



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

A New Way of Fishing

By Fr. Bill Cosgrove

Fr. William Cosgrove provides his insights this month with reflections from Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman.

There's a certain sense of comfort with the familiar. All of us have watched children having tantrums when their favorite dirty blanket has been taken from their tight grip just to be washed. Or, we might remember in that simple TV set of "All in the Family" how Archie's chair was the center of the set and all activity and conversation centered in and around that chair. The chair represented the unchangeableness of the occupant. Nothing was to be placed on it and no one, but Archie, was to sit in it. From that "throne" Archie Bunker ruled with an iron hand the lives of Edith, Gloria and Michael and baby Joey. Our favorite characters even in cartoons, like Dagwood, seem most comfortable when he is sleeping on his favorite couch. Undoubtedly, it is difficult to move from the familiar to the unfamiliar, from the old way of doing things to a new or different way of doing things; yet change we must.

Recall the gospel passage of Jesus calling Peter, James and John to cast their nets into the deep and find a catch. This call

came from Jesus while they were washing their nets and after they had spent a full night fishing without having any luck.

It is very clear that Peter, James and John were professional fisherman and knew the right times and right places for good fishing. Like horse racing and gambling there is always the element of luck. This was one of those unlucky days for Peter and company. Interestingly, Jesus, who had probably had limited knowledge of fishing, offered some advice that day. I can just imagine what tone Peter may have responded. On one hand, his first statement might have been cynical and yet the second half of the statement was filled with faith. Sometimes *we* are that way as well— sometimes cynical, sometimes faith-filled. What Jesus was doing was preparing Peter, James and John (and all of us) to think about a new kind of fish to catch, and to fish in places we may never have dreamed of before ("cast into the *deep* for a catch").

Peter was very familiar with the Sea of Galilee. How was he going to be open to a new form of fishing? Then grace broke through. After the great catch of fish at the command of Jesus to lower the nets, Peter become overwhelmingly aware of his sinfulness, and at the same time the unending graciousness of God

to call him to this new vocation. He would have to move out of his "comfort zone" into new and uncharted waters. He would remember the time the Master called him to come out of his boat and walk on the waters. He was doing fine until he took his eyes off the Master.

This call to "cast your nets into the deep waters" has been renewed in our time by Pope John Paul II. He commissioned the church to have a new zeal, new enthusiasm and use new methods for the new evangelization in the 21st century. We can't be content with the "same old, same old". As we conclude the first decade of the 21st century our Holy Father Pope Benedict has encouraged us to use all social networking websites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) to spread the gospel message. The fish have moved and the old "bait" doesn't work as it once did. We must go back to fishing school and rediscover that there is a new way to fish when you're responding to the Master's voice.

The significance of Peter's availability to accepting new ways is given to us by another dedicated priest who has recently received much attention. Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman (1801-1890) was a masterful preacher, influential thinker, fellow seeker and a man

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Dear Friends of the Priesthood

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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!

The fourth Thursday in November has been set aside as Thanksgiving Day in the United States. I have met people who say they like Thanksgiving better than Christmas. "There's less pressure", they say. From a secular point of view, they are correct. Thanksgiving is about family, feasting and football. Christmas often involves gift giving, shopping, money, people's feelings, et cetera.

I am not advocating doing away with Christmas. From our viewpoint, it is the dawning of our salvation! The long awaited Savior has come! (More next month!)

Though Thanksgiving is a low pressure civil holiday, its original intent has a Christian basis. Beginning in 1621, American pilgrims and succeeding generations have thanked God for his providential care. It would be well for us to embrace St. Paul's mandate: "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (I Thessalonians 5:23) Our lives are to be one great big *thanksgiving to God!!!*

As Catholic Christians we ought to be the most grateful people in the world. We are graced with faith in God, salvation in Jesus Christ, the sacraments that communicate God's life to us, and the Church that guides in the truth of God. Beyond these spiritual gifts, there are many other reasons to thank God: food, clothing, shelter, the people in our lives, answered prayers, et cetera.

As priests, we are the cheerleaders of the Church, witnessing to gratitude and summoning our people to follow suit. For sure, there are times when a priest can feel overwhelmed, frustrated or even discouraged. However, the graces and privileges of our way of life outweigh its challenges.

As Fraternity members, we have much to be grateful for. Besides the gift of our vocation, we can thank God for the holy way of life he has given us through the Fraternity disciplines. We are grateful for our brother priests who challenge us to grow and support us in our struggles. We can also

thank the Lord for our mission: to renew the Church in the power of the Holy Spirit.

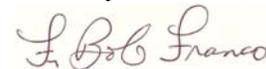
Yet, in spite of the blessings our faith, vocations and the material

goods we share, it is easy for us to become overwhelmed by the difficulties of our time. Our world is violent. Our economy is sluggish. Our culture is less Christian. Even some of our Catholic family and friends have abandoned the practice of their faith.

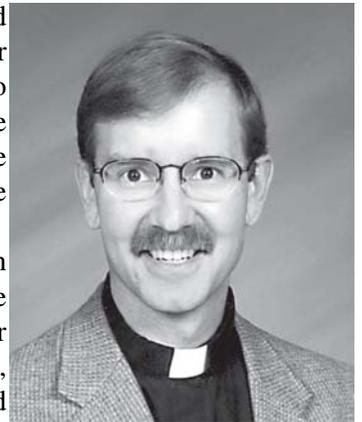
Yet we need to give thanks! How we need to look to Jesus! We cannot let the weariness of this age blind us to many ways we have been graced!

On this Thanksgiving Day, I will give thanks at the altar of the Lord for you who support Fraternity of Priests by your prayers and donations. Your concern fuels our mission of "gathering priests to Christ and to one another." May the Lord abundantly bless you!

Sincerely in Christ,



Father Bob Franco



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: **\$5,033.00**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **\$283.00**

Current as of September 30, 2010.

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who discovered new ways of evangelization in his century. He reflects on this same call to the Fisherman. "Peter was called from his nets as Matthew from his office and Elisha from his farm. We are all in course of calling, having no resting-place, but mounting toward our eternal rest. Often we do not understand that His call is a thing that takes place now. We do not have eyes to see the Lord, for different than the beloved Apostle, who knew Christ even when the rest of the disciples knew Him not. When He stood on the shore after His resurrection, and bade them cast the net into the sea, 'that disciple whom Jesus loved said unto Peter, It is the Lord'.

"Now what I mean is this: that they who are living religiously, have from time to time truths they did not know before, or had no need to consider, brought before them forcibly; truths which involve duties, which are in fact precepts, and claim obedience. In this and such-like ways Christ calls us now. There is nothing miraculous or extraordinary in His dealings with us. He works through our natural faculties and circumstances of life. Still what happens to us in providence is in all respects what His voice was to those whom He addressed when on earth: whether He commands by visible presence, or by voice, or by conscience, it matters not, so that we feel it to be a command. If it is a command, it may be

obeyed or disobeyed; it may be accepted as Samuel or St. Paul accepted it, or put aside after the manner of the young man who was not ready to venture on to something new.

"Many persons will find it very striking on looking back on their past lives, to observe what different notions they entertained at different periods, of what Divine truth was, what was the way of pleasing God, and what things were allowable or not, what excellence was, and what happiness. I do not scruple to say, that these differences may be as great as that which may be supposed to have existed between St. Peter's state of mind when quietly fishing on the lake" (and then called to a new way of fishing).

"...Only one is the truth and the perfect truth; and which that is, none know but those who are in possession of it, if even they. But God knows which it is; and toward that one and only truth He is leading us forward. He is leading forward His redeemed, He is training His elect, one and all, to the one perfect knowledge and obedience of Christ; not, however, without their cooperation, but by means of calls which they are to obey, and which if they do not obey, they lose place, and fall behind in their heavenly course. We pass from one state of knowledge to another; we are introduced into a higher region from a lower; by listening to Christ's call and obeying it."

Fr. Bill Cosgrove is a member of the New York Fraternity and has recently returned to service on the Board of the Fraternity of Priests.

Thanksgiving Grace

God our Father,

We acknowledge that all the good we have comes from your hand.

We thank you for providing us with food, family and friends that sustain us on earth.

We are especially grateful for the faith we share in Jesus Christ, who leads us to eternal life.

Help us to live as faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus.

May we serve Him in those around us, especially in the needy.

We offer you our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Another reason to be thankful!

Please join us as we congratulate Archbishop Donald Weurl of Washington D.C., one of our Episcopal Advisors, on his selection as Cardinal by Pope Benedict XVI. His elevation will take place on November 20th in Rome. We are grateful that the Lord has continued to lead holy men forward to serve the church. May God continue to bless our new Cardinal and grant him strength and wisdom as he leads the faithful!

Please send us your prayer intentions: _____

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

December 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Rev. 1 Lewis Papera <i>Newark, NJ</i>	Rev. 2 Stephen Toth <i>Newark, NJ</i>	Rev. 3 Paul Lehman <i>Newark, NJ</i>	Pope Benedict XVI 4
Rev. Msgr 5 John Demkovich <i>Newark, NJ</i>	Rev. 6 Brendan Murray <i>Newark, NJ</i>	Rev. 7 Timothy Graff <i>Newark, NJ</i>	Rev. 8 Eugene Bettinger, O.Carm. <i>Newark, NJ</i>	Rev. 9 John Gordon <i>Newark, NJ</i>	Rev. 10 Paul Cannariato <i>Newark, NJ</i>	Rev. 11 William Halbing <i>Newark, NJ</i>
Rev. 12 Joseph Meagher <i>Newark, NJ</i>	Rev. 13 Paul O'Donnel Duggan <i>Newark, NJ</i>	Rev. 14 John Primich <i>Newark, NJ</i>	Rev. 15 Jeff Kegley <i>Newark, NJ</i>	Rev. 16 Joseph Fitzpatrick <i>New York, NY</i>	Msgr. 17 Leslie Ivers <i>New York, NY</i>	Rev. 18 William Cosgrove <i>New York, NY</i>
Rev. 19 Tom Devery <i>New York, NY</i>	Rev. 20 Richard Champigny O.Carm. <i>New York, NY</i>	Msgr. 21 James Cassidy <i>New York, NY</i>	Rev. 22 Francis Coryer <i>Ogdensburg, NY</i>	Rev. 23 Alan Shnob <i>Ogdensburg, NY</i>	Rev. 24 Joe Muldoon <i>Ottawa, Canada</i>	Rev. 25 Tom Sparacino <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>
Rev. 26 Thomas Gavin <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	Rev. 27 Thomas Federline <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	Rev. 28 Nicholas Mastrangelo <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	Rev. 29 John Sweeney <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	Rev. 30 Thomas Kredel <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	Rev. 31 Robert Boyle <i>Pittsburgh, PA</i>	

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

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Street _____

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

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

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