

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

September 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Rev. 1 Mark Long <i>Tucson</i>	Rev. 2 Pietro Hewlet <i>Ukraine</i>	3 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	4 Prayer Requests Received	5 Pope Francis
Most Rev. 6 Vitalij Skomarovski <i>Ukraine</i>	Rev. 7 Ted Brodeur <i>Michigan (UP)</i>	Rev. 8 Darryl Pepin <i>Michigan (UP)</i>	Rev. 9 Larry Van Damme <i>Michigan (UP)</i>	Rev. 10 Michael Steber <i>Michigan (UP)</i>	Rev. 11 Christopher Gardiner <i>Michigan (UP)</i>	Rev. 12 James Roetzer <i>Michigan (UP)</i>
Rev. 13 Timothy Ekaitis <i>Michigan (UP)</i>	Rev. 14 Jeff Johnson <i>Michigan (UP)</i>	Rev. 15 Benjamin Hasse <i>Michigan (UP)</i>	Rev. 16 Norman Clisch <i>Michigan (UP)</i>	Rev. 17 Daniel Moll <i>Michigan (UP)</i>	Rev. 18 Lance Harlow <i>Vermont</i>	Rev. 19 Leo Dabuoh <i>Wa, West Africa</i>
Rev. 20 Peter Paul Langdedomah <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 21 Benette Tang <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 22 Stephen Kangmennaang <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 23 Evarist Kuuwulong <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 24 Romanus Tampah <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 25 Fidelis Vielu <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 26 Sylvester Nankpi <i>Wa, West Africa</i>
Rev. 27 Stephen Kantubog <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 28 Matthew Tuurosog <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 29 Gervase Angsontinge <i>Wa, West Africa</i>	Rev. 30 John Bosco Eledi <i>Wa, West Africa</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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Do you know anyone who would like to receive our Newsletter?
(Please print legibly)

Name _____
Street _____
City, State and Zip _____

Dear Father John Kiley,
This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.
\$ _____
 \$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 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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"To gather priests to Christ and to one another to proclaim..."

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

An Invitation

By Fr. Brandon W. Oman, Diocese of Marquette Fraternity in Michigan

We all know how life-changing an invitation can be. If we reflect upon all the times that we accepted an invitation, we can see grace is at work. Be it a Christmas party, a wedding, or a fish fry on the 4th of July, the reality of being invited, and then allowing oneself to be enfolded into the fabric of these experiences can often elevate us. New friends are made and old friendships are bolstered. We share life together, and in turn our own zest for life, or vocation, can be renewed. If we ponder the meaning of "to invite" by way of its Latin root, it literally means "not to ignore or shun." We all know what happens when a plant is ignored, or a seed is not given due attention. The same goes for the seeds of vocation. In these next few paragraphs, I will share with you on how my vocation to the priesthood grew and was bolstered because I was invited, as a seminarian, to the Fraternity of Priests in my Diocese of Marquette in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

For the seminarian early in his formation, vocational discernment hasn't ended, rather he is invited to go deeper into discernment with greater freedom and trust in God's grace. Discernment takes place in the context of prayer, spiritual direction, common liturgies,

academics, and in many other ways. Fraternity in the seminary is pivotal to one's discernment as well. The friendships that you form can serve as a kind of sounding board for your discernment and vice versa. Yes, we go to the Lord Jesus with an open heart and lay everything at his feet; we are encompassed by the Father's mercy, the Holy Spirit enlightens and strengthens us, and we rely on the intercession of the Blessed Mother, the Un-doer of Knots; and in addition, God's will for our lives certainly becomes en-fleshed among those he surrounds us with, especially our brothers united for a common purpose and vocation. My friends and classmates in the seminary played an important role in my discernment, and now as a priest, I hope for the same from my brother priests as my ministry begins to unfold.

Yet, discernment and vocational growth is not confined to the walls of the seminary: it can't be. It happens in the parish, among one's family, and, as I was to discover, within one's diocesan presbyterate. The latter was made clear to me because of the questions that a seminarian naturally has about the life of a priest as he lives out his ministry. Does the priest maintain close friends? Are priests generally happy? How does he ward off loneliness and battle the noonday

devil? Is there time for priests to pray together and share some kind of common life like that I found so enriching at the seminary? These questions and more found their answer because of a simple invitation to a fraternity meeting.

The first time that I went was enlightening, and what strikes me about that encounter is the brotherhood I witnessed. Sharing laughs, ministry, food, stories and memories was edifying. When one brother suffered, they all suffered, when one rejoiced they all rejoiced. There was special time set aside for a holy hour, spiritual direction and the Sacrament of Penance. I realized quickly that what united them was Christ, and the vocation that He gave them. I was encouraged by the beauty of it all: "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

My whole experience of the fraternity shed light on what I was experiencing in the seminary. The priestly formation at my Alma Mater, Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, is excellent, and truly is focused on forming the hearts of men after the heart of Christ. I mentioned before the solid friendships, but in a particular way, it was edifying to witness the brotherhood among the priests on faculty. But because of the nature of formation and the role that

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Dear Fraternity Brothers and Friends of the Priesthood

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Editor's Box:

Please send articles, comments, and photos to the FOP Newsletter editor, Fr. Bob Carr, via e-mail to editor@fraternityofpriests.org

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

When you receive this edition of the Fraternity Newsletter I will have completed two three-year terms on the Fraternity Board and for the present will no longer be the chairperson or a board member. An election was conducted at the recent Fraternity Conference in Tucson and in the September Newsletter the new chairperson and the current board members will be announced. I am grateful to the Lord and to my brother priests in the Fraternity for entrusting to me this opportunity to be of service. I know that our priests and friends of the priesthood will hold up to the Lord in prayer the new chairperson and members of the board.

As I move away from this position of leadership I would like to reflect on one of the greatest challenges facing the Fraternity of Priests. Most of us who have been with the Fraternity of Priests from the beginning are among the "senior" priests of our respective archdioceses, dioceses, and religious communities. Some have gone home to be with the Lord; others are retired or in failing health; some are still very active. I sense that in many fraternities we are not doing enough in attracting new members and/or in reaching out to the younger priests of our areas. As we know from articles in the newsletter the Marquette Fraternity has been very successful in this area. They have been inviting seminarians, especially those who minister in their parishes during the summer, to attend Fraternity gatherings. Some after ordination to the priesthood have joined. I have made presentations at two of the seminaries located in the Archdiocese of Boston. What the results may be, at this point only God knows. Let me encourage you, our priests and our lay supporters, to constant prayer and to take every opportunity to encourage priests to consider the Fraternity.

While we priests always need support and care for and from one another, it is especially necessary in the times in which we are living and ministering. For us in the United States being a Catholic and being a Catholic priest became much more difficult following the recent June

decision of the Supreme Court to legalize "same sex marriage" throughout our nation. It will be much more difficult to preach, teach, and live out the truth of the gospel on marriage. This is now added to the many other issues where the Word of God and Church teaching are in conflict with the so called "politically correct". We need all the help we can get from the Lord and from the brothers the Lord gives us. I believe the Fraternity of Priests is essential now more than ever. Let's do all we can to promote this work of the Holy Spirit in our times for the renewal and strengthening of the Catholic priesthood. Again I ask you to please keep in prayer the new Fraternity chairperson and the members of the board. May the Lord bless and keep you.



Fr. John

Fr. John

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: \$ **4,773.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): \$ **23.00**

Current as of June 30, 2015.

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the faculty play in it, seminarians can only get a glimpse, not an invitation into the fraternity among them. Sure there is a high level of cordiality between the priests and the seminarians, but a friendship is not possible, mainly because of the difference between father and son. However at the same time, we were counseled on many occasions of the necessity of priestly fraternity, and encouraged to be part of one once ordained. So, being welcomed to get a glimpse of fraternity life in my home diocese filled in an important piece of my priestly formation that the seminary did not, and *could not* provide. Back home, among the priests of my diocese, the father-son relationship was still maintained, but it was more akin to a son learning his Father's trade at his right hand rather than being in awe from a distance.

This was important for me, as it is for any seminarian. Yes, there were important parish internships in which we learned at the right hand of the pastor, but the fraternity gave me a firsthand glimpse of the sacramental reality taught by *Presbyterorum Ordinis*: "Priests by virtue of their ordination to the priesthood are united among themselves in an intimate sacramental brotherhood" (PO, 8). At the seminary, we studied this document extensively, and gleaned from it's insights, especially in our class on Holy Orders, but to experience it unfold before, in your home diocese, can only be encouraging to a seminarian. It was for me.

Thanks be to God, I was ordained a priest recently on May 29th. During the ordination ceremony,



The Marquette, Michigan Fraternity is comprised of (front row, L-R): Father Brandon Oman & Transitional Deacon Aaron Nowicki. Middle Row: Fathers Darryl Pepin, Chris Gardiner, Michael Steber, Michael Woempner & Ben Hasse. Back Row: Fathers Larry Van Damme, Ryan Ford, Tim Ekaitis & Jeff Johnson. Not shown: Fathers Norman Clisch & Raymond Zeugner.

one of the more powerful moments for me was the laying on of hands by all the priests, "which signifies incorporation into the presbyterate" (Roman Pontifical, 112), and in turn manifests that "[each priest] is united in special bonds of apostolic charity, ministry and brotherhood with the other members of this priesthood" (PO, 8). It was an experience of brotherhood and communion. One of my brother priests was sharing with me that it was a powerful moment for him too when he was ordained a few years back. He said that it was almost like a rite of welcome for him, but then he jokingly quipped, "I haven't experienced that since." He was joking, but I'm sure it is true for many priests.

I thank God that the priests in my diocese took the effort to invite me and other seminarians to the Marquette Fraternity of Priests gatherings. It has been a great aid for discernment and also a huge support. It has prepared me to transition well from seminary life to the parish, because I know that a brother priest will be there to help me. To close, I invite you all to consider periodically welcoming seminarians to your meetings. It will help them more fully experience the joys and challenges of priestly ministry, and thus they will be more prepared to give a whole hearted yes to the Lord's call, and when hands are laid upon their head, they will know that have been welcomed into a brotherhood for life.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____
