

November 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Pope Francis
Rev. Harold Knueven Indianapolis	Rev. Thomas Cawley Kansas City	Rev. Roderic Giller Kansas City	Rev. Earl Dekat Kansas City	Rev. Paul O'Donnell-Duggan New Jersey	Rev. Msgr. John Demkovich New Jersey	Rev. William Halbing New Jersey
Rev. Paul Lehman New Jersey	Rev. Joseph Meagher New Jersey	Rev. John Gordon New Jersey	Rev. Paul Cannariato New Jersey	Rev. Eugene Bettinger New Jersey	Rev. Brendan Murray New Jersey	Rev. Lewis Papera New Jersey
Rev. John Primich New Jersey	Rev. Timothy Graff New Jersey	Rev. Stephen Toth New Jersey	Rev. Tom Devery New York	Rev. William Cosgrove New York	Rev. Alan Shnob Ogdensburg	Rev. Joseph Muldoon Ottawa
Rev. Thomas Sparacino Pittsburgh	Rev. Thomas Kredel Pittsburgh	Rev. Paul Zywan Pittsburgh	Rev. James Holland Pittsburgh	Rev. John Sweeney Pittsburgh	Rev. Nicholas Mastroangelo Pittsburgh	Rev. Joseph Luisi Pittsburgh
Rev. John Lynam Pittsburgh						



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

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

## Uncle Tom's Cabin Revised

Fr. Joseph Looney, Connecticut Fraternity

"Did you every consider a man as generous and kind as . . .Ebenezer Scrooge?" In literature, we often get lost in caricatures and not in the actual story. When someone describes an Ebenezer Scrooge, we know him as a wretched, greedy miser who cared more about money than anything else. He hated the concept of his workers taking Christmas Day off, even if it is to celebrate this blessed day with one's family including a crippled son. However, after the visitation of the spirits, Scrooge became a new man of whom the above then can be said. The whole story tells of a radical change in a man because of the graces of confrontation by the ghosts. The full story of Ebenezer Scrooge is lost in the characterization that comes to us over the years. We can look at this principle in reverse taking a figure of history. Many remember Judas as the thief and betrayer, but few remember him as the healer and worker of miracles. However, Judas was exactly that up until the eve Jesus' Crucifixion.

What about that wretched fool Padre Pio? Some, including myself, may consider those words as blasphemy, but indeed, I am sure that during the time he was waiting the results of an investigation of what turned out to be a false accusation such words were said about him by his enemies and he did have them.

How about the wise and honorable Sherlock Holmes, would you want your children to grow up like him? Then do not tell them he often frequented opium dens

I remember a literature class at UMass Boston in which the professor often lamented how we have lost three dimensional characters to the flat characters of the present day. Indeed, television and even short stories are filled with these less than human actors in today's drama. For example, what vices did Superman have? However, the superhero of his day, Sherlock Holmes clearly had his set of vices.

Today, we present a column by Fr. Joseph Looney of the Connecticut Fraternity who tells of something that may shock some. Uncle Tom from Harriet Beecher Stowe was a Christ-like character. His argument is quite convincing of this point of view that, like so many, is lost with the characterization of literary and historical figures. Enjoy his article and maybe it is time if you have not read it, to look again at the novel. Ed.

### 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 John Kiley,

Is Jesus Christ in Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin? In my opinion He is. The real Uncle Tom according to Harriet Beecher Stowe, who was born in Litchfield, CT and lived in Hartford CT, is one of the greatest Christ figures in all of American literature. Unfortunately, his reputation has been besmirched over the years by "Tom Shows" and minstrel blackface shows. Even James Baldwin mistook him for a toady to whites. In a recent America article in the special edition of America about women, a feminist

created the "Aunt Tom" award for black female toadies to whites. Obviously, neither read the book

I want to rehabilitate his reputation and show that those who use his name in vain ignore this great classic, the first important novel written by an American woman.

Uncle Tom was a man of great character, a noble hero according to Stowe. He is far from being a spineless tool of his white masters, especially the wicked Simon Legree. Uncle Tom reflects his hero Jesus Christ in freely giving his life to save others.

Jesus willing suffered, not because he was a wimp, but He was to pay the price for the redemption of the world. Tom's sufferings gave great inspiration to the abolitionists and still gives inspiration to its few readers today. Tom accepted his flogging and death at the hands of Quimbo and Sambo, Legree's black enforcers. As he was dying he prayed for the soul of Simon Legree, his tormentor. He forgave him as Christ forgave his executioners. Listen to these words as Legree sneers:

"Well, here's a pious dog at last, let

...continued on page 3

# 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!

**O**n August 11, 2014 Father George Kosicki passed to the Lord. For those who have been with the Fraternity of Priests and/or involved in Charismatic renewal from its early years Father Kosicki was a well-known and inspirational priest. Although he had a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and was a successful university professor, once he was touched by the Holy Spirit in a profound way his life changed radically and he began to devote his time and energy to renewing the lives of priests.

I remember as a young priest spending several days at Bethany House in Warwick, Rhode Island. This house of intercession for priests was very dear to the heart of Fr. George. Each priest upon arrival was challenged with the words, "Repent of self-concern and be concerned for the Church". This was a nice way of saying that we should put aside our own problems and enter into a time of focused intercession.

Priests' retreats were another important aspect of Fr. George's ministry. At one time I was on the Advisory Board for continuing education and spiritual formation for the priests of the Archdiocese of Boston. We were able to bring Fr. George to Boston and the retreat he presented was truly outstanding and memorable.

When the Fraternity of Priests was established in 1983, Fr. Kosicki was there. In fact, he lived at Visitation House in Steubenville for several years. Along with several other priests at Visitation House he helped ensure that the Fraternity was established on a firm foundation.

Today most people know Fr. George from his dedication in promoting the Divine Mercy Devotion. Because of his Polish background he was familiar with Divine Mercy from his teen years. In fact, his mother prayed the chaplet. This would eventually lead to working with the Marian Community in Stockbridge, MA at the National Shrine of Divine Mercy. Along with writing several books on Divine Mercy, he was instrumental in overseeing the publication of the English edition of Sr. Faustina's Diary.

For a man and priest who had been so active and busy through his life and ministry, it was surprising that the Lord called him to live

for about twelve years as a hermit in Paradise, MI. Here is a quote from Fr. George posted on the National Shrine of Divine Mercy website: "When priests come to my hermitage for retreats I explain Divine Mercy to them. But I start on my front porch. I tell them:

'First, we're going to take 60 seconds for silence.' Ninety feet down below is the valley and the small river. 'Just listen,' I say. Then I say: 'Praise be the Lord Jesus Christ. That's why I'm here. I need to hear the Lord.' And the Lord speaks very loudly and very clearly, but in a very strange language called silence."

May the soul of this good man and dedicated priest enjoy the vision of God forever. May he pray and intercede for us that we may receive the fullness of Divine Mercy.

Fraternally



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: **\$ 320.00**  
Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$4,430.00)**

Current as of August 31, 2014.

...continued from page 1

down among us sinners!---a saint, a gentleman, and no less, to talk to us sinners about our sins! Powerful holy crittur, (sic) he must be! Here you rascal, you make believe to be so pious,---didn't you never hear out of yer Bible, 'Servants obey your masters?' Ain't I yer master? Didn't I pay down twelve hundred dollars, cash, for all that is beneath yer old cussed black shell? Ain't yer mine, now, body and soul?' Legree said giving Tom a violent kick with his heavy boot; 'tell me!"

"No! No! No! my soul ain't yours, Mas'r! You haven't bought it,--- ye can't buy it! It's been bought and paid for by one that is able to keep it;---no matter, no matter, you can't harm me!"

"I can't?" said Legree, with a sneer; we'll see! Here Sambo, Quimbo, give this dog such a break'in as he won't get over it this month!" The two gigantic Negroes now laid hold of Tom, with fiendish exaltation in their faces might have formed no unapt (sic) personification of the powers of darkness." They flogged Tom to death. p.353

Uncle Tom's Cabin took the world by storm. Queen Elizabeth of England read it and cried. Angry proponents of slavery asked how Stowe could write about the South never having spent any time there? The following year Stowe defended herself with a 900 page book, The Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin, listing all her sources.

At one time there were several hundred theatrical companies putting on plays called "Tom Shows." As time passed, the "Tom Shows" forgot the courage and character of the original Uncle Tom. The book became one

of our spiritual exports and was translated into many languages. The Communist Chinese promoted it in China to show the evils of capitalistic and racist America. If you read it, keep Kleenex handy, it may draw tears as it did to Queen Elizabeth.

What powerful emotions Eliza, a slave mother, evokes as her little son Harry, is sold and taken away from his dear mother to live on another plantation. That very day she escapes with Harry and successfully eludes the wicked slave catchers armed with the Fugitive Slave Law.

Tom and the slave trader, Mr. Haley, then head down South by boat. From the boat Tom sees a little girl in the water and at the risk of his own life saves her from drowning. The girl's father, Mr. St. Clare, decides to buy Tom as his little daughter Eva's personal servant. Tom and Eva develop a wonderful relationship. She and Tom discuss the Bible and their mutual love for Christ. Tom's only possession was his Holy Bible. Against the unwritten rules, Eva helps Tom to learn to read the Bible. The slavers did everything possible to destroy slave families, keep them illiterate, and brutalize them. Eventually, Eva dies to the great sorrow of everyone on the plantation. St. Clare then decides to emancipate Tom, but before he prepares the necessary papers, he is killed outside a saloon.

Then Tom is sold to a very cruel owner the infamous Simon Legree. Legree is a very cruel slave owner. Harriet Beecher Stowe portrays him as the true incarnation of the Satanic heart of slavery. Shortly after coming to the Legree plantation, Legree orders Tom to flog a little slave girl, just to break him and destroy his

own soul. Tom refuses and in turn is flogged by Legree's evil black henchmen. Tom keeps his honest, kind behavior. Later, because Tom knew the location of two female slaves and wouldn't reveal it to Legree, Tom is flogged to death.

Uncle Tom demonstrates to the world the virtues of Jesus Christ. He walks the talk. In the eyes of her readers he becomes a hero, a Christ Figure, who by his living and dying sets others free.

Perhaps Uncle Tom inspired President Lincoln to use these words in his famous Second Inaugural Address: "Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled up by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and every drop of blood drawn with the lash be paid by another drawn with the sword."

Rev. Joseph Looney, D.Min., 203-266-5211 Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, CT 06705

## Come Holy Spirit,

Fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in them the fire of Your love.

Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the Earth.

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