

Memento



THE PRIESTLY FRATERNITY OF ST. PETER

ORDINATION ISSUE
JULY 2022

Laudetur Jesus Christus!

A number of people have asked me what the Fraternity of St. Peter is looking for with respect to vocations. I think it is especially fitting to consider this topic in this Ordination issue of the *Memento*. It will be helpful to understand first of all what a vocation is. The word “vocation” comes from the Latin word *vocare*: to call. St. Paul urges us to lead a life “worthy of the calling to which you have been called”—that is, as Christians (Eph. 4:1). God calls each and every one of us to holiness of life. An individual Christian, however, may achieve this holiness of life either as a member of the religious state, the clerical state, the married state, or the single state.

In the words of Pope St. John Paul II: “Along with God’s universal call to live and witness to the proclamation of salvation there are particular vocations with specific responsibilities within the Church; these are fruit of a special grace and require an additional moral and spiritual commitment.”* Theologians admit that a vocation to the priestly or religious state may be either ordinary or extraordinary. An example of an extraordinary call would be the call of St. Paul who was on his way to Damascus when God called him by name: “Saul, Saul...” (Acts 9: 3-4). However, the normal calling is of the ordinary variety which does not consist in a vision, a voice, or anything else extraordinary. A papal commission under Pope St. Pius X in 1912 clarified that the requisite of a priestly vocation on the part of a candidate does not “ordinarily and necessarily” consist in an interior attraction or an invitation of God.

A vocation to the priesthood or religious life consists of two elements: one is on the part of God and one on the part of His Church. God, for His part, gives to the person the requisite gifts of nature and grace. These are shown by goodness of life and sufficiency of health and knowledge that give well-founded hope that the person will be able to discharge the

duties of the priestly or religious state properly. There is also an ecclesial dimension to any vocation, especially in the vocations to the religious or clerical life where the call of the bishop or religious superior is absolutely essential. Pope St. Pius X’s commission clarified that no one can go to the Church and insist on a right to be ordained because “God is calling him.” If the Church fails to call the person, there is no true vocation.

If a young man comes to the Fraternity of St. Peter, we look for the requisite gifts of nature and grace that will give us well-founded hope that he will be able to fulfill the duties of a priest in a Society of Apostolic Life. Does he have sufficient physical, psychological, and emotional health? Does he have the intellectual capacity to learn the necessary philosophy and theology, not to mention Latin? Does he have the necessary maturity and capacity to exercise responsibility? Can he relate well and communicate well with other people? Does he possess the necessary virtue to live a life of celibacy, to endure suffering for the salvation of souls, to live together in community life with others, to be a good confessor, to be obedient, to direct souls, to preach, and to persevere under adverse conditions? Of course, he has seven years to grow in these areas during seminary formation, but barring a miracle, a certain basic level must be present beforehand. Anyone wanting to find out more is encouraged to visit the vocations section of our seminary website: <http://www.fsspolgs.org/vocations/discernment/>. And regardless of our state in life, we can all pray that the Lord send workers into His vineyard! ✝

Dr. William Lawrence, FSSP

Fr. William Lawrence, FSSP
North American Provincial

* John Paul II, *Message for the Thirty-third World Day of Prayer for Vocations*, 1995, #3.

FALL OF AN EMPEROR, TRIUMPH OF THE FISHERMAN



Photo by Vyacheslav Argenberg

In A.D. 64, when a calamitous fire destroyed much of Rome, the depraved Emperor Nero turned to its Christian population as a convenient scapegoat. St. Peter was persuaded by his flock to flee, but after seeing Christ on the road, he returned to face his own crucifixion.

In the eyes of pagan contemporaries, Nero undoubtedly would have seemed the victor in that contest. But history would demonstrate otherwise. The Emperor's pomposity and decadence won him more and more enemies until civil war drove him to suicide. His dynasty died with him, and even his very memory was condemned by the Roman Senate.

Meanwhile, the modest gravesite of the Galilean fisherman, tucked away in a necropolis on Vatican Hill, was revered by Christians as a place of pilgrimage. By the second century a triumphal memorial had been built atop it, maintained by his successors in the Pontificate. That priestly dynasty, and that memorial, still endure at St. Peter's Basilica, two thousand years after Nero's ignominious demise.

In the wonderful providence of God, the mighty Emperor of Rome, the most powerful man in the world, is today remembered chiefly as the historical archetype of a diseased and corrupted Empire, while the poor, unlettered fisherman he crucified now reigns in heaven and is paid high honors on every altar throughout the world.



SS. PETER & PAUL APPEAL: JUN 29TH

Grace gives us hope. We saw a little of that over the last year, when what seemed like a comfortably certain future for our order shifted into a real time of uncertainty filled with unknowns. At a time when the pressure was immense, we threw ourselves into the protective arms of Our Lady and Mother. And in reply, on the very feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, at the conclusion of the consecration, Pope Francis confirmed our constitutions and our use of the traditional liturgical books.

Like our great Apostolic Patron, called by Christ to be “fishers of men”, we priests of the FSSP have been called to sail out into the deep and bring souls to Christ. But we also are mindful that the boat-captains of the Galilee didn’t do their fishing alone. They put together crews, manning their vessels with family members and even hired hands. They also depended on needed supplies like linen to mend their nets and wood to repair their hulls.

Our Spiritual Enterprise Requires Labor and Resources This year we hope to raise \$150,000

Your generosity through the years has helped us to train priests and maintain communities across North America. We have always been appreciative of that support; even more so now in worsening economic times, when all of us see how the costs of ordinary life have risen.

With the eyes of faith, we nonetheless see another kind of increase that God has seen fit to grant our communities.

More and more new people have been arriving at the doorsteps of our apostolates. Our new visitors are everything from longtime Catholics who feel a profound attraction to the traditional practice of the faith, to former atheists and agnostics increasingly disaffected with secular society's empty promises. Our FSSP priests are seeing busier schedules, extra Masses, fuller sanctuaries, and longer lines for Confession.

This increase in our sacramental responsibilities is great news; but it also means that our fishers of men need more boats, more hired hands, and sturdier nets to bring in the harvest.

Will You Help us Meet that Need?

Join us on **Wednesday, June 29th** on our website and our social media accounts (Facebook, Gab, and MeWe) for our annual Ss. Peter and Paul Appeal.



*\$175 for a
chance to win*

By popular demand we will again be holding drawings for donors, so gifts of **\$175** and above will automatically enter you to win our popular FSSP beer glasses. Moreover, a set of beer glasses will be raffled off for every \$25,000 contributed—so the more money raised, the more chances to win.

In addition, we will be sending a FSSP-branded Yeti travel mug to every donor who gives a gift of **\$1,575** or more.



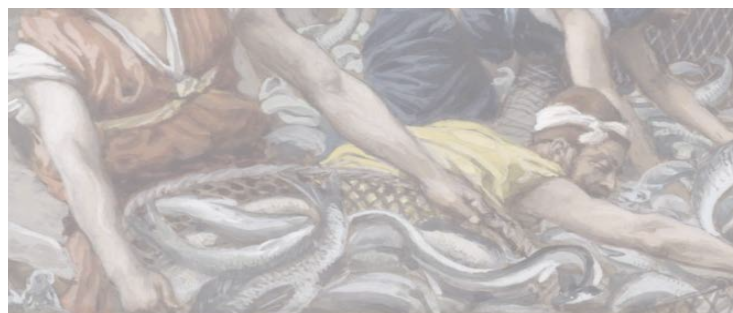
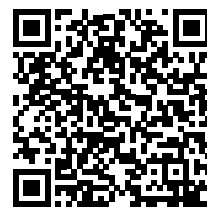
*\$1,575
premium gift*

Your contribution toward our goal of **\$150,000** will help us to live out our patron's great mission: to sail out into the deep and to spread the Gospel and the Sacraments of Jesus Christ far and wide.

On the following pages, you will see seven brand new priests who have selflessly dedicated their lives to the task. Let's make sure they have all the resources they need to meet the challenge.

May God bless you, and may St. Peter guard and protect you! ✝

fssp.com/ss-peter-paul/



2022 PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS



This year, the priestly ordinations for the members of the Priestly Fraternity of Saint Peter studying at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary were held on May 27th, the Friday after the Ascension, at 10:00 AM. The ceremony took place at North American Martyrs Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, with the sacrament of Ordination conferred by His Excellency Archbishop Thomas Edward Gullickson.

We are grateful to His Excellency for his gracious assistance on this happy occasion. We also offer our thanks to Father Connor, pastor of North American Martyrs, for allowing us the use of his parish for this event. Please pray for our new priests throughout this season of Pentecost, that the Holy Ghost will fill them with His Gifts and Fruits, and help them to always be good and holy priests.

Ad Multos Annos to the Ordinandi!

<i>Rev. Fr. Cidrian Cortes</i>	<i>Miliani</i>	<i>Hawaii</i>	<i>USA</i>
<i>Rev. Fr. Isaac Diaz Mendoza</i>	<i>Zapopan</i>	<i>Jalisco</i>	<i>Mexico</i>
<i>Rev. Fr. Kent Grealy</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>British Columbia</i>	<i>Canada</i>
<i>Rev. Fr. David Lopez</i>	<i>San Diego</i>	<i>California</i>	<i>USA</i>
<i>Rev. Fr. David Ramirez</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>USA</i>
<i>Rev. Fr. Edgar Ramirez</i>	<i>El Paso</i>	<i>Texas</i>	<i>USA</i>
<i>Rev. Fr. Noel Soares</i>	<i>Chicalim</i>	<i>Goa</i>	<i>India</i>

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Providence

SOUTH DAKOTA
Rapid City

FOUR COMMITMENTS OF DIACONAL ORDINATION

Memento extends a special thanks to Fr. Benoît Guichard of OLGS for his invaluable assistance in the compilation of this article.

In the last issue (Pentecost 2022) we featured photos from the April 2nd diaconal ordination of Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary. As this current issue turns its attention to priestly ordinations, it is nevertheless worth revisiting an aspect of the diaconal ordination that is less visible to the public but also has critical implications for a man's journey into the priesthood.

On the eve before seminarians are ordained to the diaconate, they make four commitments to their superiors.

First is a purely canonical one: **the request for definitive ordination in the FSSP**. As every cleric is a member of a diocese, or a religious community, he must profess his definitive commitment to that group.

The second is a **Profession of Faith**: the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed. Canon 833.6 of the Code of Canon Law states that those promoted to the order of the diaconate are obliged personally to make a profession of faith according to the formula approved by the Apostolic See:

“I (name), with firm faith believe and profess everything that is contained in the symbol of faith, namely ...[here is recited the Creed] ... With firm faith I believe as well everything contained in God's word, written or handed



down in tradition and proposed by the Church—whether in solemn judgment or in the ordinary and universal magisterium—as divinely revealed and calling for faith...”

The third is the **Oath of Fidelity to remain in the communion of the Church**.

“I (name), on assuming the office [name of office] promise that I shall always preserve communion with the Catholic Church whether in the words I speak or in the way I act.”

And the fourth is an **Assumption of Celibacy**, in keeping with the early traditions of the Latin Church whereby clerics in major orders were asked to maintain continence due to the importance of their office at the altar. As Fr. Armand de Malleray noted in an interview last year:

The priest stands and acts in the Person of Christ in relation to the particular flock entrusted to his care. Priestly celibacy is best understood in this light. The priest renounces the legitimate joys of marriage and family so as to manifest his total availability in the service of the group of souls put under his responsibility by his ecclesiastical superior.

These commitments, though made just before diaconal ordination, are carried through the entire life of the ordained. They remain with him throughout his priestly life as he lives in his community, upholds right doctrine, remains within the universal Church, and sacrifices for the good of his spiritual family. ✝



BALTIMORE'S MASS OF ROSES

"Upon my death I will let fall a shower of roses; I wish to spend my heaven in doing good upon the earth."

—Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

The National Shrine of Saint Alphonsus Liguori, the Fraternity's apostolate in Baltimore, recently offered a resplendent Mass of Roses in honor of Saint Thérèse. Months ago, during the height of uncertainty and trouble, the pastoral leadership of the Shrine entrusted its petitions to the Little Flower, encouraging parishioners to do the same—and, on two occasions, received signal graces of her intercession. Today the Shrine is flourishing under an abundance of blessing. So, on Saturday, 21 May, more than 500 roses graced the altars of the Shrine. And Mass that day was offered with thanksgiving to Saint Thérèse of Lisieux for her continued intercession on behalf of the Shrine and the Fraternity. They hope these images will inspire you to give the secret yearnings and fears of your heart more freely to the beneficence and faithfulness of the Saints.



Send Us Your Apostolate News!

Are there special events, activities or programs that are going on in your apostolate? We'd love to hear about them!

Meménto is actively seeking news articles, photos, and other contributions from our talented and creative parishioners across the North American Province. This newsletter is delivered 10 times a year to about 25,000 mailboxes in the U.S. and Canada. Additionally, electronic copies are posted on our website and emailed to FSSP fans throughout the world.

With the state of the world and the culture, it is more important than ever that priests, parishioners, and friends of the FSSP family feel connected to each other and share ideas that can help us live the sacred liturgy more deeply and unite our hearts with Christ.

News items of note could include new facilities and dedications ("New Church Blessed in Arkansas", Pentecost 2022) apostolate anniversaries and milestones, visitations by your local bishop ("Bishop Brennan Visits Fresno for Easter Sunday Mass", Pentecost 2022), and any unique projects or evangelization initiatives ("The Immaculate Heart in the Valley of the Sun", September 2020).

Please send articles or queries to Communications Director Claudio Salvucci at missive@fssp.com.

Visits by the Provincial

Provincial Superior Fr. William Lawrence continued his visitation of FSSP apostolates in the Central United States west of the Mississippi. Apostolates visited included Dallas, Fort Worth, Tyler, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Springdale, Kansas City, Maple Hill, Omaha, and Lincoln. He also visited Houston at the end of May and Minneapolis at the beginning of June.

Photos of First Masses

On Saturday, May 28th, our newly ordained priests celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the first time at OLGS.



Meménto is a publication of the PRIESTLY FRATERNITY OF ST. PETER.

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