

# THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

May 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					Msgr. 1 James Nugent Columbus, OH	2 <b>Pope Benedict XVI</b>
Msgr. 3 Michael Nugent Columbus, OH	Rev. 4 Justin Reis Columbus, OH	Rev. 5 Joseph Losh Columbus, OH	Rev. 6 Homer Blubaugh Columbus, OH	Rev. 7 James Kelly Columbus, OH	Rev. 8 Richard Engle Columbus, OH	Rev. 9 Claude Seeberger OSB Fargo, ND
Very Rev. 10 Dale Kinzler Fargo, ND	Rev. Msgr. 11 Robert Laliberte Fargo, ND	Rev. 12 Donald Leiphon Fargo, ND	Rev. 13 John Oderman OSB Fargo, ND	Rev. 14 Matthew Lanz Fargo, ND	Very Rev. 15 Duaine Cote Fargo, ND	Rev. 16 Robert Sfacey Ghana
Rev. 17 Thomas Hack Grand Rapids, MI	Rev. 18 Charles Antekeier Grand Rapids, MI	Rev. 19 Mark Mitchell Grand Rapids, MI	Rev. 20 Michael Shea CM Grand Rapids, MI	Rev. 21 James Bozung Grand Rapids, MI	Rev. 22 Donald Lomasiewicz Grand Rapids, MI	Rev. 23 George Fekete Grand Rapids, MI
Rev. 24 Ayub Nasar Grand Rapids, MI	Rev. 25 Robin Muntode India	Rev. 26 Francis Dabre India	Rev. 27 Jude Burbach OSB Kansas City, KS	Rev. 28 Earl Dekat Kansas City, KS	Rev. 29 Roderic Giller OSB Kansas City, KS	Rev. 30 Thomas Cawley C.M. Kansas City, KS
Msgr. 31 Cyril Lamontagne VG Grenada, W.I.						

## 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.*

Please cut and return this form with your donation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know anyone who would like to receive our Newsletter? (Please print legibly)

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.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other  \$100  \$50  \$25  \$10

Dear Father Bill Cosgrove, This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.



"To gather priests to Christ and to one another to proclaim..."

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

## The Third Millennium Priest Evangelizes

by Frs. Timothy Graff and Bob Franco

With the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead came the mandate and impetus to evangelize. The death and resurrection of Jesus not only broke the bonds of sin and death. His paschal mystery tore down the dividing walls between cultures and nations. The good news of Jesus Christ, victor over sin and death and source of unity among peoples, needs to be proclaimed to the ends of the earth.

The appearances of Jesus after he rose from the dead are associated with the mission of the Church to the ends of the earth.

"Go...make disciples of the all the nations..." (Matthew 28:19)

"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel..." (Mark 16:15)

"...repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached in his name to all the nations..." (Luke 24:47)

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you..." (John 20:21)

"...you shall be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

The ultimate victory over sin and death of Jesus Christ is not simply a comforting thought. It is *raison d'être* of the priesthood.

This good news must be announced to the ends of the earth.

The Congregation of the Clergy, in its desire to support and foster the priestly vocation, promulgated a document entitled **The Priest and the Third Millennium** in 1999. Though much has happened in ten years, this document has much to say to priests today.

Chapter one is entitled *In the Service of the New Evangelization*. It reminds priests that they are called to be evangelists. Evangelization will look different due to differences in culture, circumstance and assignment. However the mission is essentially the same. One of the deceased members of the Fraternity in Cleveland tells the story of entry into the seminary. Before he was interviewed by seminary rector, Fr. Mike Schneid spoke with his pastor. His pastor coached him. "If the rector asks you 'Why do you want to be a priest?' tell him 'to save souls.'" Obedient to his pastor, Fr. Mike answered that question as his pastor taught him, though it took him years to fully understand what his answer meant.

Pope John Paul II taught about the necessity of evangelization in our time. "In countries with ancient Christian roots, and occasionally younger Churches as well, entire

groups of the baptized have lost a living sense of the faith or even no longer consider themselves members of the Church and live a life far removed from Christ and his Gospel. In this case what is needed in a 'new evangelization' or a 're-evangelization'". (John Paul II, *Redemptor Missio*, 7, December, 1990, n. 33) The *3rd Millennium* document speaks of the intense secularization of our times and the need to give ourselves to in proclaiming the gospel.

Chapter two is entitled *Teachers of the Word*. It reminds us that "It is the first task of all priests as coworkers of the bishops to preach the Gospel of God to all men...(so as to)...set up and increase the People of God." (Second Vatican Council, Decree, *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, n.4) Preaching is not merely seen as "just a message but a divine and life-giving experience for those who believe, hear, receive and obey the message" (*3rd Millennium*). The document challenges priests to practice disciplines of the Fraternity: daily prayer, the study of scripture and the proclamation of the visitation message, that God is yet visiting his people with the power of the Holy Spirit. "The preparation for preaching is seen as starting in

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# Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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There was great joy in the Archdiocese of New York the day we heard that a new archbishop had been named to succeed Edward Cardinal Egan, whose retirement was formally accepted on February 23, 2009.

As the saying goes, "a picture is worth a thousand words". When we saw not only the headlines but the smiling pictures of Archbishop Timothy Dolan in the three New York newspapers, it was very evident that a gift had been given to New York by Pope Benedict XVI.

Archbishop Dolan brings to New York a wealth of experience. He has served as the rector of North American College in Rome, the place where candidates for the priesthood of the United States live while studying in Rome. Archbishop Dolan is also known for his tremendous commitment to priestly formation and love for the priests that he has been privileged to serve in St. Louis and Milwaukee.

One of the constant themes reiterated by recent papal documents and statements by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is the importance of the relationship between a bishop and his priests. Archbishop Dolan seems to understand this well. He has already opened up communications with priests who are on leaves of absence, priests who are ill, as well as phoning his priests on their birthdays.

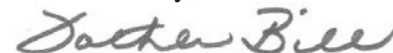
For over 25 years the Fraternity of Priests has been preaching for the importance of fostering and developing fraternal bonds between brother priests. How much more important it is that one's bishop foster and develop a fraternal bond between himself and his priests!

Recently I sent a personal letter of congratulations to my new archbishop. In it I encouraged him to consider holding a Presbyteral Convocation in

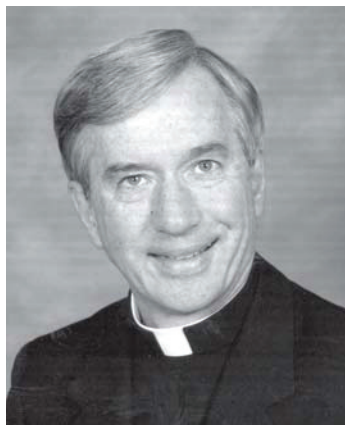
the coming year. How appropriate that would be during the "Year of the Priest", proclaimed last month by our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, in honor of St. John Vianney, whose death was 150 years ago this August 4. It is my hope that this convocation would deepen the mutual respect between the Archbishop and his priests.

As we celebrate this hope filled Easter season, pray that we priests find ourselves becoming a more joy-filled presbyterate. Pray also for Archbishop Dolan who will be formally installed April 15 in the Cathedral of St. Patrick in New York City. Your prayers are powerful and have supported thousands of priests over the past 25 years. May you be richly blessed with hope and Easter joy in this Holy Season.

Fraternally,



Father Bill



## Fraternity Financial Report

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're providing this information to help communicate our specific need and to thank those many faithful benefactors who help make our service possible. Thank you!

Monthly Donation Budget: **\$4,750.00**

Actual Donations: **\$2,361.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$2,389.00)**

Current as of February 28, 2009.

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personal prayer and the meditation and study of Scripture." Preachers "should first become personally familiar with the Word of God...and be the first 'believers' in the Word, fully conscious that the words of their preaching are not their own, but those of the one who sent them." (Pastores Dabo Vobis, n. 26) Priests cannot preach to others what they have not preached to themselves.

The document also stresses that priests are called to preach to a people that they know and love. "Hence every preacher should know his flock well and use an attractive style, which, rather than wounding people, strikes the conscience and is not afraid to call things for what they really are." (3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium) A priest must know the daily joys and struggles of his people as they strive to live out the Gospel every day in their own unique situations.

Attention is also given to the way in which priests preach. Does one have a pleasant voice and a "style" that works well in this particular situation? One part of the document underscores the need for brotherly assistance. "Priests engaged in different pastoral tasks should help each other with fraternal advice on these and other matters such as the content of preaching...Humility is necessary if the priest is to be helped by his brother priests and, indirectly, by the faithful who co-operate in his pastoral activities" (3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium) This chapter is an encouragement for Fraternity priests to share their ministry with each other.

The third chapter focuses on priests as *Ministers of the*

*Sacraments*. It focuses especially of the Eucharist and Reconciliation. The call to priestly holiness, essential to a Fraternity way of life, is reiterated in this chapter as it is throughout the document. Priests are reminded of the centrality of the Eucharist in the New Evangelization. "When the link between daily life and the Eucharist is not clearly manifested in the priest's doctrinal teaching, preaching and life, participation begins to fall into abeyance." (3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium) Priests are called to not only preach about the Eucharist but to reflect its importance by how they live.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also seen as pivotal to the New Evangelization. It is assumed that the frequent use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is present in the life of the priest. "This service to the Church would, of course, be more easily accomplished when priests themselves are the first to approach the Sacrament of Penance regularly. Personal recourse to the Sacrament by the priest, as penitent, is an indispensable condition for a generous ministry of Reconciliation." (3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium)

The role of the Holy Spirit working in the heart of the confessor during the Sacrament is also spoken of. "Confessors should always pray to the Paraclete for the ability to fill this salvific moment with supernatural meaning and to transform it into an authentic encounter with the all merciful and forgiving Jesus for the penitent." (3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium)

The final chapter of this short document is called *Loving Pastors of the Flock*. This chapter calls for

priests to reflect upon the care they have for their people. In a particular way they are to show forth the mercy of God. The Church differs from other institutions by how it reveals the God's mercy. "Priests should therefore regard themselves as living signs and bearers of that mercy which they offer...as a free gift from God." (3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium) When a priest personifies God's mercy in every aspect of his ministry, this allows people to see how present the mercy of God can be to them.

As the Church prepares to welcome in a fresh way the action of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, let us pray that priests would be equipped in every way to be effective evangelists in the third millennium of Christ.

*Blessed be  
the God and Father  
of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who in his great mercy  
gave us new birth to a  
living hope through the  
resurrection of Jesus  
Christ  
from the dead,  
to an inheritance that is  
imperishable, undefiled  
and unfading,  
kept in heaven for you.*

*I Peter 1:3-4*

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

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