

February 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. Jean-Paul Gagnon Worcester, MA	3	Rev. George Dunkley Worcester, MA	4	Rev. Ferre D'cruz Alexandria, LA	5	Dcn. Norman Gremillion Alexandria, LA
Rev. Larry Hess Allentown, PA	10	Rev. John Kiley Boston, MA	11	Rev. Paul McManus Boston, MA	12	Rev. Gerry Fraser Boston, MA
Rev. Donald Clinton Boston, MA	17	Rev. Patrick Gilbert Boston, MA	18	Rev. Paul Gilbert Boston, MA	19	Rev. Gerard Leclerc Burlington, VT
Rev. John Bland Cardiff, UK	24	Rev. Donal Gillespie Cardiff, UK	25	Rev. Barry English Cardiff, UK	26	Rt. Rev. Dr. Bryan Eyman Cleveland, OH
					27	Rev. James Mazanec Cleveland, OH
					28	

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



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Contemplate the Face of Jesus with Mary

By Fr. Todd Schneider of St. Could Fraternity, Minnesota

It was October 11, 2011 when Pope Benedict summoned the Church to prepare for the Year of Faith. I was struck by these words from his Apostolic Letter, *Porta Fidei*:

To rediscover the content of faith that is professed, celebrated, lived, and prayed, and to reflect on the act of faith, is a task that every believer must make his own, especially in the course of this Year. (#9)

God is calling us through the chief shepherd of His Church asking how each member will respond both personally and in union with other members of the local community. I began to ask, "How do you O Lord want me personally and in an ecclesial way to rediscover the mystery of faith?" "Stir into flame the love you had at first," is what I heard interiorly from the Lord. The combination of words from 2 Timothy 1:6, "stir into flame" with the words from Revelation 2:4, "the love you had at first," drew me during the summer months of 2012 to reflect with people in my parish upon the book entitled:

Overcoming Lukewarmness: Healing Your Soul's Sadness by Father Francis Fernandez-Carvajal, as a way to prepare for the coming Year of Faith. Lukewarm faith, hope and love are illnesses that need to be overcome and healed in our lives and in our culture. Jesus is that healing remedy.

Pope Benedict urges us that

during the Year of Faith, "we will need to keep our gaze fixed upon Jesus Christ, the "pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2): in him, all the anguish and all the longing of the human heart finds fulfillment. The joy of love, the answer to the drama of suffering and pain, the power of forgiveness in the face of an offense received and the victory of life over the emptiness of death: all this finds fulfillment in the mystery of the Incarnation, in his becoming man, in his sharing our human weakness so as to transform it by the power of his resurrection." (#13)

To open the Year of Faith my parish purchased for display, a large image of the Face of Jesus as depicted on the Shroud of Turin, to help us "keep our gaze fixed upon Jesus Christ". Each household also received a small hologram holy card depicting the face of the Holy Shroud so all might contemplate the Face of Jesus. We also encouraged our choirs who had the ability, to assist the faithful in chanting rather than reciting the Nicene Creed at the Sunday Mass. We thought by chanting Credo III from the Roman Missal in English we would not only highlight the Creed during this Year of Faith, it would also help us prayerfully reflect upon those ancient and beautiful words handed down to us from our ancestors. Slowly the faithful are learning how to chant the Creed. Many have commented that

the mystery of the words are enhanced by the chant.

As a parish during this Year of Faith we are reflecting on the following definition of faith, as a tool to help us access the mystery we are hoping and praying will be renewed in all of us: **Faith is a response to an invitation of friendship and love with Jesus Christ.** May the Holy Spirit aid us and the faithful to respond in faith to the invitation to encounter anew the mystery of friendship and love with Jesus Christ.

On Stewardship Sunday, November 11th, several parishioners gave personal testimony of some act of faith that they hope to offer in honor and love to Jesus Christ during this Year of Faith. In the homily I shared with the people that I felt personally inspired to contemplate the Face of Jesus with Mary during this Year of Faith. The Blessed Virgin Mary has played such an important role in my experience of the faith and the priesthood. I believe by including Mary in the Year of Faith is a personal way to respond to the scripture texts of Revelation 2:4 and 2 Timothy 1:6: to "stir into flame the mystery of love" that so transformed my life as a young man.

Therefore in bulletin articles I am reflecting each Sunday on one of the twenty mysteries of the Rosary both as a personal response to the invitation of faith and as my ecclesial commitment to participate in bringing about a renewal

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Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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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!

Do you like to wait? Unless I see a clear purpose for waiting, I find it stressful.

Waiting for God is a booklet of meditations written by the late Fr. Henri Nouwen. I used this booklet during the recent Advent season. It was apropos. In an effort to make Catholic education vibrant and affordable, the Catholic schools in my area are looking to consolidate some of the parish schools. The school at my parish is one of the schools that may be closing. It has been in existence for 51 years and is an academically excellent community of faith-filled children. The enrollment has increased over the last few years. However, the parish is "actively waiting" the decision of the local Catholic school board to see if the school will remain open in September 2013.

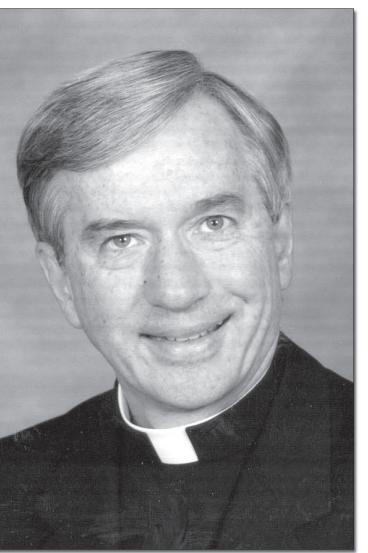
There are many times in life when one must wait upon God. A woman waits for the birth of her child. A student waits to hear if he/she has been accepted into the college of their choice. The employee waits to hear whether the rumored layoffs will take place. Since the circumstances are beyond our control, all we can do is wait. And it is not easy.

The Holy Family had to wait. The plan of God was not altogether clear for Joseph and Mary even after the birth of Jesus. Fleeing to Egypt? When to return? Where to go-Judea or Galilee? (Matthew 2:19-23) How long, O Lord? They had to wait upon the Lord for guidance and help.

How do we handle waiting? Are we simply anxious and impatient? If we remember that God is in the waiting, it becomes a vigil. We anticipate that he will manifest himself in the "fullness of time." (Ephesians 1:10 RSV) Waiting is not unproductive if we see Christ in the waiting.

Like winter, waiting can be dark, long and hard. It seems like it will never end. As I write, I know of a family who has a religious sister who is seriously ill. Her death appears imminent. Yet again, it seems to be delayed. And so they wait, trying to make sense of what seems like a prolonged process of dying. A lesson I learned long ago helps in times like this: the process of waiting is often more important than what we wait for.

As we begin this New Year, Fraternity of Priests marks another milestone. This year marks our 30th anniversary. The Fraternity was established in Steubenville, Ohio in 1983. This place of birth and home of Visitation



House will also be the site of our Annual Fraternity Conference. Fraternity of Priests will join our meeting to the Priests, Deacon and Seminarians Retreat at Franciscan University in June of 2013.

During this Year of Faith let us remember, "...they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength..." (Isaiah 40:31 RSV). Let us wait upon him and become men of mature faith, men of hope.

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: \$3,460.00

Budget Surplus (shortage): (\$1,290.00)

Current as of November 30, 2012.

...continued from page 1
and rediscovery of the journey of faith in the lives of others. I believe this personal response finds confirmation in the words of Pope Benedict:

"By faith, Mary accepted the Angel's word and believed the message that she was to become the Mother of God in the obedience of her devotion (cf. Luke 1:28). Visiting Elizabeth, she raised her hymn of praise to the Most High for the marvels he worked in those who trusted him (cf. Luke 1:46-55). With joy and trepidation she gave birth to her only son, keeping her virginity intact (cf. Luke 2:6-7). Trusting in Joseph, her husband, she took Jesus to Egypt to save him from Herod's persecution (cf. Matthew 2:13-15). With the same faith, she followed the Lord in his preaching and remained with him all the way to Golgotha (cf. John 19:25-27). By faith, Mary tasted the fruits of Jesus' resurrection, and treasuring every memory in her heart (cf. Luke 2:19, 51), she passed them on to the Twelve assembled with her in the Upper Room to receive the Holy Spirit (cf. Acts 1:14; 2:1-4).

On October seventh of the year 2012 before praying the Angelus Pope Benedict invited everyone to "cherish the Rosary" during the Year of Faith. "With the Rosary, in fact, we allow ourselves to be guided by Mary, the model of faith, in meditating upon the mysteries of Christ, and day after day we are helped to assimilate the Gospel so that it can shape our lives."

Father Francis Fernandez –

Please send us your prayer intentions:

Carvajal in his book, Overcoming Lukewarmness, Healing Your Soul's Sadness provides an insightful thought of how Mary's intercession moved the heart of our Lord to manifest his glory causing the disciples to believe in him.

A marriage took place at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there...St. John attaches much significance to that, as if her presence and what she did are as important as the miracle itself...Mary must have been highly esteemed, for she is the one who is told about the problem before the guests become aware of it. Not even the chief steward knew...the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine"...This is asking without asking, petition that places no burden-a trusting call that reaches the depth of Jesus' soul...And Jesus lets himself be won over by his Mother, setting a precedent that will last until the end of time. Jesus our only mediator, is the Way of our prayer. Mary, revealing him with full transparency, leads us to the Way." (Pages 111-114)

May the concluding words of Pope Benedict from his Apostolic Letter Porta Fidei encourage us to include Mary in this Year of Faith: Let us entrust this time of grace to the Mother of God, proclaimed "blessed because she believed." (Luke 1:45)

Rev. Schneider is a member of the Fraternity in the Diocese of St Cloud, Minnesota.

News from The Fraternity of Priests

From St. Cloud, MN

Fr. Elmer Torborg, age 83 and 57 years a priest, passed away on October 17, 2012. He served the St. Cloud diocese as a high school teacher, parochial vicar and pastor. Please commend him to the Lord in prayer, also praying for his surviving family and the St. Cloud Fraternity.

SAVE THE DATES

Fraternity of Priests will be celebrating our 30th Anniversary in 2013. The Annual Fraternity of Priests Meeting will be held in conjunction with the *Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians Retreat* on campus at the Franciscan University of Steubenville this summer.

The dates of the retreat are June 17-June 21, 2013 in Steubenville, Ohio. More information will be forthcoming.

Details about the University's Summer Conference Season can be found online at franciscanconferences.com.

Brother priests, please mark your calendars and plan to join us!