



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

The Renewal in India

by Father Francis Dabre

Our Annual Fraternity Conference held this year from August 2 to 7 in Ipswich, Massachusetts was universally declared a most worthwhile experience for all those who attended from throughout the United States and the world. The next series of articles in our Visitation Newsletter will be based on the presentations that were made by the members of the Board. They may well be used by the local Fraternities as teachings at the regularly scheduled meetings.

One of the most encouraging aspects of our gathering were the accounts given by some of the international members. The growth and enthusiastic support that the Fraternity vision, and in fact the Renewal and the Gospel vision, is receiving in these parts of the world prompted one of the brothers to say "After hearing this I felt that this story was taken directly out of the Acts of the Apostles." The following article is part of the presentation given by Fr. Frances Dabre from the Diocese of Vasai, which was recently created from the Archdiocese of Mumbai (Bombay).

An elderly priest recently told me, "After I joined the Renewal my

priestly life has become very satisfactory." Renewal is a real need for the priests of India at this time. Many of our lay faithful are getting deeply involved in the Renewal. They go to many places for retreats and faith formation and as a result they are very much enlightened and well informed on the up-to-date teaching of the Church. The willing involvement of many priests and bishops is a true boost to these faithful.

Today in India we are happy to see many of our priests getting more and more involved in renewal activities. Many are doing their annual retreat in the charismatic style. It is a good sign for Mother Church that a large number of priests are getting fully involved. They give testimony of their experiences at public gatherings and in their homilies. This becomes evident in the experiential way they celebrate the Eucharist.

Through my participation in a Renewal Retreat the Eucharistic celebration became a very powerful experience with healings. It was the same Eucharist and the same prayers that I have often celebrated, but the movement of the Spirit was so powerful. It got rooted in the hearts of many of the concelebrants so that many have now decided to be part of the parish prayer groups instead of

being just onlookers. This gives tremendous boost to the people so that the number of those attending increases fast.

Earlier we priests were correcting them from afar but today, as part of the prayer group, we can correct any theological misinterpretation. There are leadership tensions in prayer groups at times and with strong spiritual leadership of a priest present the misguided ideas of some Pentecostals can be corrected on the spot.

Monthly celebrations of the Eucharist have become a real source of POWER for our prayer groups. As we gather to give praise and worship to the Lord, the choirs play an important role. However, silence is also needed especially after receiving Holy Communion. The presence of the living God can be experienced in silence.

I am being invited to celebrate Mass in the charismatic style. Keeping all the laws of the Liturgy it is still possible to be creative and make a celebration very lively and different from the routine. Leading our faithful people in praise and worship experiencing with them the inner joy and peace of silence has helped me to enjoy the Eucharist at a deeper level.

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Let me introduce myself. My name is Fr. Bob Franco. At our most recent Annual Fraternity Meeting, held on the beautiful grounds of the Notre Dame Center in Ipswich, Massachusetts, I was discerned to be the chairman of Fraternity of Priests. I am an ordained priest of the diocese of Cleveland, Ohio. I was ordained a little over twenty seven years ago and have been a member of the Fraternity for almost twenty six of those years. This is my second go around on the Board of Directors. I have recently served as editor of The Visitation.

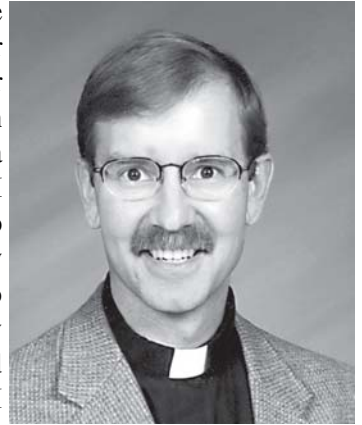
I want to thank Fr. Bill Cosgrove of the Archdiocese of New York. The Fraternity is grateful for his service and leadership. Fr. Bill served two full terms on the board (six years) with the final three of them as Board chairman. Like many priests, Fr. Bill is a busy pastor. His commitment to his local Fraternity and his work guiding the international Fraternity take time and effort. *Thank you, Bill! Continue to 'serve the Lord with gladness.'* (Psalm 100:2)

As usual, our annual meeting was a wonder-filled time of prayer, teaching and fellowship. There were five countries represented: Canada, India, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda and the United States. Needless to say, table conversation with priests from around the States and world was rich. Being the Year of the Priest and the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests, the presentations highlighted different aspects of St. John's life and fruitful ministry.

The business portion of our gathering included a review of our finances as well as an election. There was one slot open on the Board of Directors. Fr. John Kiley from the Archdiocese of Boston was elected to fill the open spot. He joins Frs. Francis Dabre (Vesai, India), John Sweeney (Pittsburgh, PA), Michael Roy (Worcester, MA) and yours truly on the Board.

And it wouldn't be a Fraternity meeting without a Brotherhood Day that

takes in the sights of our location. Our trip to Boston included a Duck Tour. I confess to Almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have never



heard of a Duck Tour before. For the uninitiated, a Duck Tour is like any normal tour of a major city except it is done in an amphibious vehicle. We toured both the streets and rivers of Boston. (If Paul Revere saw us in Boston, it would have been both "oneth by land and twoeth by sea"!)

Finally, I want to thank you our donors and readers. Your prayers and sacrifices have supported the Fraternity of Priests since its inception. In this Year of the Priests I ask your continued support. Our world needs Jesus Christ more than ever. Priests are specially commissioned to bring Christ to the world. Pray that we fulfill our vocation in a heroic manner!

Faternally,

Father Bob

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: **\$.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$0.00)**

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Please send articles, comments, and photos to the FOP Newsletter editor,

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508-943-2213.

Newsletter material from all Fraternity members is gratefully accepted. Any submissions will help make each issue better!

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If someone is sick or going for surgery many now call me and ask for prayer. If I am able to, I will go and visit them, lay hands on them knowing that the Lord works very mightily. I have experienced a new power in my priesthood. Having personally seen the healing power of the Spirit has caused me to take some steps to improve my personal life. Because of our involvement in the Renewal the people know whom they can call on for prayer. Our presence in these prayer groups gives confidence to the leaders and the people. I find fulfillment personally in this new way of being a priest.

At one time I too was an onlooker of the Renewal. I did just the minimum. I would show up to expose the Blessed Sacrament and at the end go back to give benediction. I was hesitant to trust in the power of God and lift my hands in prayer and get involved. Today I am deeply part of the whole process and this has given me great satisfaction and much inner peace.

We priests know that we are already anointed and called by our Lord. There are many ways to get to know about Jesus, but my taking part in the Renewal and gathering with other priests to pray and share our lives lets us experience Jesus and be filled with the Holy Spirit as were Mother Mary and the Apostles at Pentecost. One of the ways we are experiencing another Pentecost in India is in our Charismatic Prayer Groups and the Fraternity of Priests.

Father Dabre can be contacted via email at frfrada@gmail.com.

From the Annual Fraternity Conference



This photo was taken immediately after the last Mass that all the Fraternity members celebrated together during this year's annual Conference that was held during the first week of August at the former novitiate of the Sister of Norte Dame de Namur. The person of St. John Marie Baptiste Vianney figured prominently in their reflections throughout the entire time. It was he who said,

“If we had faith we should see God hidden in the priest like a light behind glass, like wine mingled with water.”

Though these men gathered from throughout the world and from across America their common bond was their love for Jesus Christ and a most sincere desire to let that relationship be truly at the center of their lives and the source from which they carry on their varied ministries.

Prophecies from the Annual Fraternity Conference

Your priesthood is my gift to you for your people. Your presbyterate, the brotherhood is my gift to you to sustain your ministry. Enjoy my gift to you today. Continue to grow in the joy of being surrounded by Brother priests.

I am always for you. Be always for Me. Aware of the need to be constantly recollected – not to be scattered and thinned out. Be together and single hearted for Me. Aware of the need to be constantly choosing to see everything in terms of your relationship with Me. EVERYTHING – AT ALL TIMES.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

September 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Rev. 1 Robert Bush San Angelo, TX	Rev. 2 Santiago Udayar San Angelo, TX	Rev. 3 Bernard Gully San Angelo, TX	Rev. 4 Terry Brenon San Angelo, TX	Rev. 5 Pope Benedict XVI
Rev. 6 Barry McLean San Angelo, TX	Rev. 7 Pesamino Victor Samoa	Rev. 8 Todd Schneider St. Cloud, MN	Rev. 9 Peter Kirchner St. Cloud, MN	Rev. 10 Gregory Paffel St. Cloud, MN	Rev. 11 Alvin Quade St. Cloud, MN	Rev. 12 Gerald Mischke St. Cloud, MN
Rev. 13 Elmer Torborg St. Cloud, MN	Rev. 14 Robert Hamel St. Cloud, MN	Rev. 15 Mark Stang St. Cloud, MN	Rev. 16 David Maciej St. Cloud, MO	Rev. 17 Anthony Dattilo St. Louis, MO	Rev. 18 Aaron Nord St. Louis, MO	Rev. 19 John-Paul Hopping St. Louis, MO
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A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

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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 Father Bob Franco, This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests. \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____