



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

The Power of a Well Prepared Eucharist

By Fr. Francis Dabre

This month's article comes to us from Fr Francis Dabre a member of the Board who carries on his ministry in Mumbai, India.

"Father, your Mass is so powerful and Spirit-filled. We really feel the presence of the Lord!" This expression of a young boy caused me to reflect why the Eucharist, which I celebrate so often, is so much better received when celebrated in the manner of the Charismatic Renewal.

Is it not true that the Eucharist can become routine? Whenever I was called to celebrate for a Charismatic gathering I became nervous because I was aware that the members of these prayer groups are so well versed in Scripture. They prepared themselves so well. The enthusiasm of their singing used to shake me and move my spirit. Eventually I started enjoying these celebrations because the congregation was so involved; a true transformative and healing experience.

I am convinced that we need to prepare ourselves well. All must be actively involved at different levels, the choir, the readers, servers and the celebrant. As it says in the Catechism: "Liturgical services are not private functions but are celebrations of the Church, the Sacrament of Unity. They touch

individual members of the Church in different ways depending on their orders, their role in the liturgical services, and their actual participation in them." (1140-ccc)

Is there such a thing as a "Charismatic Mass?" All Masses are supposed to be charismatic; celebrated with enthusiasm and vigor. Before I became involved in the Renewal I was always committed to make these preparations for the celebration yet there was something missing. What happened so that the Eucharist became more meaningful? Now it is not only me, but the presence of the Holy Spirit and the power of Jesus which I experience on a more personal level that invites all the people to a fuller involvement in the celebration.

At Mass – that is, the Lord's Supper – the People of God are called together, with a priest presiding and acting in the person of Christ, to celebrate the memorial of the Lord, the Eucharistic Sacrifice. For this reason Christ's promise applies in an outstanding way to such a local gathering of the holy Church: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst" (Mt 18:20). For in the celebration of Mass, in which the Sacrifice of the Cross is perpetuated, Christ is really present in the very liturgical assembly

gathered in his name, in the person of the minister, in his word, and indeed substantially and continuously under the Eucharistic species. (27 GIRM)

I believe, therefore, that all priests are asked to celebrate the Eucharist with this same immediate awareness. Seeing it as a joyful prayer of praise and gratitude to God that can be freely expressed by clapping and evident enthusiasm. How important it is for all of us, celebrant and congregation to lift our voices in song. *The Christian faithful who gather together as one to await the Lord's coming are instructed by the Apostle Paul to sing together psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (cf. Col 3:16). Singing is the sign of the heart's joy (cf. Acts 2:46). Thus Saint Augustine says rightly, "Singing is for one who loves." There is also the ancient proverb: "One who sings well prays twice." (35/29 GIRM)*

However, after having said all of this let me also share with you what else I have learned. There are moments when we need to pause in silence and let the Spirit speak to us in our hearts. There the Lord can reveal something good for us personally and for the welfare of the universal church.

Sacred silence also, is a part of the celebration and needs to be

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Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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December reminds me of the Andy Williams classic, "It's the most wonderful time of the year..." For some people, it is the most wonderful time of the year. Other people find it the most hectic time of the year. Still others find it the most trying time of the year. And some of us find it wonderful, hectic and trying all at the same time!

I find the Christmas season a hectic time because (like many others) I try to cram shopping, greeting cards and social events into an already full schedule. The Christmas season can be trying because many people more deeply feel the loss of their loved ones. However, in the midst of the busyness and, at times, sadness of this season, I want to highlight wonder of this special time of the year.

Simply put, what makes this time of year wonderful is the person of Jesus. Though we may be tempted to sentimentalize the birth of Jesus, we really celebrate God's rescue plan for the human race. The God who created everything out of nothing, took to himself human flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Infinite One became finite, the Hidden One became visible, the Immortal One became mortal. Jesus was born to save us. And the only motivation for this act of humility by God was love for each one of us.

Our primary way of celebrating this amazing event is found in the very word Christmas. The origin of this word is very simple: "Christ's Mass". We gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with mass. What could be more fitting than to celebrate the birth of Jesus with Mass! He who was born in Bethlehem (the city's name means "house of bread") and laid in a feeding trough (we call it a manger-French for *to eat*), would give himself to us as the Bread of Life!

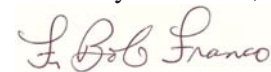
Most of us will have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas with some family. Many of us will be involved with gift giving. These things are good and

certainly reflect the spirit of the season. Our generosity is a dim but important reflection of God's goodness toward the human race. However,

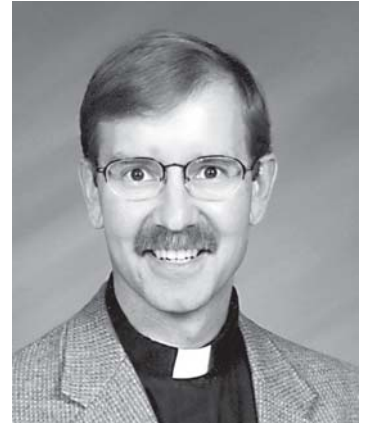
even if we were not able to celebrate in these ways, to partake of the Eucharist on Christmas is a gift and privilege we can be eternally grateful for. (Check out Fr. Dabre's article on how to better celebrate the mass.)

Finally, I need to thank all who have supported Fraternity of Priests throughout this year. Many of you pray for priests in Fraternity of Priests regularly. On behalf of the Fraternity, I sincerely thank you. Many others have assisted the Fraternity financially. Again, I sincerely thank you for your support. I want to assure each of you of our prayers as we celebrate our Savior's birth and in the upcoming year.

Sincerely in Christ,



Father Bob Franco



Editor's Box:

Please send articles, comments, and photos to the FOP Newsletter editor, Fr. Michael Roy via e-mail at editor@fraternityofpriests.org or fax to 508-943-2213.

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

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: **\$4,328.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$422.00)**

Current as of October 31, 2010.

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observed at the designated times. Its purpose, however, depends on the time it occurs in each part of the celebration. During the mass the congregation reflects silently on the work through prayer, the homily, offertory and communion which strengthen the bond of personal prayer and develops deep relationship with the Lord.

Even before the celebration itself, it is commendable that silence to be observed in the church, in the sacristy, in the vesting room, and in adjacent areas, so that all may dispose themselves to carry out the sacred action in a devout and fitting manner. (45 GIRM)

Often as on-lookers have noticed that in Charismatic gatherings there are lots of shouting and praising. There also needs to be time just to be with the Holy Spirit when within He will speak in the silence of their hearts. The priest needs to get his people into the habit of reflecting on the message from the Scriptures that comes to us from the homily.

The Liturgy of the Word is to be celebrated in such a way as to promote meditation, and so any sort of haste that hinders recollection must clearly be avoided. During the Liturgy of the Word, it is also appropriate to include brief periods of silence, accommodated to the gathered assembly, in which, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the word of God may be grasped by the heart and a response through prayer may be prepared. It may be appropriate to observe such periods of silence, for example, before the Liturgy of the Word itself begins, after the first and second reading, and

lastly at the conclusion of the homily. (56 GIRM)

In a recent exhortations from the Holy Father regarding the 12th Ordinary General Assembly, held October 5-26, 2008 at the Vatican, whose theme was “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church”, he gave this practical recommendation involving silence.

“The word, in fact, can only be spoken and heard in silence, outward and inward,” the Pope affirmed.

“Ours is not an age which fosters recollection; at times one has the impression that people are afraid of detaching themselves, even for a moment, from the mass media.”

Thus people must be “educated in the value of silence,” the Bishop of Rome suggested. “Rediscovering the centrality of God’s word in the life of the Church also means rediscovering a sense of recollection and inner repose. [...] Only in silence can the word of God find a home in us, as it did in Mary, woman of the word and, inseparably, woman of silence.”

The Pope called for the liturgy of the word to be celebrated in such a way that favors meditation. “Silence, when called for, should be considered ‘a part of the celebration,’” he said.

“Dear Priests celebrate the Eucharist as if it is your first Mass, the only Mass and the last Mass,” is the wonderful advice given us by Blessed Mother Teresa. How true it is that it is our primary duty to see that we and our congregation are well disposed for Mass. The personal spiritual life plays so important a role. Our daily hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament is essential. Going to confession frequently I

have realized is an effective way for me to be a good celebrant. The Charismatic Communities inspired me to be well prepared to offer the Eucharist. Now I bring that same spirit to my daily Mass with powerful silence and proper devotion.

At one time I thought people may object to lengthy Masses but now I realize that people wait for a well-prepared Mass. What a privileged opportunity it is for me to reach out through the Eucharist to help the Lord’s beloved people become more holy.

**Annual Meeting
2011 in Slovenia**

Now is the time to start planning to attend our annual gathering of all the Fraternities which will take place from the 25th to the 29th of July and which is being hosted by our brothers in Slovenia. This conference will be followed by an optional visit to Medjugorje on Monday, August 1st where we will participate in the annual Youth Festival which draws large numbers of young from all over Europe. On the intervening weekend we will have an opportunity of being hosted by the local parishes, truly experiencing the faith of these people. Those of us who attended the Columbus Meeting can testify to the warmth and cordiality of the Slovenians and their proficiency with English. More detailed information regarding travel plans and cost will follow, but now is the time to mark our calendars.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

January 2011						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Pope Benedict XVI 1
Rev. 2 Kenneth Oldenski <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	Rev. 3 Stan Gregorek <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	Rev. 4 Daniel Mahoney <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	Rev. 5 Joseph Luisi <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	Rev. 6 Paul Zywan <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	Rev. 7 John Lynam <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	Rev. 8 James Holland <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
Rev. 9 Tony Gargotta <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	Rev. 10 Clifford Graham <i>Port-of-Spain, VI</i>	Rev. 11 Muliau Stowers <i>Port-of-Spain, VI</i>	Rev. 12 Neil Rodrigues CSSP <i>Port-of-Spain, VI</i>	Rev. 13 Vincent Compton PP <i>Port-of-Spain, VI</i>	Rev. 14 John Theodore CSSP <i>Port-of-Spain, VI</i>	Msgr. 15 Cuthbert Alexander <i>Port-of-Spain, VI</i>
Rev. 16 Ian Taylor <i>Port-of-Spain, VI</i>	Rev. 17 Dwight Merrick <i>Port-of-Spain, VI</i>	Rev. 18 George Lewis <i>Port-of-Spain, VI</i>	Rev. 19 Donie McMahon <i>Port-of-Spain, VI</i>	Rev. 20 Robert Shaldone <i>Providence, RI</i>	Rev. 21 Wilfred Gregoire <i>Providence, RI</i>	Most Rev. 22 George Pearce SM <i>Providence, RI</i>
Rev. 23 Robert Giardina <i>Providence, RI</i>	Rev. 24 Samuel Turillo <i>Providence, RI</i>	Msgr. 25 John Allard <i>Providence, RI</i>	Rev. 26 John Dreher <i>Providence, RI</i>	Rev. 27 Joseph Heaney <i>Providence, RI</i>	Rev. 28 Gerard Caron <i>Providence, RI</i>	Rev. 29 Michael Sisco <i>Providence, RI</i>
Rev. 16 Michael Kelley <i>Providence, RI</i>	Rev. 31 Robert Bush <i>San Angelo, TX</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.

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