

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING FOR A PRIEST EACH DAY!

November 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 For prayer requests received	2 For our Holy Father, Pope Francis
3 Rev. Greg Downs Alexandria, LA	4 Dcn. Norman Gremillion Alexandria, LA	5 Rev. Harold Imamshah Alexandria, LA	6 Rev. Silverino Kwebuza Alexandria, LA	7 For the souls of our deceased FOP members	8 Rev. Martin Laird Alexandria, LA	9 Rev. Ron Matthews Alexandria, LA
10 Rev. John O'Brien Alexandria, LA	11 Rev. John Pardue Alexandria, LA	12 Rev. Thomas Paul Alexandria, LA	13 Msgr. John Mraz Allentown, PA	14 Rev. George Winne Allentown, PA	15 Rev. John Brennan Boston, MA	16 Rev. Robert Carr Boston, MA
17 Rev. William Carroll Boston, MA	18 Rev. Donald Clinton Boston, MA	19 Rev. Volney DeRosia Boston, MA	20 Dcn. Paul Dow Boston, MA	21 Rev. Gerry Fraser Boston, MA	22 Rev. Patrick Gilbert Boston, MA	23 Dcn. Chuck Hall Boston, MA
24 Rev. Richard Kelley Boston, MA	25 Rev. John Kiley Boston, MA	26 Rev. Maurice Laroche Boston, MA	27 Rev. Jurgen Lias Boston, MA	28 Rev. Paul McManus Boston, MA	29 Rev. Thomas Reilly Boston, MA	30 Rev. Chris Wallace Boston, MA

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.

Fraternity of Priests, Inc.  
PO Box 442  
Steubenville, OH 43952-5442

Email: [contact@fraternityofpriests.org](mailto:contact@fraternityofpriests.org)  
<http://www.fraternityofpriests.org>

Please cut and return this form with your donation.

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

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Dear Fr. Von DeRosia,  
This donation is to help the Fraternity of Priests in continuing their work of ministering to priests. 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-fully and wisely, and not to ask for money that is not needed.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$  Other  \$10  \$25  \$50  \$100



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

THE VISITATION

A monthly publication of the Fraternity of Priests, Inc.

The Southwest USA Advent Season

By Fr. Ray Ratzenberger, Tucson Fraternity

Now that we are in the Fall Season, we look forward to a new liturgical year. Catholics celebrate the same holidays universally throughout the whole world, such as Christmas. However, each culture celebrates these events in its unique way. Here I want to share with you how we prepare for Christmas in Tucson.

The official liturgical year starts with Advent, but not in the Southwest. Our year starts with "El Dia De Los Muertos" which falls on November 2nd. This holiday has a mixture of indigenous and Hispanic aspects.

Native American and Spanish cultures influenced Tucson. The Hohokham (believed to be the ancestors of the Aztecs) and their descendants, the Tohono O'odham Tribe, have had a presence here for at least 8,000 years. The first Spanish arrived in our area in 1540 A.D. with the explorer Coronado. Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino, a Jesuit missionary, came to "Pimeria Alta", the Spanish designation of our area, in 1691 A.D. He established San Xavier Mission in 1692 A.D. The Spanish established a fort in "Ts-iuk-shan" (Tucson) in 1775.

El Dia De Los Muertos

Preparations for El Dia De Los Muertos take some time. People go to the cemeteries to tidy and decorate the graves. Street vendors sell all kinds of decorations, such as wreaths made out of paper, gargar skeletons, and representations of

the dead. Even Walmart sells them. Some people bring food and drinks to place on the graves. On the 2nd, families gather in the cemetery to celebrate the memory of their beloved deceased. The city also has a great celebration with a parade of costumed people dressed as skeletons, other disguises, and floats. It's like a macabre "Carnival". Even the non-hispanic people join in.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

One would think the next great celebration would be the The Immaculate Conception, December 8, the Patron of the US, but it is not. Our Lady of Guadalupe, on December 12, surpasses it. People celebrate with a special Mass and processions for the vigil. There are parties in homes to watch the celebrations in Mexico City on TV. On the 12th masses are full. It is really a two day event. Then the Christmas Season begins.

Las Posadas

For me, Christmas has to include Las Posadas, otherwise it is not Christmas. It usually begins the day after Our Lady of Guadalupe, and lasts for 9 days, a novena. Families of the parish volunteer to host it. There should be at least 27 families involved. Each night the people gather at the church and caravan to the first home to visit. The people represent Joseph and Mary on their journey to Bethlehem. They carry an "Andame" in procession. It is a little shrine carried on poles with statues

of St. Joseph with Mary mounted on a donkey. Sometimes there are actors and real animals involved.

They come to the first house, ring the doorbell, and begin singing a song that represents St. Joseph asking for "posada" a place to stay. There is a sung response, and they are rejected. They then go to the next house, and are turned away again. Then finally they are invited to stay in the last home visited. Everyone enters and the "Andame" is placed in an area of respect, and the party begins. There are Christmas carols, punch and dessert to share. The "Andame" stays until the next evening and is a central point for family devotions.

We also have peculiar Christmas decorations. "Luminarios" line driveways and the tops of walls. They are candles placed inside paper bags partially filled with sand, to keep them upright. We also decorate cactus, especially the Saguaro, the iconic towering cactus. Saguaros start growing arms when they reach 70 years old. Old ones look like people. So people put faces on them, with a Santa Claus cap, because we do not have snow for a snowman. People also like to spin Christmas lights around their trunks and arms.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is a time for family, and Midnight Mass. We usually gather at the patriarchal home and share our favorite dishes, and of course tamales. Every family has their own special ...continued on page 3

# Dear Fraternity Brothers and Friends of the Priesthood

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Please send articles, comments, and photos to the FOP Newsletter editor, Fr. Bob Carr, via e-mail to [editor@fraternityofpriests.org](mailto:editor@fraternityofpriests.org)

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

People have handed me many different books lately – *The Grunt Padre* (Fr. Daniel L. Mode, CMJ Marian Publishers), *In Sinu Jesu* (A Benedictine Monk, Angelico Press), *The Priests We Need to Save the Church* (Kevin Wells, Sophia Press), just to name a few – and it seems they all speak about our need to share in both the priesthood and victimhood of Christ. As Jesus was Priest-Victim, all Christians, but especially we in the ministerial priesthood, must be Priest-Victim.

A priest offers something holy to God. What was Jesus' holy offering? *Himself*. He was the victim – the spotless lamb. A priest is called to offer Christ to the Father... but also to offer *himself*. At the consecration, we say, "FOR THIS IS *MY* BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU" (*Roman Missal*, emphasis added). By our priesthood, we offer Christ and ourselves to God the Father.

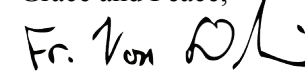
Being Priest-Victim means that we were NOT made to wallow in comfort; God made us for love and true love requires sacrifice. Matthew Kelly notes that in our modern culture, we are addicted to comfort and allergic to sacrifice (see *Rediscover the Saints*). Are we willing to sacrifice? Are we willing to offer up little renunciations for love of Jesus and for others? Are we willing to give up our comfort for the sake of Christ and His people?

When God calls a man to be a priest, the Lord invites him into a special intimacy – we not only hold His Body and Blood in our hands, we are ontologically conformed to Christ the Head of the Church. Jesus is *longing, thirsting* for our friendship, for union, and He calls us to be intimate with Him. Yet, it is far too easy to let the "rites and duties" of the priest become "ho-hum." When that happens, instead of awe and wonder at the gift of God that is our vocation, we easily slip into seeing priesthood as a job. Then we start looking for ways to fill our needs that do not include Jesus; we seek out fleeting pleasures, illicit relationships, and selfish pastimes. And Jesus weeps, for His Heart is aching for intimacy with us.

In this time of continued turmoil in the Church, God is calling us to make reparation for the sins of priests – to sacrifice for priests. We have the opportunity to help priests be holy. Those of us who are part of the Fraternity of Priests made a commitment to pray at least one hour per day. We can use this time, offering it for those priests who no longer pray – and we become sacrificial victims offered to the Father in reparation for them. I think of the prayer the Angel taught the children of Fatima "My God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you; I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you" – we love Christ for those priests who have lost their love, we pray for those priests who do not pray. By this, we become conduits of grace to bring conversion to cold and tepid priests.

In this time, God is calling for a renewal of the priesthood. Brothers, let us courageously take up our role a Priest-Victim, offering ourselves in prayer, in sacrifice to the Father, in union with Christ, for a renewal of the priesthood.

Grace and Peace,



Fr. Von DeRosia

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 thank those many faithful benefactors who help make our service possible. Thank you!

### Fraternity Financial Report

Monthly Donation Budget: \$ 4,750.00

Actual Donations: \$ 3,027.00

Budget Deficit: \$ 1,723.00

Current as of August 31, 2019.



...continued from page 1

recipe for their tamales. They are made with "masa" which is cornmeal wrapped in

corn husks. The masa can include spiced meat, and or jalapeños and cheese. Then they are steam cooked. Families spend all day making many dozens to share. The custom is to share tamales throughout the Christmas Season. Priests usually get a lot. My freezer usually has a stockpile of them.

It was fun for me to reflect on Southwestern culture. In whatever way you celebrate, I hope you enjoy a wonderful and blessed Advent.

Our Lady Aparecida, Brazil and the USA

by Fr. Robert J Carr

If you ever worked with a Brazilian Catholic community, you learn quickly of Nossa Senhora Aparecida [Our Lady Appeared].

She is the patroness of Brazil and unlike other Marian devotions, this one is not of an apparition but of a statue of unknown origins. In the 1717, three black men Domingos Garcia, João Alves e Filipe Pedroso were fishing in the Paraíba do Sul River and catching nothing. It was October, usually a fertile time for fishing. Continuing their attempts, they cast their nets in the river again. They caught no fish, but rather a headless statue that was at best a curiosity. It was made of black material and may be was resting on the bottom of the river. Throwing their nets again, they caught the head and put it together to reveal an image of the Virgin Mary whom they previously asked to bless their efforts. Then, fish jumped into the boat and filled it.

It is a unique 'apparition' because Mary does not appear but her

permanent image does in the form of this statue. It is to this day in Brazil in the city of Aparecida located in Sao Paulo State. The actual origin of the statue remains unknown. However, it is of the Immaculate Conception.

There is a unique quality of the Statue for those of us in the United States, the Immaculate Conception is the patroness of the USA. This gives the statue a unique connection between these two countries almost on opposite ends of the American continent. Therefore, it is a call to unity between United States and Brazilian Catholics.

If you enter a parish and see a black statue of Mary, wrapped in a black mantle with symbols of the Brazilian and Vatican flag, you are looking at the image of Our Lady Aparecida. You know that you have entered a parish with a Brazilian community.

In my own parish, I discovered that the Brazilians would put out the statue of Our Lady Aparecida during their masses. It stood about one foot high on a pedestal to the left of the altar as I looked at it. However, when I went to celebrate mass in English, it was not there, but moved to a side altar. Finally, I asked why and learned that this was what they were told to do at one time. That, I explained was coming to an end. It is because Our Lady Aparecida really has that significance for both countries. Further, because she is also black, and is part of the history of the Afro-Brazilians, cannot she also be part of the history of Afro-Americans? The term Afro-American after all would refer to all Americans from Northern Canada to Tierra Del Fuego who trace their ancestry to the African continent, as did those who discovered her.

There is a great story that seems to be similar one connected to the other

'Black Madonna' which is in Poland— Our Lady of Czestochowa. The Brazilian story is that of a prominent atheist who lived near the church built for the image. He decided he wanted to stop this devotion and attack the statue. He rode his horse planning to ride it into the Church but found that the horse would go no further than the front porch. It just stopped outside and refused to enter. That surprise was part of the catalyst that led that militant atheist to conversion to Catholicism.

In Poland robbers tried to steal the image of Our lady of Czestochowa, but when they put it in the cart to wheel it away, likewise the horses refused to move.

Today, the Shrine of Our Lady Aparecida stands prominently in the city of Aparecida. Recently, it was designated as the Cathedral for the diocese.

Having visited the shrine several times, I say that it contains one of the most unique places in the entire world. It is called the Sala de Promesas [Hall of Promises] and it contains thousands of artifacts left by the faithful in celebration of prayers answered. Most of them tell stories of miracles that happened in their lives and how the artifact is a symbol of it. It may be a doll of a doctor with a story of how someone was healed in a hospital from an incurable disease. Sports stars leave mementos in thanksgiving for their successful careers and so much more. The ceiling is papered with photos that likewise symbolize such miraculous events.

Our Lady of Aparecida is a devotion not as well known outside of the Brazilian community, but it has an US connection and is a powerful reminder of the unity of the Catholic Church.

Reference: *Encontro de Nossa Senhora Aparecida* <https://aparecidadonorte.org/nossa-senhora-aparecida/>

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

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