constantly converting our thinking and actions. 3. We should be tangible signs of hope for those loosing hope 4. Banish from our hearts all distractions of earth and turn our eyes to spiritual things.

The greatest form of prayer, that is the ultimate source of power and grace is the Eucharist, given to us by Jesus our Lord. At the last supper He said……. take this and eat, and again, take this and drink and commanded; do this in memory of me (Mtt 26). The basis of our priesthood.

Jesus further made an observation about prayer and lack of prayer (sleep). Giving us a very tangible reason for fervent prayer "watch and pray that you do not fall into temptation".

Jesus is ever present in the Eucharist, could you not watch one hour a day with Him and listen to Him?

Jesus has often made individual invitations to people to follow him as well as general invitations to people who desire to follow him. However, our theme takes us to a different level and at a special time. And the reason for this special invitation and request is given in (**Mtt. 26: 41**). This invitation was during a time of serious reflection, a decisive moment to effect a massive transformation of creation: And he made this request and observation to his closest disciples, you and me.

These events are recalled every year during the Holy week celebrations. (**Mt. 26: 26-41**). In Jesus' request, two components are evident: a. **TIME**: One hour: time management. It calls for effective and efficient time management. He has asked for one hour Holy Hour). It involves the choices and sacrifices we have to make. We will be called to account for the time God has given us. b. **THE WILL**: (Mt. 26:41). The spirit is willing but the body is week. The **WILL**, forms character, yet today we emphasize **feeling**, **emotion**: The **will** is compromised and that is why many are suffering spiritually.

Invitation to Prayer / Adoration: Devotion to the Eucharist 1. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the fervent celebration of the Holy Mass 2. The worthy reception of Holy Communion 3. Acts of reparation for the sins committed against this sacrament.

Eucharistic Devotion: Is to deepen our faith and foster a close union with Jesus present in the in the Blessed Sacrament. It involves spending time in prayer and contemplation before the Blessed Sacrament: (Holy Hour).

St. John Paul II, prayed for perpetual devotion chapels to be built in all Churches, when he was blessing a perpetual devotion chapel in St. Peter's Basilica.

The Vicariate Apostolica of Kuwait describes the purpose of Eucharistic Adoration as follows: *'By worshiping the Eucharistic Jesus, we become what God wants us to be; like a magnet, the Lord draws us to Himself and gently transforms us* (www.catholic.org) (30th November, 2017). It is therefore strongly recommended to all fraternity members.

According to Venerable Arch. Bishop Fulton Sheen, Holy Hour is the only thing that works with priests: One hour daily continuous in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Venerable Arch. Bishop Fulton Sheen gives us three reasons for Holy Hour: 1. We need psychological continuity of prayer 2. Our victimhood connects us to intercession for the world. It is our great responsibility to pray for people. We have to spend an hour a day for those who need it. 3. Most importantly: The Lord Jesus asked for it. The only request made of us by the Lord. 'Could you not watch one hour with me?

Conclusion: Importance of Eucharistic Devotion: Expressed by various Saints. 1. Strengthens the spiritual life of your family (Saint Pope John Paul II) 2. Your Holy Hour increases vocation (Saint Pope John Paul II) 3. Adoration, should be a priority and must prevail (Pope Benedict XVII) 4. Jesus is expressly there for you. For you alone (St. Theresa of Lisieux) 5. You grow into the likeness of Jesus (Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen) 6. Increase your knowledge of God (Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen)

Please send us your prayer intentions:_____

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THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

June 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Rev. Ryan Cubera *Cleveland*	2 Rev. Kevin Elbert *Cleveland*	3 Rev. Robert Franco *Cleveland*	4 Rev. James Mazanec *Cleveland*	5 **For the souls of our deceased FOP members**	6 **For prayer requests received**	7 **For our Holy Father, Pope Francis**
8 Rev. Homer Blubaugh *Columbus*	9 Rev. Peter Gregor *Comayagua*	10 Rev. Robert Shaldone SOLT *Corpus Christi*	11 Most Rev. Sam Jacobs D.D. *Episcopal Advisor*	12 Most Rev. Mark O'Connell *Episcopal Adv*	13 Rev. Duaine Cote *Fargo*	14 Rev. Richard Goellen *Fargo*
15 Rev. Dale Kinzler *Fargo*	16 Rev. Donald Leiphon *Fargo*	17 Rev. Gary Luiten *Fargo*	18 Rev. Steven Meyer *Fargo*	19 Rev. Bernard Schneider *Fargo*	20 Rev. Msgr. Dennis Skonseng *Fargo*	21 Rev. Peter Pienaa Donzing *Ghana*
22 Rev. Robert Sackey *Ghana*	23 Rev. Charles Antekeier *Grand Rapids*	24 Rev. Donald Lomasiewicz *Grand Rapids*	25 Rev. Mark Mitchell *Grand Rapids*	26 Rev. Ayub Nasar *Grand Rapids*	27 Rev. Michael Shea CM *Grand Rapids*	28 Msgr. Cyril Lamontagne VG *Grenada*
29 Rev. Robert Grant *Hartford*	30 Rev. Paul Halovatch *Hartford*					

Fraternity of Priests, Inc.
PO Box 442
Steubenville, OH 43952-5442

Email: contact@fraternityofpriests.org
http://www.fraternityofpriests.org

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

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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