



Sapientia

Newsletter of the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy

Volume XL

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Apostles of Vocation

From the Year of St. Paul to the Year for Priests: Underlining Mission

*His Excellency the Most Reverend Mauro Piacenza
Secretary of the Congregation for the Clergy*

Dear brothers in the Priesthood,

The ministry which Our Lord Jesus Christ has, through the Church, entrusted to us, sees its most particular and irreplaceable expression in the *Munus Sanctificandi*. This is made real in the celebration of the “mysteries of Christ” which, again in an essential manner, engage, one could almost say “consume”, the best energies of the apostolate.

This “celebration” in which we are engaged is not “other” to the active apostolate and the mission: the Work of God is accomplished through the very sanctification of His people. This work “occurs” in the celebration of His mysteries, which are encountered with created freedom. Too often the truth has been overlooked that it is exactly through the celebration of the mysteries that the Salvation brought about by Christ the Lord is perennially actuated.

The Church asks her ministers to celebrate “faithfully and religiously”. The two adjectives signify, respectively, the interior and exterior attitude of the celebrations. *Pietas*, that noble human sentiment, far from indicating an empty devotionism, brings one immediately to that high sense of nobility and religiosity, of recognition and respect for the Sacred which must characterise the exercise of the *Munus Sanctificandi*. Piety and devotion - according to its proper meaning as a vowed offering of one’s life - are sentiments that are typical of the one who truly loves the Lord and who handles “His things” with that respect and tenderness which the heart, without any pressure, naturally gives to the Beloved. Faithfulness is determined both by the respect given to the forms established by the Church, by which the mysteries are to be celebrated, forms that are objective and universal, never arbitrary or tailored according to local or personal emotive exigencies, and by

**SAY THE BLACK
DO THE RED**

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Member News

Going Back to School

Rev. Fr. Kenneth Brighenti, PhD, was recently appointed to the faculty of Mount Saint Mary Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland as an Assistant Professor and Spiritual Director. He had just served as pastor for eight years at Saint Ann Parish, Raritan, New Jersey when his bishop, the Most Rev. Paul Bootkoski, granted permission for him to accept the invitation from Archbishop Edwin O’Brien of Baltimore and Rev. Msgr. Steven Rohlfs (rector) to serve in seminary formation.

Father Ken was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey, on May 28th, 1988. He attended Holy Apostles Seminary for college and Mary Immaculate Seminary (Northampton, PA) and Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University, NJ. Besides doing parish work as a parochial vicar for thirteen years, he also served ten years as a Naval Reserve Chaplain. Father Brighenti also co-authored several books (*Catholicism for Dummies*, *Women in the Bible for Dummies*, *John Paul II for Dummies*, *Everything Bible Book*, *Catholicism Answer Book*, *Marriage as Covenant*) and three weekly series on EWTN.

We wish him well in his new assignment and endeavor and may Our Lady Queen of the Clergy and Mother of Priests guide and protect all our priests, deacons and seminarians in formation especially during this Year for Priests. ✠

CCC Annual Convocation

JAN. 4th – 8th

Rome, Italy

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the “constancy” with which they are celebrated. The Liturgy, which is above all a divine act, does not live by “creative subjectivity” but by “faithful repetition” which never burdens us because it is the sign, in space and time, of the faithfulness of God himself. True creativity is really that of the heart which is always renewed because it is in love.

The mysteries are celebrated “for the glory of God and the sanctification of God's people”: it is not a casual order of factors which surely remain co-essential. We celebrate always “for the glory of God”, that is to say interiorly turned towards the Lord, in that verticality which is proper to the celebratory action, a window thrown open to eternity and an irruption of the Eternal in time. The priest, more than being the “animator” of prayer must be one who prays: prayer, in fact, is “animated” by actually praying and by demonstrating in concrete things its irreplaceable centrality. “For the glory of God” also means recognising the Glory of the Lord in divine worship: the care of the liturgy, the choice of chant and music, the preparation of the altar, the beauty of vestments and furnishings, all speak of who we are, to whom we belong, and what is at the core of our being; it all speaks of Who we are praying to and what we are truly celebrating. All this descends like gently falling rain and “refreshing dew”, upon the Holy People of God, for whose good the mysteries of the Lord are celebrated “for sanctification”! The life of the Priest is profoundly “cultic” so that all the baptised may, by means of the ordained ministry, succeed in offering to God their own being as “a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Eph. 5:2).

All this “as the Church has handed them down to us”. The efficaciousness and, indeed, the validity of the celebration of the mysteries consists in this: that they be “as the Church has handed them down to us”: within in a history of two millennia which, above and beyond every particular period, has in Jesus Christ its proper origin and, through His permanence in the world by means of the Church, has its meaning. We receive a precious inheritance from the past and we are called to hand it on (*tradere*) intact to our brethren with all its richness and, when the Spirit and supernatural Grace allow, enriched by our faith and testimony.

This verticality, piety, faithfulness and obedience to the ecclesial Tradition are an authentic guarantee of the realisation of the Priest, who is such in order to “celebrate the mysteries of Christ”.

From the Vatican, 15th August 2009

✠ Mauro Piacenza
Titular Archbishop of Vittoriana
Secretary

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CCC Annual Convocation

JANUARY 4th – 8th, 2010

ROME, ITALY

Celebrating the *Year for Priests*

Historic Joint Gathering of Australian CCC & American CCC

Monday 4th January - Arrive at Casa Bonus Pastor.
Conference registration from 12Noon-4pm, with formal
welcome & opening at 4pm.

The program includes the daily celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the
Mass in the great basilicas, and on some days Vespers and
Benediction.

Our celebrants will include:

His Eminence, William Cardinal Levada
His Eminence, Antonio Cardinal Canizares
His Eminence, James Cardinal Stafford
His Excellency Archbishop Raymond Burke
His Excellency Archbishop Mauro Piacenza
*His Excellency Archbishop Timothy Dolan** (tentative)

Deo volente, we hope to be at the Holy Father's Mass on the
Solemnity of Epiphany, January 6th

The daily schedule provides for both free time and also evening
'convivium' promoting fraternity among the brethren

Our speakers will include:

Rev. Msgr. Anthony McDaid
Perspectives of the Priesthood in recent times

Rev. Fr. Joseph Carola, SJ
*Three Patristic Texts on the Priesthood: Gregory Nazianzus' De Fuga,
John Chrysostom's Six Books on the Priesthood and Gregory the
Great's Pastoral Care*

Rev. Fr. Uwe Michael Lang
*Liturgy and Language: The "Sacral Vernacular" (Liturgiam
authenticam 47) of the new English Translation of the Roman Missal*

Rev. Fr. Paul Murray, OP
Preaching to Priests: Wisdom from the Middle Ages

Rev. Fr. P. Gunter, OSB
The Genius of the Roman Rite in the identity of the priest

Friday January 8th - Conference concludes with an
excursion to the delightful town of Bagnoregio, birthplace
of St Bonaventure, north of Rome

ALL FEES/PAYMENTS MUST BE PREPAID AT REGISTRATION WITH THE ACCC SECRETARIAT
THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR PAYMENT ON ARRIVAL

Early Bird Registration closes on **Fri. 25 Sep. 2009 = \$820 USD** (\$950 AUD)
Registrations close **Tue. 3 Nov. 2009 = \$905 USD** (\$1,050 AUD)

CONFERENCE FEES INCLUDE
ACCOMMODATION AT CASA BONUS PASTOR
JAN. 4 – 8, 2010 & IN-HOUSE MEALS ONLY

CONFERENCE FEES EXCLUDE
AIRFARES & GROUND TRANSPORTATION COSTS

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE via the INTERNET at
www.yearforpriests-clergyconferenceroome2010.org

If you do not have internet web access, please contact:

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From the President

Rev. John Trigilio, PhD, ThD

As we mentioned in our last issue and at this summer's past convocation, our 2010 meeting is in ROME to commemorate the **YEAR FOR PRIESTS**. Although the Vatican has invited all priests to attend the closing ceremonies in June, we already made plans with our Australian CCC brethren to have our event in January. While the June one will be universal, it will also be much hotter, more expensive and more crowded. Our gathering will be smaller, less expensive and more intimate as it will just be the Americans, Canadians, Australians and some fellow clergy from Great Britain and Ireland. Hence, the talks at our event will be in ENGLISH. Since many priests and deacons have weddings, graduations, ordinations, first Masses, transfers, etc., in June, we feel our January meeting will be easier all the way around.

Please register ONLINE A.S.A.P. We just got the information from 'down under' so it is literally hot off the presses. You can use your credit card to register or get someone in your parish, deanery or diocese to help you. We have no way of registering anyone on this side of the Atlantic or Pacific. You must also make your own travel arrangements: airfare and transport from airport to *Casa Bonus Pastor*. Conference Fees only cover room and board for the event. Some of you may want to come a few days (week) earlier or later and enjoy the time to visit more leisurely the holy places of the Eternal City. If possible, I recommend you do. Remember, you are responsible for finding your own accommodations before/after our conference. *Casa Bonus Pastor* MAY or may NOT be able to provide a room outside our scheduled visit.

Need help making airline reservations and/or want to stay a few days earlier/later? You might consider the services of a travel agent. Someone Fr. Ken Brighenti and I have used before and HIGHLY recommend is **Lou Falconeri** from the **Fratelli and Company** (www.fratellicandcompany.com) or e-mail him at louis@fratelliandcompany.com or phone him at **908-766-8994**. He can arrange for hotel accommodations before/after our event, flight reservations, side-trips and excursions, etc.

This special and extraordinary meeting in January 2010 will be our only one until the summer of July 2011 when we tentatively go to Chicago and visit Mundelein for our clergy conference.

Annual dues (\$35) can now be paid online

www.catholic-clergy.org

