



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

# THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

## Living Secure in an Insecure World

By Fr. Bill Cosgrove

This past month we marked the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on America. As we move forward in our country's history, I thought it would be a good idea to reflect on how one lives **secure** in a very **insecure** world. It seems as insecurities abound in American life, whether it's from a local earthquake or hurricane this past summer or the topsy-turvy nature of the stock market and the sluggishness of the employment issue. Wherever we turn insecurities seem to abound.

America has developed an industry just around our fears and insecurities. We have, in addition to Social Security (which is relatively insecure), established home security systems, identity theft systems and terrorist alert systems. This past summer my own insecurities caused me to invest myself in the LifeLock System. In a society surrounded by security systems, we are some of the most insecure people in the world. It seems that we no sooner create a new security system that someone doesn't come along and "hack" into the system thereby destroying its newly designed security apparatus.

The world we live in is insecure in many ways. Like the early Christians we grow insecure when we hear of wars and rumors

of wars (or terrorist attacks), when we hear of powerful earthquakes, famines in Somalia and Kenya and a potential plague outbreak.

Imagine the fears and insecurities of the earthquake victims of Haiti or the Christians that endure persecution in various parts of the world. Amidst the threats of terrorist attacks, wars and insurrections, Jesus counsels us that we should not allow ourselves to be terrified.

In the gospel of Matthew Jesus seems to have a foreknowledge of the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. He indicates that there will come a day when not a stone will be left on a stone. Many times the destruction of iconic objects and persons does not occur all at once but one stone at a time is being taken from the structure until there is almost a complete collapse.

All of us get accustomed to certain person, places, rituals, and things around us. We've grown up with them. They have been in our family, our community or our church for centuries sometimes. Then the "day" comes when one thing at a time is taken from us and we are left living very insecure.

At the International Charismatic Congress that was held in St. Peter's Basilica in May 1975 a prophecy came forward saying: "I want to prepare you for what is to come.

Days of darkness are coming on the world, days of tribulation... The buildings that are now standing will not be standing; supports that are there for my people now will not be there. I want you to be prepared, my people, to know only me and to cleave to me in a way deeper than ever before. I will lead you into the desert... I will strip you of everything that you are depending on now, so you depend just on me. A time of darkness is coming on the world, the time of glory is coming for my church, a time of glory is coming for my people. I will pour out on you all the gifts of my spirit. I will prepare you for spiritual combat; I will prepare you for a time of evangelism that the world has never seen... And when you have nothing but me, you will have everything: land, fields, homes, and brothers and sisters love and joy and peace more than ever before. Be ready, my people, I want to prepare you..."

So where is the security in an insecure world? Certainly, not in the systems made by man. Jesus Christ gives us his answer in the gospel when he says "by your perseverance you will secure your lives."

We can be robbed of much even with our antitheft and security systems. We can even be hated and

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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](mailto: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 trite (but true) adage “The only constant in life is change” sums up one of the facts of life on earth. Everything changes: the weather, the economy, our relationships, our age—nothing remains constant for too long.

The Catholic English speaking world is preparing for a big change in the way we celebrate the Mass. With the promulgation of **The Roman Missal**, the words to our prayers will be different. The new prayers will reflect a new principle of interpretation. The **Sacramentary**, which will be officially retired on with the vigil mass of the First Sunday of Advent, was translated using the principle of *dynamic equivalency*—translating from the Latin into English *idea for idea*.

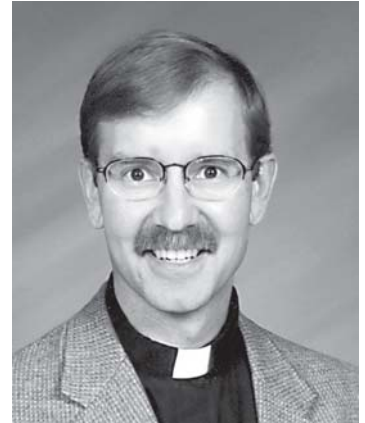
**The Roman Missal** employed a principle called *literal equivalency*. This means that the Latin was translated into English closer to word for word. Literal equivalency will keep biblical imagery and phrases from the patristic writings from being “lost in the translation.” Our new translation of the Mass will reflect the sacred scriptures and early church writings in a clearer manner.

The catch phrase that sums up the wording of The Roman Missal is, “Same Mass, New Words, Deeper Meaning.” The Mass is and always will be the “representation of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary to the Father” and “Source and Summit” of the Christian life. However, this new phrasing of the Mass will be able to help us connect with these realities in a fuller manner.

As we embrace these realities next month, let us pray for a spirit of openness for both the laity and the clergy. Though many of the responses for the congregation will change, almost all of the Mass will change for the priests and deacons. Please pray for us! Both clergy and laity will need to practice this unbiblical but nonetheless helpful beatitude, “Blessed are the flexible, for they will not get bent out of shape.”

Also, as we approach November 2, All Souls Day, I want to take a moment to

eulogize Fr. Joseph Heany, a Fraternity member in Providence, Rhode Island, who died at the age of 90 on St Patrick's Day, 2011.



I became acquainted with Fr. Joe over twenty five years ago. In many ways Fr. Joe was the epitome of the Fraternity ideals. Like St. Dominic, he seemed to be either speaking to the Lord or about the Lord. He loved the Lord in an unashamed manner. Fr. Joe exuded a quiet joy and peace, with a genuine love of people, in particular his brother priests.

As we approach this day in which we especially commend our deceased loved ones to the Lord, let us remember the priests who have served us during our earthly journey. May these living instruments of Jesus Christ reign with him forever.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. 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**

Actual Donations: **\$2,783**

Budget Surplus (shortage): **(\$1,967)**

Current as of August 31, 2011.

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our bodies destroyed, but **persevering in the faith** in the midst of doubts, confusions, in the midst of the scandals, persecutions of the church around the world earthquakes, cholera epidemics and terrorist threats, this is the source of our strength.

A Word of Encouragement to Our Lay Associates

How does one actively persevere in the faith during insecure times? First, there must be a daily regimen of prayer. Prayer is like water to the soul. When in the desert, if we do not have water, we will wither up and die. Thus, establishing a daily regimen of prayer, becomes the one primary source of perseverance in the faith that has been handed down to us from the beginning of Christianity. Secondly, we must take the opportunity to celebrate Eucharist frequently. As Catholics, we must go beyond merely observing our Sunday obligation. Just as we take vitamins to enhance our regular diet of food, so we must also seek the various opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist many times throughout our week. Thirdly service to the parish community and in our town enables us to put our faith in action. We Christians believe in an incarnate God, a God who took on flesh in our world. Persevering in the faith means making our faith take flesh and the lives of the people around us. Fourth, if we are to persevere in our faith we must also grow in our faith. We should take every

opportunity in our parishes to enhance our knowledge and understanding of the faith through the various adult faith formation programs that might be offered. Finally we must continually seek God’s guidance and direction through annual retreats in regular spiritual direction. One cannot and must not rely upon our own wisdom. Times apart and away from our home and regular routine is essential. Seeking out a spiritual director to guide us on our journey of faith will enable us to make sure that we do not make any wrong moves on our journey of faith.

In Psalm 18:2 it says: “the Lord is my rock, my fortress and deliverer”. These words are clearly designed to support and encourage a believer who’s going through difficult and insecure times. If you were to review the Scriptures, I would daresay that the majority of the Scriptures passages were written in times of disruption, transition, doubt and confusion. In many ways our times are no different. When going through days of darkness and days of tribulation, as the 1975 prophecy indicated, we must claim the truth of the passage from Psalm 18. One of the great praise and worship hymns, says: “On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.”

So when we live in an insecure world, **our one and only security is Christ**. We must walk in faith persevere in faith. It is there that we will find ourselves living secure in an insecure world.

## Prophecy: New York Fraternity of Priests August 18, 2011

Be not afraid. Open wide your hearts to my unfailing love. I call you to the victory of justice and all spiritual warfare plaguing my people at this time.

Lift up holy hands in my sanctuary. I want to fill you to overflowing with my gifts of mercy, trust and peace. I know how lukewarm you have become. I know how fearful and despondent the signs of the times are. Will I not more than supply your needs? Will I ever abandon you? Don’t abandon me, don’t trust the false choices of this passing world. Be grounded, be re-rooted, be strong in my sacraments, in your prayer and your loving deeds of kindness.

Abandon yourself to me completely and I will lead and direct you in this fight.

### Editor’s Note -

Many of us took time in September to reflect on the tragedy of 9/11 and about the frailty of our human existence. If you have other prophecy or words of wisdom revealed to you, please forward them that we might share them with the global fraternity members and our lay supporters.

Thank you!

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

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# 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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