

April 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Prayer Requests Received	2 Pope Francis
Rev. James Statz St Cloud 3	Rev. Gregory Paffel St Cloud 4	Rev. Peter Kirchner St Cloud 5	Rev. Mark Stang St Cloud 6	For the souls of our deceased FOP members 7	Rev. Alvin Quade St Cloud 8	Rev. Leroy Schik St Cloud 9
Rev. Aaron Nord St Louis 10	Rev. Martin Mannion St Louis 11	Rev. Msgr. Edmund Griesedieck St Louis 12	Rev. David Novak St Louis 13	Rev. Albert Danter St Louis 14	Rev. Charles Tichacek St Louis 15	Rev. James Dyer St Louis 16
Rev. Anthony Dattilo St Louis 17	Rev. Gerald Knueven Toledo 18	Rev. Jerome Nowakowski Toledo 19	Rev. Edward Littlmann Toledo 20	Rev. Thomas Oedy Toledo 21	Rev. Nicholas Weibl Toledo 22	Rev. Norbert Howe Toledo 23
Rev. James Brown Toledo 24	Rev. Domenico Pinti Tucson 25	Rev. Dale Branson Tucson 26	Rev. Alexander Mills, OSB Tucson 27	Rev. James Hobert Tucson 28	Rev. Liam Leahy Tucson 29	Rev. Finn Tucson 30



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

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

## The Holy Spirit is our "Friend" in this Season of Lent

By Fr. John Sweeney, Pittsburgh Fraternity

This month's article was originally shared in February 2013 as we journeyed through Lent. The article seemed both timely and helpful then, and we have chosen to reprint it now to help us in our current season.

-- The editor

pretty soon, some other things that we cannot see without the assistance of medical equipment-like our hearts and brains-would sense that there was no oxygen. We would die without this "invisible" substance.

The Holy Spirit is someone we cannot see but is real. It is interesting to note that one of the most common ways used to describe the Holy Spirit in the Bible is that He is like the air-"the breath of life" or "a powerful wind". We need this "Breath of Life". We need the Holy Spirit to continue to show us who Jesus is. We can never know Jesus unless the Holy Spirit reveals Him to us, just as He did at the Jordan River when Jesus was baptized. In this Year of Faith, there is no better way for us to come to love Jesus more, to deepen our relationship with Him (which Pope Benedict has said is the purpose of this Year) than to ask the Holy Spirit to deepen our knowledge of Jesus and increase our love for Him. Jesus said the Holy Spirit would "remind" us of all that Jesus did and taught. (John 14:26) This is exactly what the Holy Spirit continues to do every day. He will remind us of what Jesus did and taught when He was on this earth. Especially when we read or hear the Scriptures proclaimed, the Holy Spirit will make those Scriptures come alive so we can understand and see the Lord.

As we go through the days of

Lent, the Holy Spirit will help us to pray as He helped Jesus pray when He would "go off to a deserted place" (Mark 1:35) to pray to His Father. The Holy Spirit was there with Him and filling Him as He communed with His Father.

Jesus exhaled (again like air) the Holy Spirit on us as He took His last dying breath on the cross. And the "driving wind" of the Holy Spirit then came to rest on the Apostles on that Pentecost morning, just as He had come, as a dove, to rest on Jesus at the Jordan River. And then, what happened to the Apostles? They began to see and understand the things that Jesus had said and did. They had been with Him for three years, listening to all He taught and seeing His miracles. They witnessed His Death and Resurrection. Jesus Himself had said to them, on any number of occasions: "Do you still not realize or understand...are your minds still closed?" (Mark 8:17, 21) However, when they allowed the Holy Spirit to come to them, through Mary's presence and intercession (Acts 1:14), and enlighten their minds, they began to understand all that they had gone through with Jesus. Perhaps this is one of the reasons Jesus told them that "it is better for you that I go". (John 16:7) Then the Holy Spirit would come.

Many of us too "have been with Jesus" for a time-some of us for a long time. There is still much we do not

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### 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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Please cut and return this form with your donation.

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Do you know anyone who would like to receive our Newsletter?  
(Please print legibly)

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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This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.

Dear Father Bob Franco,

We move now through the Season of Lent, in preparation for our yearly liturgical observance of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus. We are celebrating this particular sacred season in the "Year of Faith" which Pope Benedict has asked the Church throughout the world to observe. I would suggest that we all might turn again to God the Holy Spirit and ask the Spirit to come and "fan the flame of our faith" once again, as we live our faith in these weeks ahead. The only way we can "stir up our faith" is by the power of the Holy Spirit. We cannot do this by our own ability. And the Holy Spirit is the Friend who is "with us" and "within us" (John 14:17) to give us faith and to deepen our faith.

Even though we cannot see Him, the Holy Spirit is real-more real than the things we can see. There are many physical things in this world and in our lives which are invisible though real. A good example is oxygen in the air we breathe. We cannot see it, but it is always there, surrounding us. If suddenly there was no air, we would know it right away. And

# 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](mailto:editor@fraternityofpriests.org)

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

What was the greatest advancement in history? The Atlantic magazine, after consulting a variety of scientists, entrepreneurs, engineers and historians of technology came up with a list of 50 greatest breakthroughs since the wheel. Their top three were: the printing press, electricity and penicillin. There are many such lists which chronicle the technological progress of the human race.

Yet, I believe that our greatest advancement has nothing to do with technology. Don't get me wrong. I am grateful for all the advancements that have made our lives more comfortable, healthy and human. However, a comfortable, healthy and human life that does not fulfill its purpose would be a waste. As Jesus said, "What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose of forfeit himself?" (Luke 9:25)

The greatest advancement in history took place through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is only by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that we are freed from the futility of human existence and given the hope of heaven. At the beginning of his first letter, St. Peter put it this way:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through the faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

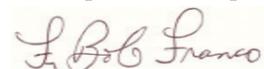
St. Peter uses phrases like *living hope*, *imperishable*, *undefiled* and *unfading* to describe what God has done for us when he raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Every other hope we have in the world is fading and perishable. And even if all our earthly hopes were fulfilled, we are perishing!

As we celebrate the solemnities to commemorate the Easter Triduum, let us remember that our lives are not in vain.

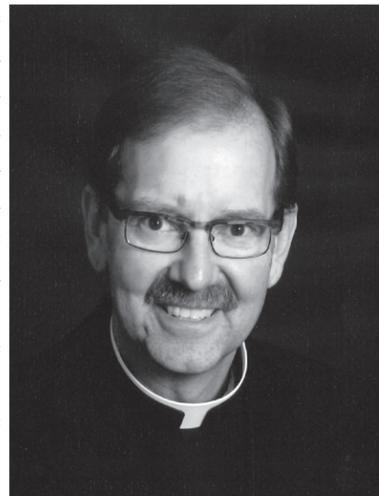
In a world where hopes fade and die, we have a living hope in Jesus Christ raised from the dead. In the midst of the stresses, trials and disappointments of life we have hope in Jesus Christ. Because he is alive, Jesus is true to his promise, "know that I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20) He will "never leave or abandon" us. (Hebrews 13:5) With renewed baptismal promises at Easter, may strive to remain faithful to Him!

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, I want to thank you for the mercies, gifts and blessings that you have shared with the Fraternity of Priests. Your prayers and sacrifices bring God's grace to bear more fully in our lives and ministries. Your gifts and donations support the work of the Fraternity.

As we celebrate the Easter mysteries, let us pray that the message of Jesus Christ raised from the dead, advance to the ends of the earth, bringing unfading and imperishable hope to each person.



Fr. 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: \$ **2,780.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): (\$ **1,970.00**)

Current as of January 31, 2016.

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We could know so much more of Jesus. We could come so much closer to Him, as we allow Him to come closer to us. Lent is a time to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us into prayer: to pray more and to pray more deeply. As our prayer deepens, so will our relationship with the Lord Jesus. As we come to be with Him more and listen to Him, we will hear Him more clearly.

Lent is also a time to allow the Holy Spirit to show us our sins, to "convict" (John 16:8) us of our sins. When we see those things which may be keeping us from coming closer to the Lord Jesus, we can come to the Sacrament of Confession and be forgiven and healed more deeply. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit, as the prayer of Absolution says, that we are forgiven. The fire of the Holy Spirit comes to purify us with the fire of love, the Love of the Holy Trinity.

Another gift that the Holy Spirit brought to the first Apostles was the gift of courage. When they received the Holy Spirit, they then had that courage to go and tell others about the Lord Jesus. They professed their faith in Him, so that others might believe. We as Catholics today need this gift of courage. We need to have

the courage to live our faith in the Lord Jesus. Other people will come to know that Jesus is real and that the Holy Spirit is real by what we do and say-in short-how we live. In the world, in the country we live in today, we need that gift of courage more than we ever. In the darkness and confusion which surround our public life, so dominated and controlled by the media world, it will take true courage to speak the truth, and to live as we know is right, according to God's plan for human life. In so many areas, we, the Church, are facing hostility, ridicule and, even worse, indifference, to the truth as revealed by God. We need to love our brothers and sisters enough to want them to know the Truth, about the meaning of life, and about who they really are: God's children. The Holy Spirit gives us that love.

During Lent in this Year of Faith, we have another important opportunity to allow the Holy Spirit to be our Friend, to remind us of all that Jesus taught us, to help us to understand all that He has revealed to the world, and to have the courage to live our Catholic faith, boldly and with love. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring you the grace to use these days of Lent to grow in faith and to make use of all the means offered to us this Lent. Take a little more time

for prayer. Take advantage of any additional opportunities for communal prayer in your Parish. Participate in Bible studies, Adoration, "nights of worship", Stations of the Cross, or special speakers that are offered in your area. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in the area of fasting. Ask Him to show you what kind of real fasting you might do beyond the "fish sandwich on Friday". Fasting is "empty" yourself more so as to be filled with more of the presence of our Lord Jesus. Pray that you, and all Catholics, may make this season of Lent an extraordinary one in this extraordinary Year of Faith.

Please pray for the priests of the Fraternity, and for all priests, that we too may grow in our faith in this Year. Pray that we may be used as better servants of the Lord Jesus in helping those entrusted to our pastoral care. We want them to come closer to the Lord Jesus in this Lent, and throughout the Year of Faith. Let us all make it our prayer that the Church might allow this graced Year to do as Pope Benedict says it is meant to do: to bring us to "rediscover the joy of believing." For joy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:22)

Father John Sweeney writes from Pittsburgh where he is a pastor and long-time fraternity member.

## Annual Meeting for the Fraternity of Priests

Please save the dates of **July 31 - August 5, 2016** for the Annual Gathering for the Fraternity of Priests. We will be meeting in Kansas City, Missouri and look forward to a week of fellowship, brotherhood, prayer, and learning together.

More information will be forthcoming as we get particular details and schedules confirmed. We'll publish more specifics in coming months.

Please begin praying for the success of our time together and the spiritual renewal of our priests!

Please send us your prayer intentions: \_\_\_\_\_

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