



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

The Sky is the Limit in St. Cloud

by Fr. Bob Franco

The St. Cloud (Minnesota) Fraternity of Priests was established in September of 1986, less than three years after the founding of Fraternity of Priests. Fr. Al Quade, who will be ordained fifty-five years in May of this year, has been a member since its inception. He has served as a member and leader of the St. Cloud Fraternity. He has also served on the Board of Directors of the Fraternity of Priests. I recently touched base with him by phone. You have served as a priest for almost fifty five years. How would you describe those years?

Fr. Al: Well, I served as an active priest for forty-seven years. The first three I was an assistant pastor, then for forty-four years as a pastor. I've been "retired" for seven years. The pastor of the parish where I live is also the pastor of two other parishes, as well as our dioceses' only military chaplain. I say daily mass for him here, where I live. I just had back surgery so the daily mass crowd of fifteen or twenty joins me in the parlor of the house for mass. Due to the surgery, I have to sit throughout the mass at the parlor table.

Right now I am also the confessor for the Poor Clare nuns, the chaplain for the Knights of

Columbus and the chaplain of Catholic Women's Organization. I want to be as active as I can be.

How would you describe particular high points in your priesthood?

In 1973 I attended a retreat with Bishop Sheen. During that retreat I was talking with two other priests from St. Cloud: Fr. Elmer Torbourg and Fr. J. Alfred Kroll. They were talking about the charismatic renewal, prayer meetings and young people coming and praying till after midnight. Though I didn't have a problem with it, the prayer meeting they talked about was far from my parish so I didn't attend. However, I was transferred the next year. I was now close to Fr. Kroll's parish so I began to get involved. It was great.

Around that time I made a retreat with Fr. Zimmer. I was prayed with and 'rested in the Spirit.' One of my Fraternity brothers would later say that they knew I was touched by the Lord because I fell down so quickly. I have a reputation of being pretty deliberate.

One recent highlight of my priesthood happened just last year. I was awarded our diocesan Humanae Vitae Award for my

work with Natural Family Planning and other prolife causes.

Describe your fraternity.

Well, we meet twice a month. We meet for a number of hours on the second Tuesday of the month. During that time we pray Daytime Prayer, have a holy hour, eat lunch, share our lives and go to confession. Our second gathering of the month is for an overnight at a lodge. Again, share our lives, have a holy hour, listen to the Lord and journal. We also have some social time as well as celebrate mass together. Fr. Jerry Mishke is our cook.

How has the Fraternity benefited you?

Well, I wish I had the Fraternity when I was newly ordained. It took me a while to move from the intellectual environment of the seminary to serving in the parish. The brotherhood of the Fraternity has helped me a lot. We began in September of 1986. In November of that year my cousin, who was a priest, passed away. I was very close to him. However, because of the support I had in the Fraternity, I was not overwhelmed with grief.

As a Fraternity, we have met faithfully over the years. We have always tried to share deeply. We

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Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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One of the most popular stories in the scriptures is that of the Prodigal Son. While all of us are familiar with the story describing the dire situation of the younger son, it has also been used to describe the Father. The son was ‘prodigal’ (wasteful) with his inheritance. However, the father was **‘prodigal’ (overly generous?) in his forgiveness** toward his son.

The whole season of Lent is one of recognizing and celebrating that we are living in special era of God’s plan. It is a time of reconciliation and renewal. The call of the Father is that we come back to Him with all our hearts. We must not let fear keep us apart.

Yet we meet so many people like the paralyzed man in last month’s gospel passage from Mark 2. He had to be lowered through the roof by his four friends into a crowded room in the town of Capernaum. Many people see themselves as **both** paralyzed and prodigal. How do they come back to the Lord? How do they make their way to the sacrament of reconciliation and return to the Father?

The first thing we need to do is to believe that there are people in our lives who need to return to the Lord through the sacrament of reconciliation. We need to put up our spiritual antennae and be on the alert for the any spiritually paralyzed or prodigal individuals who will pass through our lives this Lent. When the Spirit speaks to our hearts and points out individuals that he wants us to minister to, **we** must not become like that paralyzed man. Hearing God’s call, knowing the Father’s prodigal love for them, we must engage those persons, encourage them to share their stories with us and offer them the opportunity to meet Jesus in the sacramental life of the Church.

Years ago George Gallup pointed out in a national survey that many of the people who had left the practice of

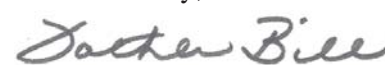
the faith were only waiting for someone like you or me to invite them to return. All they needed was an invitation. By the grace of God, they were primed to say “yes” to that invitation.

However, whether they say “yes” or “no”, we need to be always ready to extend that invitation. This is our “yes” to the Father, our willingness to extend his prodigal love.

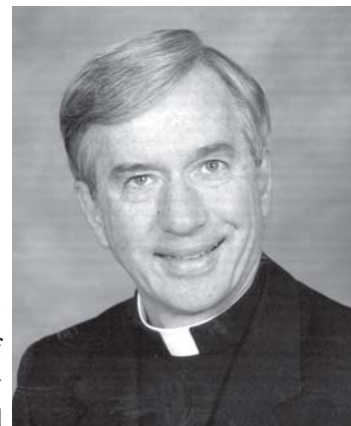
As we move into the middle of this holy season, may we become more aware and attuned to the opportunities that will come to us. We want to be the instruments of reconciliation, ambassadors for Christ (II Corinthians 5:18-20) and allow ourselves to witness to the prodigal love of the Father.

May our Lent be measured, not only by what we give up, but by what we do to advance the kingdom of God in this world.

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: **\$5,267.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **\$517.00**

Current as of January 31, 2009.

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 440-934-4500

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

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have also taken time to pray over one another for empowerment.

I have always been blessed by my brother priests in the Fraternity. Fr. J. Alfred Kroll was a good friend. He was always on the go (Steubenville, Medjugorje, et cetera). He's the priest who said, "I can't wait to see what the Lord has for me in the next hour of the breviary." Fr. Mishke was our founding leader. I served as leader for seven years. Now, Fr. Mark Stang leads the St. Cloud Fraternity. We have eight to nine members. One of our brothers goes to Florida in the winter.

Do you have any advice you would want to give the brothers?

For me, every mass is a unique experience. I do not get tired of the mass. That has been a great blessing. Also, I've found a number of things have helped me through the years. Sometime into my first years as a pastor, I took a three week vacation. I left for vacation weary and discouraged. I came back to the parish and everything had changed. Actually, the parish was quite the same. I had changed. I came back to the parish renewed. So I have tried to make it a point to take a three week vacation annually. I have found this most restful. I also benefited from visiting so many places: Rome, London, the Holy Land, Paris and Greece among others.

Another thing: as I get older, I have made sure that my trust and will are in order. I also have made out health care directives according to the International Task Force, founded by Rita Marker, from Steubenville, who speaks out against euthanasia and assisted suicide.

I also try to live simply. I believe our world needs this witness.

Finally, I want to encourage the brothers to stay as active as they can. Keep busy in the vineyard of the Lord as long as you can!

And tell me, who is St. Cloud and how did your diocese get that name?

St. Cloud is a city on the Mississippi river in central Minnesota. It is named after a city in France called St. Cloud, a suburb of Paris. St. Cloud is a shortened form of St. Clodoald, the grandson of Clovis, king of the Franks in the sixth century. His mother was St. Clotilde. After his two brothers were assassinated, he renounced all claims to the throne and became a hermit. Eventually he was ordained a priest. He was known for his wise counsel and ability to heal. His feast day is September 7.

Penitential Prayer of St. Ambrose

Lord, who has mercy upon all,
take away from me all my sins,
and mercifully kindle in me the fire of Thy Holy Spirit.
Take away the heart of stone,
and give me a heart of flesh,
a heart to love and adore Thee,
a heart to delight in Thee,
to follow and enjoy Thee, for Christ's sake. Amen.

*St Ambrose of Milan
(AD 339-397)*

Get Out Your 2009 Calendar

Fraternity of Priests Conference --April 26-29, 2009

The local Fraternity of Priests in the Archdiocese of Hartford is sponsoring a Fraternity Conference at St. Edmund's Retreat Center on Ender's Island in Mystic, Connecticut. This conference will cover the basic spirituality, history and vision of Fraternity of Priests. The conference is especially geared to priests who are interested in Fraternity of Priests, have recently begun attending a local Fraternity or would like to start a new Fraternity in their diocese. For more information, please contact Fr. Joe Looney at 203-266-5211.

Annual Fraternity Meeting -- August 2-7, 2009

This year's annual conference will be at the Notre Dame Mission Center in Ipswich, Massachusetts. This international gathering of priests is open to any member of the Fraternity of Priests.

Please mark your calendars now for the powerful, Spirit-filled week. More information will be forthcoming.

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

April 2009						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Rev. 1 James Lawrence Burlington, VT	Rev. 2 Donald Roy Burlington, VT	Rev. 3 Joseph Romano Burlington, VT	Rev. 4 Pope Benedict XVI
Rev. 5 Gerard LeClerc Burlington, VT	Rev. 6 David O'Donnell Cardiff, UK	Rev. 7 Barnabas Page Cardiff, UK	Rev. 8 Mark Rowles Cardiff, UK	Rev. 9 Michael Cronin Cardiff, UK	Rev. 10 Paul Millar Cardiff, UK	Rev. 11 David Myers IC Cardiff, UK
Rev. 12 Peter Reynolds IC Cardiff, UK	Rev. 13 Andy Bord Cardiff, UK	Rev. 14 James Kaniparampil CMI Cardiff, UK	Canon 15 John Griffiths Cardiff, UK	Rev. 16 Gregory Matus Cardiff, UK	Rev. 17 Matthew Jones Cardiff, UK	Rev. 18 John Fahy Cardiff, UK
Most Rev. 19 Peter Smith Cardiff, UK	Rev. 20 Donal Gillespie Cardiff, UK	Rev. 21 Barry English Cardiff, UK	Most Rev. 22 Donald Wuerl Episcopal Advisor	Most Rev. 23 Franc Kromberger Episcopal Advisor	Most Rev. 24 John Myers Episcopal Advisor	Most Rev. 25 Sam Jacobs D.D. Episcopal Advisor
Most Rev. 26 Paul Bemile Episcopal Advisor	Rev. 27 Donald Evrard Indianapolis, IN	Rev. 28 Albert Ajamie Indianapolis, IN	Rev. 29 Paul Landwerlen Indianapolis, IN	Rev. 30 Harold Kneuen Indianapolis, IN		

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Fraternity of Priests, Inc.
Franciscan University
Steubenville, OH 43952-9671
Phone: (740) 283-4400
Fax: (740) 283-3622
Email: contact@fraternityofpriests.org
<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

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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Dear Father Bill Cosgrove,
This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests.