



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

Jesus is Our Focus Point

By Fr. Francis Dabre, India

Father is the international member on the Board of Directors and will have a significant role this summer at our Annual Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia. While fluent in English, it is not his first language. However, he has written an inspiring and heartfelt article for us this month.

Our priesthood needs to be firmly rooted in Jesus. Once we are connected with Jesus our very being is then in the Lord. When we change our focus to worldly things then our lives become influenced by this secular way of life. We can lose Jesus. It is a big challenge to have a Jesus centered way of life, because the world has its own values and temptations that attract us.

Jesus our Focus

1. Jesus be the center of my life.

Live on in me, as I do in you. No more than a branch can bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, can you bear fruit apart from me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who lives in me and I in him, will produce abundantly, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:4-5)

As a priest I am realizing more and more that unless I am rooted and fully grounded in Jesus my life

will become shallow and more and more meaningless. I have personal experiences of this happening in my daily priestly duties. When I am strong in Jesus things move very smoothly.

2. Be Holy as I am Holy

You, however, are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people he claims for his own to proclaim the glorious works" of the One who called you from darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were no people, but now you are God's people; once there was no mercy for you, but now you have found mercy. (1Peter 2:9-10)

We are called to be holy like Jesus. Day by day we need to prioritize our lives toward Jesus. We are called to be another Christ, when I realize this then truly "it is no longer I who lives but Christ lives in me." I must then be perfected as my heavenly Father is perfect. Today our people are looking for holy and Spirit-filled priests. Remember by our ordination we are anointed and filled with the Holy Spirit. Our vocation is to bring Jesus to the world. We need to make Jesus more relevant and practical to the lives of our people. We need to be good shepherds.

The I ~ the Me ~ the Myself needs to be dissolved with the call of Jesus. Now we are no more our

own self but it is fully Jesus and only Jesus. We need to be fully filled with the Super Power of Jesus. I can never say that "I am the healer and I did that good thing." In fact it is the Lord who works through me and does His work by means of my availability. The real credit always goes to Jesus. We are journeying to the fullness of life; becoming holy like our Savior and Lord. Unless we make our lives fully dependent on Jesus we will not realize the Super Power of the Lord. When we celebrate the Eucharist, it is not our words of consecration that substantially change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, He is at work through us.

3. My Identity – Fully Jesus

But those things I used to consider gain I have now reappraised as loss in the light of Christ. I have come to rate all as loss in the light of the surpassing knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ. For his sake I have forfeited everything; I have accounted all else rubbish so that Christ may be my wealth...(Philippians 3:7-8)

As priests we are nothing without Jesus but with Jesus we are everything. We are empowered to become fully Jesus. Jesus has to be manifested through our body, our mind, our soul. Called to become more and more identified with Jesus.

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Editor's Box:

Please send articles, comments, and photos to the FOP Newsletter editor, Fr. Michael Roy via e-mail at editor@fraternityofpriests.org or fax to 508-943-2213.

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

Though the season of Easter ends with Pentecost, the fruits of the Paschal Mystery and the gift of the Spirit continue to be celebrated in the Church's liturgy. Immediately after Pentecost we celebrate the life of the Holy Trinity, Corpus Christi, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. And perhaps the celebration most dear to the priest's heart is that of Corpus Christi, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

I used to think, "As a community, we celebrate the Eucharist every week. As priests, we celebrate the Eucharist every day or more often. Do we really need a special feast for the Eucharist?" In truth, this is why we need this solemn feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Familiarity can breed contempt. Just as the people of Nazareth were so familiar with Jesus that they did not recognize the prophet in their midst (Mark 6:1-6), so God's people, and in particular we priests, can become so familiar with the Mass that it can become more of a chore than a life giving encounter with Jesus.

One thing that the Church suggests parishes and Catholic institutions to do on this day is to organize a public procession with the Blessed Sacrament. Though this is not always feasible to do, a Eucharistic procession can be a great faith building experience. Last year I led my parish in procession with the Blessed Sacrament from the church to our school, then our cemetery, parish administration center, the gymnasium and the rectory before arriving back in the church for Benediction. At each venue we paused and prayed for the work of the Lord that took place there. (Processions with the Blessed Sacrament off parish grounds need to be approved by the diocesan bishop.) All who participated in this parish grounds procession with the Blessed Sacrament had a heightened awareness of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ imparting his blessing and presence to the labors of our parish.


The Feast of Corpus Christi highlights the Real Presence of Jesus under the appearances of bread and wine. Our Holy Father said:

... *S a i n t*

Augustine put it: "...no one eats that flesh without first adoring it; we should sin were we not to adore it." (191) *In the Eucharist, the Son of God comes to meet us and desires to become one with us; eucharistic adoration is simply the natural consequence of the eucharistic celebration, which is itself the Church's supreme act of adoration.* (Sacramentum Caritas #66)

May we appreciate the fruits of the Paschal Mystery, especially the Real Presence of Jesus Christ yet with us. Please pray for priests. May our devotion to the Eucharist nourish our lives and inspire our people.

In Christ,



PS: Please pray for our Annual Fraternity Meeting in Slovenia, July 25-29. Ask the Lord to guide this gathering!

Fraternity Financial Report

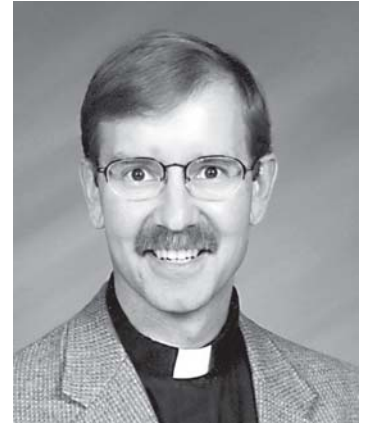
One of the objectives for the Fraternity of Priests is to inform our donors about the ongoing financial health and details of the organization. We're providing this information to help communicate our specific need and to thank those many faithful benefactors who help make our service possible. Thank you!

Monthly Donation Budget: **\$4,750**

Actual Donations: **\$ 1,020**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$3,730)**

Current as of April 30, 2011.



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Others must be able to see Jesus in me. My very being and existence is Jesus. If I see myself in this context then I can understand how the Spirit will use me in the sacraments. In particular in the Sacrament of Reconciliation I become a channel of healing grace flowing into the penitent. How beautiful is our priesthood! When we put on Jesus surely the Divine Spirit will work wonders.

How Do We Do This?

1. Personal Prayer

Unless we are men of prayer developing a personal relationship with Jesus we will never be able to exercise the Power of the Holy Spirit. I have personally experienced the Divine Presence very strongly in personal prayer. Day by day I am growing in the Lord because I am giving sufficient time for personal prayer. It is only then that I can strongly proclaim the Word of God. I feel the power of grace flowing in me, especially when I receive the Holy Eucharist and administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

2. Review Our Lives as Priests

So strip away everything vicious, everything deceitful; pretenses, jealousies, and disparaging remarks of any kind. Be as eager for milk as newborn babies – pure milk of the spirit to make you grow unto salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. (1Peter 2:1-3)

We need to make an about face turning fully to Jesus and with Him review our priesthood. The grace of ordination might have diminished due to the challenges we face in today's world. The day of ordination was one of great zeal

as we entered into the priestly service. Is that zeal still there? Do we feel that there is something gravely missing in us? There comes a time when we need to take stalk of our lives in the Lord. Besides a good retreat we may need the help of a Spiritual Director to maintain our firm decision for Jesus.

3. Charismatic Lifestyle

The law of the spirit, the spirit of life in Christ Jesus, has freed you from the law of sin and death. The law was powerless because of its weakening by the flesh. Then God sent his Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering, thereby condemning sin in the flesh, so that the just demands of the law might be fulfilled in us who live, not according to the flesh, but according to the spirit. Those who live according to the flesh are intent on the things of the flesh, those who live according to the spirit, on those of the spirit. The tendency of the flesh is toward death but that of the spirit toward life and peace. The flesh in its tendency is at enmity with God; it is not subject to God's law. Indeed, it cannot be... (Romans 8:2-7)

There are many ways we can turn to Jesus and renew our lives. One of the ways that helps many of our lay faithful grow closer to Jesus is the Charismatic Renewal. Many are coming back to the Lord and joining the Renewal. Many of our bishops and priests in India are also joining the Renewal. After a strong experience of the Spirit many have seen a great light, a deeper understanding that has changed their lives. I myself am one of them. Having turned to the Lord in a deeper conversion my

way of celebrating the Holy Eucharist has drastically changed. Not only that but the way I go about being a priest, has certainly changed in a beautiful way. I am much more Jesus-centered. I am enjoying my priesthood more than I ever have and I share it happily with other priests.

Conclusion

Let us all then not hesitate to review and renew our priesthood so that we and our people can experience its fullness in the real life situations that we find ourselves in. (John 10:10) The Fraternity of Priests has been very instrumental here in bringing a renewal to the lives of priests facing today's challenges. It has helped us discipline our lives according to the values witnessed by Jesus. There are a significant number of priests and bishops here who serve as good models for us in today's modern society.

Please keep our brother priests in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare for the Annual Gathering for the Fraternity of Priests, July 25-29 in Slovenia. May God bless all of them abundantly!

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

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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