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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.

Sharing the Disciplines - by Fr. Robert J Carr, Boston Fraternity

We all know the disciplines of the Fraternity of Priests and as priests we have a mission to maintain them. This is especially true with the disciplines around prayer. However, are we teaching these to the laity?

In the Catholic Church, there is always a battle between whether our faith is a moral code or it is an encounter with Christ. Pope Leo XIV recently explained that it is the latter and not the former. Our Catholic life centers around a daily encounter with Christ. If we want to spread the faith, then we want to teach people to live this encounter.

I am really hot on disputing those who say we have to pursue virtue as a central aspect of our lives. I do not disregard that goal but our priority must be an encounter with Christ.

Several years ago, I wrote in several places including here of my disagreement with an archbishop and a bishop who countered Fr. James Martin, SJ by saying we must pursue virtue. However, neither bishop in their statement made reference to prayer. So, my point is prayer comes first and the fruit of prayer will be pursuit of virtue. In fact, going back to the issue between Fr. James Martin, SJ and the bishops, I maintain that our first role for all people is to lead them to prayer. Fruitful prayer will always lead to a pursuit of virtue. Pursuit of virtue may never lead to prayer.

As priests in the Fraternity, we have a duty to pray daily at least an hour and, of course, also to celebrate Mass. However, do we also teach this to the laity?

Recently, I countered a priest on X who is a celebrity priest influencer and leans more toward the traditional liturgy. He explained that he celebrates Mass Ad Orientem which is, of course, with the back to the people and facing the tabernacle. He said you want the bus driver to face in the direction we are all going. I countered him because I said that we are not on a bus.

This is an issue because many people believe it is the role of the ordained and consecrated religious to be holy for the laity; this is not Church teaching. I always point out that all Catholics receive a commission at baptism to proclaim the faith with our lives. So, the idea that the priest drives the bus and the laity are on board for the ride is damaging to the mission of the Church. The laity have the mission to live the faith in the world and the role of the ordained is to support that mission through the sacraments, prayer and counseling, etc.

This is why the bus image is so wrong. Celebrating Mass Ad Orientem or not, of course, is not the point, it is the interpretation of it as the laity are on a bus to Heaven. The laity have a different mission from the ordained but they still have their mission. This is why I suggest to teach the disciplines to the laity. When we focus on any type of idea that the priest is the leader and the laity are to follow then the laity live a loyalty to the priest they follow and do not engage as much in the mission of the Church.

The role of the laity is not just to live a Christian life and to avoid sin. It is not to proselytize but to witness through their lives. This is why developing the disciplines is so important for them for they witness with the lives in ways that we do not. For example, if we go to a party, we go as priest. If Aunt Mary goes to a party, she goes as Aunt Mary. People expect certain things from us and in that way, they can even look upon us almost dismissively. “Well, he is the priest, of course, he is going to tell you that not going to Church is a sin.”

However, when Aunt Mary attends Mass then that is a witness that

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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:
$2,029.01
Budget Deficit:
$2,720.99

Current as of April 30, 2025.

Habemus Papam! We have a Pope! I am writing several days after the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as Pope Leo XIV. On the day of his election, May 8, I was at lunch at St. John Seminary in Boston when one of the seminarians ran into the dining room excitedly proclaiming that there was white smoke. Lunch ended quickly and we gathered around TVS to await the announcement of who had been chosen. Certainly a great surprise awaited us, the first pope from the United States of America, and from Chicago. The new pope will be prayed for each day at Mass. The name Leo will now be mentioned during the Eucharistic Prayer throughout the Universal Church. However daily personal prayer for the Holy Father is also needed and necessary. He faces a Church experiencing many divisions, problems, and difficulties. The world is in turmoil. The Constitution on the Church of Vatican II, Lumen Gentium, calls the Church to be the Light of the Nations. With the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit may Pope Leo be a source of unity and strength and inspire each of us to live and speak as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd. May the Church be better equipped to be the Light of the Nations.

Let me move to another topic. One of the essential qualities of a Fraternity Meeting is ongoing learning. This can be accomplished by a brother giving a teaching or by a video on some aspect of the faith or by reflecting on a book. However we do it, it is important to appropriate the teaching. What does it mean and how can I integrate it into my life?

Presently in our Boston Group we are working our way through "Rescued", a book by Fr. John Riccardo from the Archdiocese of Detroit. Fr. Riccardo will also be one of the featured speakers at the June Conference in Steubenville. The book is related to a website www.actsxxix.org called *The Rescue Project*. We have found that the book and the website dovetail very beautifully with the vision of the Fraternity of Priests. The Fraternity and *The Rescue Project* are both about evangelization and mission in the power of the Holy Spirit. I would highly recommend that our fraternity brothers and lay supporters check out these resources and if you find them helpful recommend them to priests and parishes.

Finally, when you receive the June Newsletter, we will be close to the dates (June 23 – 27) of the Annual Fraternity Summer Conference in conjunction with the Priests, Deacons and Seminarians Conference at Franciscan University. Pray for the safety of all traveling to Steubenville, for the presenters at the conference, and that each participant may be renewed in the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray especially that the gatherings of the Fraternity of Priests during the conference may be fruitful and promote this grace of the Fraternity that had its origin at this conference forty-two years ago.

Father John

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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speaks louder than the words of the priest because she is not speaking from any Church authority, she is simply Aunt Mary. Her attending Mass is something that speaks at a different level. Some family members may go to Church with her. Others may go to Church because of her and others will mock her but the fact that Aunt Mary goes to Church will be central to how people look upon Aunt Mary.

If Aunt Mary treats people with compassion and the love of Christ, that will speak volumes more than any homily a priest can give. Of course, the homily is important. Aunt Mary's actions are nourished by the priest's homilies and his celebration of the Mass and confecting the Eucharist. However, the focal point outside of the parish of people in her circles is Aunt Mary not the priest. Her focus is Christ in her life.

The same goes for Uncle Joe. If he attends Mass with Aunt Mary who is his wife then they both witness to the faith in ways that others see. If he is not married and attends Mass, elsewhere then again, that is a witness that speaks volumes in another way. In either case, the witness fulfills the baptismal commission.

This is why emphasizing prayer is so important. Just as we must be people of prayer to do our ministry well, so the laity must be people of prayer to witness well. It is essential. They must pray if they want to witness well as parents, as married couples, as single people, as workers, etc.

Teachers must pray to be good teachers, police officers must pray to be good officers. Janitors, CEOs, doctors, nurses, lawyers, housewives/husbands, writers, soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines . . . I think you get my drift. The laity must be people of prayer because they must witness in the world where we are not. This is why to teach the disciplines to the laity is important.

So keeping the disciplines for ourselves is important to our ministry but teaching the disciplines to others is important to theirs, especially in regard to prayer.

How do we teach them about prayer?

We can encourage them to set aside a certain amount of time specifically for prayer. We like to pray before the Blessed Sacrament which may not be practical for the laity on a daily basis. However, thanks to the internet, there are online forms of live Eucharistic adoration. Many churches, chapels and ministries in the world stream 24/7 Eucharistic exposition. What makes it more interesting is some of those places are historic in their own rite.

The Divine Mercy Chapel in Vilnius has twenty-four-hour Eucharistic exposition as do many parishes in the United States and around the world. So, the laity, can actually spend some time in Eucharistic adoration from their own homes. Maybe they cannot do an hour but both then Monsignor Timothy Dolan when he taught on Vatican Radio while at the North American College in Rome and even Archbishop Fulton Sheen suggested for the laity to spend simply twenty minutes in prayer. If they can do an hour that is good as well but they have to work within their schedule.

I also teach that it must be a priority. The way to ensure they do this is to schedule it into their day. If something comes up where they cannot pray at the scheduled time, then reschedule it for another time in that day. However, I tell them, make sure it is a priority. This way they can ensure they spend time in prayer. They can use the time for spiritual reading, contemplation, the rosary or other devotions. However, an important part of their prayer is to bring the needs and issues of their day to the Lord and ask him for assistance. I also add that many times our difficulties may come because we are people of prayer.

They need to understand that the difficult son or daughter is not a burden although that can be true too but rather God chose the parent for that child. Bringing the problems to prayer they can ask the Lord for the wisdom to address the issues. The laity deal with real world problems that we may not. We address issues as people bring them to us but parents deal with issues every day that we may never see prayer is an essential part of that mission.

So, let us remember that the disciplines benefit us so we can share them, especially in regard to prayer, with the laity because they are not on a bus to heaven that we are driving, they are on the front lives of witnessing to the faith.

Please send us your prayer intentions:_____

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THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

July 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Rev. 1 Joseph Looney *Hartford*	Rev. 2 Will-Roger Malave *Hartford*	3 **For the souls of our deceased FOP members**	4 **For prayer requests received**	5 **For our Holy Father, Pope Francis**
Rev. 6 Robert Rousseau *Hartford*	Rev. 7 Dr. Bryan Eyman *Indianapolis*	Rev. 8 Paul Landwerlen *Indianapolis*	Rev. 9 George Nangachiveettill *Indianapolis*	Rev. 10 Thomas Cawley C.M. *Kansas City*	Rev. 11 Roderic Giller *Kansas City*	Rev. 12 Timothy Ekaitis *Marquette*
Rev. 13 Ryan Ford *Marquette*	Rev. 14 Christopher Gardiner *Marquette*	Rev. 15 Benjamin Hasse *Marquette*	Rev. 16 Jeff Johnson *Marquette*	Rev. 17 Dustin Larson *Marquette*	Rev. 18 Thomas Merkel *Marquette*	Rev. 19 Brandon Oman *Marquette*
Rev. 20 Darryl Pepin *Marquette*	Rev. 21 Michael Steber *Marquette*	Rev. 22 Larry Van Damme *Marquette*	Rev. 23 Michael Woempner *Marquette*	Rev. 24 Anthony Bekpare *Nasaalbeteryeb*	Rev. 25 Nicodemus Unezumeh *Nasaalbeteryeb*	Rev. 26 Eugene Bettinger O. Carm. *New Jersey*
Rev. 27 Paul Cannariato *New Jersey*	Rev. 28 John Gordon *New Jersey*	Rev. 29 Joseph Meagher *New Jersey*	Rev. 30 Brendan Murray *New Jersey*	Rev. 31 Lewis Papera *New Jersey*		

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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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Dear Fr. John Kiley,
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☐ $10 ☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ Other $_____

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