



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

September 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Pope Benedict XVI
Rev. Msgr. Robert Laliberte Fargo, ND	Rev. Dennis Skonseng Fargo, ND	Rev. Duaine Cote Fargo, ND	Very Rev. Dale Kinzler Fargo, ND	Rev. Donald Leiphon Fargo, ND	Rev. Msgr. Cyril Lamontagne Grenada	Rev. Brian Jeffries Hartford, CT
Rev. Robert Rousseau Hartford, CT	Rev. Francis Karvelis Hartford, CT	Rev. Paul Halovatch Hartford, CT	Rev. Will-Roger Malave Hartford, CT	Rev. Joseph Looney Hartford, CT	Rev. James George Hartford, CT	Rev. Paul Landwerlen Indianapolis, IN
Rev. Harold Knueven Indianapolis, IN	Rev. Thomas Cawley Kansas City	Rev. Roderic Giller, OSB Kansas City	Rev. Earl Dekat Kansas City	Rev. Paul O'Donnel Dugan New Jersey	Rev. Msgr. John Demkovich New Jersey	Rev. William Halbing New Jersey
Rev. Paul Lehman New Jersey	Rev. John Gordon New Jersey	Rev. Joseph Meagher New Jersey	Rev. Lewis Papera New Jersey	Rev. Paul Cannariato New Jersey	Rev. Eugene Bettinger New Jersey	Rev. Brendan Murray New Jersey
Rev. Jeff Kegley New Jersey						

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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The annual international meeting of Fraternity of Priests was held from July 22-27, 2012 in Marquette, Michigan. The Diocese of Marquette consists of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The meeting itself was held at Marygrove Retreat Center, an absolutely lovely retreat house located in the sleepy town of Garden, Michigan on the Garden Peninsula, that juts out into Lake Michigan.

The Diocese of Marquette consists of the whole Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The U.P. (as it's called) makes up about forty percent of Michigan's land mass but only three percent of its population. This diocese of 55,000 Catholics is overseen by Bishop Alexander Sample and fifty-five priests.

The theme of this year's annual meeting was Recall the Call. Each of the three main meeting days had a sub-theme. The theme for Monday, July 23 was "Called". On Tuesday, the theme was "Formed". Finally, on Thursday, the theme was "Gifted." These sub-themes follow the pattern of Jesus, who first called disciples to follow him, gave them a special time of formation and then gifted them with the Holy Spirit to fulfill the work of the ministry.

On Monday of the week, Frs. John Kiley and Bob Franco made presentations highlighting the reality of being called by God. Fr. Kiley's stimulating talk described

Marquette Meeting Marvelous!

By Fr. Bob Franco

the uniqueness of simply existing, being granted the gift of Christian faith through baptism and then being called to serve Christ and the Church as priests. Given the genetic permutations that are possible in the act of conception, each individual has a greater chance of winning the Lotto than simply existing! Because baptism inserts us into the life of Jesus Christ, it is the greatest day of our lives. Finally, in the call to priesthood we hear Jesus calling us "to himself and to preach." (Mark 3:14)

Fr. Franco spoke about responding to the call to discipleship, to the priesthood and to the Fraternity of Priests. Relating examples from his own life, as well as quotes that framed the work of the priest from the Vatican II document Presbyterorum Ordinis, his talk led the brothers to stay anchored in their call to be disciples of Jesus Christ, to be holy priests and to be men who live out the Fraternity ideals. Priests, and really all Christians, are to treasure the interventions of Christ in their lives.

On Tuesday, Fr. Vlado Bizjak of Maribor, Slovenia, set forth the theme of being formed by the Lord. He acknowledged the challenge of being formed into the likeness of Christ. Fr. Vlado related a humorous story of a priest who attended a retreat and was so enthused when he came home that he put a cemetery headstone behind the rectory. It read, "Here the Old Man

is Buried". His brother priests, noticing that he quickly slipped back into his old bad habits, hung a sign on the headstone, "On the third day he rose again!"

Fr. Vlado, the spiritual director of the seminary in Maribor, described the areas of formation outlined in Blessed John Paul II's Apostolic Exhortation, Pastores Dabo Vobis. Priests need to be formed on the human, spiritual, intellectual and academic levels. Formation continues in each of these areas throughout a priest's life.

Fr. Bill Cosgrove reiterated that if our formation is to be transformative, it needs to renew our mind. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2) By being renewed in mind, priests will be agents of renewal in their priesthood.

The final set of talks was given by Frs. Francis Dabre and Bill Cosgrove. Fr. Dwight Merrick from Trinidad & Tobago also led a time of prayer for us to be open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Fr. Francis Dabre's talk included a PowerPoint presentation that summed up the whole week, highlighting the fact that priests are summoned, formed, given the gifts of the Spirit and sent to do the work of the Lord.

Brotherhood Day took place on Wednesday of the meeting week. Thirty four priests were whisked away on a

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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.
\$ _____ Other \$ _____
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 care-fully and wisely, and not to ask for money that is not needed.

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Editor's Box:

Please send articles, comments, and photos to the FOP Newsletter editor, Fr. Bob Franco via e-mail at editor@fraternityofpriests.org or fax to 440-327-2204.

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

By the time you read this my term on the board of the Fraternity of Priests will have been completed. The bylaws of the Fraternity allow a priest to be elected to the board of the Fraternity for no more than two consecutive terms of three years apiece. During my final three years I served as chairman of the board.

The Fraternity of Priests is a blessing in my life. I think of it as a trellis for a rosebush. Certain kinds of roses grow best when they can climb a trellis. Without a trellis, the rosebush would grow, but in a somewhat haphazard manner. However, with a trellis, these rosebushes will climb to the sky, revealing the beauty of its rosebud and odor of its flowering to all who glance at the trellis.

All priests know they are to pray. On the day we are ordained a deacon we promise to faithfully pray the Liturgy of the Hours for the Church. We know we are to foster fraternal relationships among our brother priests. And we also know we are to serve God's people with the gifts that God has given us.

Most of the priests I know do these things. However, given the pace of times, the moral quagmire of our culture and the inherent tendency of the human heart to be self-centered, Fraternity of Priests is a grace. The personal commitments we make, such as praying an hour a day, tithing and fasting, keep our lives and priesthood rooted in Christ. The brotherly commitments we make, such as meeting regularly for prayer and keeping our lives totally in light before another Fraternity member, help us from living isolated lives. Commitments to serve the Church in the power of the Holy Spirit and calling forth the gifts of God among his people make our priestly ministry fruitful. The commitments members of the Fraternity make form the trellis upon which our priesthood can mature.

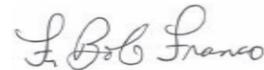
One of the privileges of serving on the Board of the Fraternity is meeting and befriending priests from around the world. On occasion I receive a note from a brother priest who encourages me when they express their gratitude for the Fraternity.

My prayer for the Fraternity is that grow in the land of its birth, the United States, and

throughout the world. The Fraternity has been planted in at least eleven other countries in the world. And though some of the Fraternities, here and abroad, have

grown a bit sleepy over their years (priests age and some of our younger brothers are reluctant to join!), for those who participate, Fraternity of Priests is a great grace.

To our lay benefactors: we are deeply grateful for your prayers and support. To my brother priests, with "our eyes fixed on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2), let us "rouse one another to love and good works." (Hebrews 10:24)



Father Bob Franco

PS - Please join me in prayer for the new board for the Fraternity of Priests. May our Lord bless their leadership with wisdom and grace, as we enter into the 30th Year of the Fraternity's history!

Fraternity Financial Report

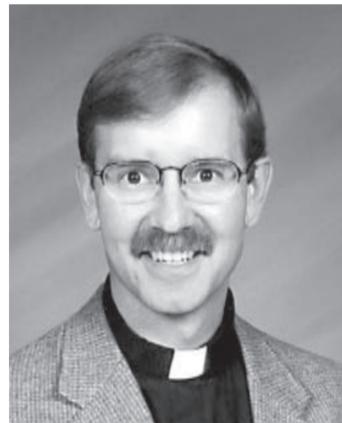
One of the objectives for the Fraternity of Priests is to inform our donors about the ongoing financial health and details of the organization. We're providing this information to help communicate our specific need and to thank those many faithful benefactors who help make our service possible. Thank you!

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

Actual Donations: **\$ 1,600.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$ 3,150.00)**

Current as of June 30, 2012.



...continued from page 1

touring bus early in the morning. Bus time was interspersed with times of prayer, information about the Upper Peninsula and a wonderful biography of the Venerable Bishop Frederic Baraga, a missionary priest from Slovenia, who became the first Bishop of the Diocese of Marquette. Later that day the Fraternity brothers were to seek his intercession at his tomb in the crypt of St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette.

That day's tour included a beautiful (but rainy!) boat ride on Lake Superior, where the Pictured Rocks Cruise Company graciously gave the priests a wonderful tour of the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore along the southern coast of Lake Superior, just east of Munising, Michigan. After a hearty lunch, compliments of Sacred Heart Parish in Munising, the tour pressed on to the city of Marquette itself, where priests visited Holy Cross Parish, which serves both part of the city of Marquette as well as North Michigan University. After a brief visit to Presque Island, the Fraternity celebrated Mass and Vespers with Bishop Alexander Sample at St. Peter Cathedral. The Bishop Sample gave a brief history of the Diocese of Marquette and the Cathedral of St. Peter. He then escorted the Fraternity to the tomb of Venerable Bishop Baraga. After a sumptuous dinner in downtown Marquette, the Fraternity returned to the Marygrove Retreat Center.

Part of the meeting included elections to the Fraternity's Board of Directors. Fr. John Kiley of the Archdiocese of Boston was reelected to a second term on the board. Fr. Larry Van Damme, the gracious host of this week of Fraternity in the Upper Peninsula, was elected to his first

term. They join Frs. Bill Cosgrove, Francis Dabre and Vlado Bizjak, who complete the five member board. Fr. Bill Cosgrove has accepted the role as chairman.

During the Fraternity's final dinner, The Brotherhood award was given to Fr. Robert Rousseau, a priest from the Archdiocese of Hartford. Fr. Rousseau has been a member of the Fraternity for over twenty-five years. At a critical point in the Fraternity's early years, Fr. Rousseau was appointed as the interim overall leader of the Fraternity. He also has been the faithful inspiration of the Hartford fraternity since its inception.

The brother's also honored Fr. Mike Roy (diocese of Worcester, MA),

the editor of The Visitation for many years. Due to a new (and more busy assignment) Fr. Roy has handed over this responsibility to Fr. Bob Franco

The setting for next year's Annual Fraternity Meeting will be in Steubenville, Ohio. At the encouragement of a number of the members of the Fraternity, next year's meeting will be in conjunction with the Priests, Deacons and Seminarians Retreat held each June in Steubenville. The dates for next year's Priests Deacons and Seminarians Conference will be June 17-21, 2013. This will be the 30th Anniversary of the founding of Fraternity of Priests. Ad multos anos! (And many more years!)



Participants in the 2012 Annual Fraternity Meeting gather with the host dioceses' shepherd, Bishop Alexander Sample at the Cathedral of St. Peter. The Cathedral is home of the tomb of the Venerable Bishop Frederic Baraga, the first Bishop of the Diocese of Marquette.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

