

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

August 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Pope Francis
Rev. James Statz St Cloud 2	Rev. Gregory Paffel St Cloud 3	Rev. Peter Kirchner St Cloud 4	Rev. Mark Stang St Cloud 5	6 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	7 Prayer Requests Received	Rev. Alvin Quade St Cloud 8
Rev. Leroy Schik St Cloud 9	Rev. Aaron Nord St Louis, MO 10	Rev. Martin Mannion St Louis, MO 11	Rev. Msgr. Edmund Griesedieck St Louis, MO 12	Rev. David Novak St Louis, MO 13	Rev. Albert Danter St Louis, MO 14	Rev. Charles Tichacek St Louis, MO 15
Rev. James Dyer St Louis, MO 16	Rev. Anthony Dattilo St Louis, MO 17	Rev. Gerald Knueven Toledo 18	Rev. Jerome Nowakowski Toledo 19	Rev. Thomas Oedy Toledo 20	Rev. Nicholas Weibl Toledo 21	Rev. Norbert Howe Toledo 22
Rev. James Brown Toledo 23	Rev. Dale Branson Tucson 24	Rev. Domenico Pinti Tucson 25	Rev. Alexander Mills OSB Tucson 26	Rev. James Hobert Tucson 27	Rev. Isaac Fynn Tucson 28	Rev. Liam Leahy Tucson 29
Rev. Ray Ratzberger Tucson 30	Rev. Henry Dauphinais MS Tucson 31					

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.

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

Name _____

Street _____

City, State and Zip _____

fully and wisely, and not to ask for money that is not needed.

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-

\$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,



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Keep the Vision Alive

By Frs. Jim Hobert and Bob Franco

When the Fraternity Board members gathered last April to plan for the Annual Fraternity Conference in Tucson this summer, one question we asked ourselves was: What is our vision for Fraternity of Priests? How do we keep the vision alive?

Fr. Jim Hobert of the Tucson Fraternity read the statement composed by Fr. Jim Ferry, Fr. John Dreher, Fr. Ed Wade, and Fr. George Kosicki, dated November 1, 1983. They had moved into Visitation House and founded Fraternity of Priests earlier that fall. This foundational document is called *The Visitation House Agreement* and hangs near its main entrance.

"...We are called to a mission, to gather priests to Christ and with one another. In order to respond to what God is doing among us, in order to be that people he is calling us to be, we desire to give our whole lives to him, to follow his son, Jesus, and to live more and more in the Holy Spirit. We desire to love and serve him in lives of daily prayer and service; to praise and worship him always; to ever seek his face; to know and serve the truth of his Word in joy, peace and love of the Holy Spirit; to believe what he speaks to us and to be obedient to the truth of his Word and the guidance of his Spirit; to offer hospitality to those whom he sends

us; to widen our hearts to receive those he adds to our number; and to carry out the mission to priests in the Catholic Church throughout the world that he is entrusting to us. Above all, we desire to be a people who always grow, by his great mercy, in the fervor of that first love he has given us, he who is our all. We desire to consecrate our lives to him not simply as individuals but as a priests household.

"We know that in order for us to be truly priests of one mind and heart in our response to the Lord, we must serve and care for one another, and we must understand and accept those things which make our life as one body possible. We know that we must meet together. We must respect and support the pattern and order of our life together. We must support the life of the community without our time and with our material and financial resources. All this is simply to take responsibility for those the Lord has given us; to be a new family, members of the same body, brothers working together in the mission he is entrusting to us as priests.

"We desire to put out lives into his hands completely and follow him as priests wherever he may lead."

This throws light on the spirit behind the ten Kingdom Disciplines which we committed to when we became members of the Fraternity. These disciplines were classified

into three areas and reviewed in the talks at the 2014 Fraternity conference in Trinidad. Fr. Bob Franco reviewed the "personal" disciplines that need to be embraced in our striving for holiness. These include: an hour of prayer daily; reading scripture daily and keeping a journal of the Lord's words received by us; tithing; and fasting weekly. Fr. Mike Roy then illuminated for us the "brotherhood" disciplines. These include: attending Fraternity faithfully and not missing without reason and notice; being zealous for personal committed relationships with our brother priests; receiving discernment and spiritual direction from the Fraternity, and to accept leadership and teaching from the Fraternity. We recalled in a special way Mike's word play image for the concept of intimacy: "Into me, see!" Finally, Fr. John Kiley presented the final two disciplines as "mission" disciplines: proclaiming the Visitation Message, and empowering God's people in the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Joe Looney of Hartford, Connecticut, was the first to share his view of the vision of Fraternity life: To pray with other priests, to work for brotherhood among priests and to make the commitment to meet regularly. He also saw the importance of promoting the Liturgy of the Hours as part of our prayer discipline. Without neglecting the Liturgy of

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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!

Since its founding in 1983 the Fraternity of Priests has been an outstanding blessing and vehicle of God's grace in the lives of many priests not only in the United States, but in several countries and continents throughout the world. Most of you know that the Fraternity was an outgrowth of the annual Priests Conferences held in June at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. The Fraternity was a way of "taking the conference home". In June 2013 we celebrated our 30th Anniversary by holding the International Fraternity Conference in tandem with what is now the Priests, Deacons, and Seminarians Conference at Franciscan.

One of the most important characteristics of the Fraternity is that we strive to provide "pastoral care" to one another. As priests we are constantly ministering to the needs of others and can sometimes neglect our own needs. We may also lack the humility needed to allow a brother to minister to us. As I continue to meet and speak with a number of our brothers, this dimension continues to be missing or at least minimized in some Fraternity groups. To be faithful to the original vision of the Fraternity it is important that meetings include a time when we gather in small groups to share in confidence our joys and struggles in living out our priestly vocation. We commit to live in the light and to be open with our brothers. We try not to hide our sins or failures. We strive to be an "open book" to at least one brother. Let me encourage each Fraternity to review how faithful the brothers are to this aspect of Fraternity life and, if necessary, to embrace again this essential dimension of our brotherhood.

In 1978 Father Francis Martin gave an outstanding talk at the Steubenville Priests Conference on what he termed "the Normal Christian Life". He stressed that one of its dimensions is "living in a network of committed relationships", having people in our lives who are helping us to be saints. How necessary this is especially in our own day and age. This applies not only to us who are priests, but also to you, our lay sisters and brothers, friends

of the priesthood. Let me encourage you to be part of a prayer and sharing group or at least to have one or two brothers or sisters in Christ in your life to encourage and challenge you to be faithful to Jesus and to grow in holiness. The Christian life is never a "do-it-yourself project". Christ died to gather into one the scattered children of God as we read in the 11th chapter of John's gospel (John 11:52) and to give us brothers and sisters to help us on the journey. As St. Paul would remind us "Let us bear one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ". (Galatians 6:2)



Father 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: \$ **3076.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$1,674.00)**

Current as of May 31, 2015.

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the Hours, the hour of prayer needs to be a time of personal prayer time with the Lord, adoring, repenting, listening and interceding. Fr. Bob Franco commented that when the late Cardinal James Hickey reviewed the Fraternity disciplines with a member of the Cleveland Fraternity, he encouraged moving the Office of Readings into one's personal hour of prayer. It was also pointed out that praying the Liturgy of the Hours is already a Canon Law requirement for us priests, a commitment we have already made with our bishops.

Chairman of the Board Fr. John Kiley of the Boston Fraternity agreed, but emphasized that other priestly support groups might provide these things. "We have a distinct mission, a public work over and above our support for one another: to proclaim the Visitation Message to our people. We are to announce what God is doing in the world and that God speaks now. We can hear Him in our day." He reminded us that Fraternity members are also themselves to empower our people in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Dwight Merrick from the Fraternity in Trinidad reminded the board that the Fraternity gives us clear priorities. *God is to be first. Brotherhood is second and that ministry flows from numbers one and two.* The problem is that many priests have reversed the order. Ministry becomes number one. However, ministry will not take care of us or our priesthood. If God and the brothers are one and two, then we and our work of ministry will be guided by God. If we are trying to do it all by our own power and intelligence, we are lost. We need to be open to

the gifts of the Spirit. Other board members raised the question, "What do we offer for the priests not in the Charismatic renewal?"

Fr. Bob Franco of the Cleveland Fraternity affirmed the vision that we are to gather priests to Christ, and to one another, and to proclaim the Visitation message. However, promoting openness to gifts of the Holy Spirit has not always been welcomed. Perhaps a new day is dawning. A speaker recently came to his diocese to address pastoral leaders about *Forming Intentional Disciples*, the book by Sherry Waddell. He spoke positively about the charisms and was welcomed. With so much talk about evangelization with very little fruit, perhaps people are more willing to try openness to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

We were also reminded that one of our founders, Fr. John Dreher, said that the main focus of fraternity was not the charismatic gifts, but on brotherhood. The board also noted that diocesan priests, who constitute the majority of the membership of the Fraternity, are ordained to the "grunt work," the fighting in the trenches at the front line of the Church's battle in the world. Ministry is an essential part of our priestly lives. The key to embracing the challenge of our often overwhelming burden of work is fraternal brotherhood. Without it, priests will not minister effectively. Without brotherhood, it is very easy for priests to become "loners," isolated from other priests. This kind of isolation leads to overwork and all sorts of dysfunctional problems. Board members shared some of the many problems and serious difficulties that they have seen in the lives of

priests who are loners.

The board reflected on a variety of other topics. Fr Bob Franco called to mind for us that an important but often forgotten part of our Fraternity spirituality is to include Mary into our priestly lives, especially honoring her as Mary, Star of Evangelization. Fr. Larry Van Damme of Marquette Fraternity shared that last summer's conference inspired him to take seriously the need to preach the Visitation Message. God is visiting His people and speaking to us now.

The board also had an internet video meeting the John Luther of the Ridgefield Group, which assists the Fraternity in managing its property and finances. He suggested that we consider employing someone part time who could promote Fraternity of Priests and line up conferences. Fr. Dwight Merrick told the board that research indicates lively and healthy parishes are evangelizing parishes. Resources need to be concentrated in outreach, not on maintenance. If not, parishes will die. Similarly, Fr. Merrick pointed out that Fraternity of Priests was most alive when Fr. Tim Graff traveled to other countries and planted fraternities in those places. These newer fraternities resulted in growth of the organization and greater zeal among the brothers. These new conferences were mostly in the third world. The board did some brainstorming on how certain members might commit themselves to travel (two by two) one week a year to promote Fraternity of Priests.

Brothers, please consider this call to serve the fraternity, spread its message and keep the vision alive.

Please send us your prayer intentions:
