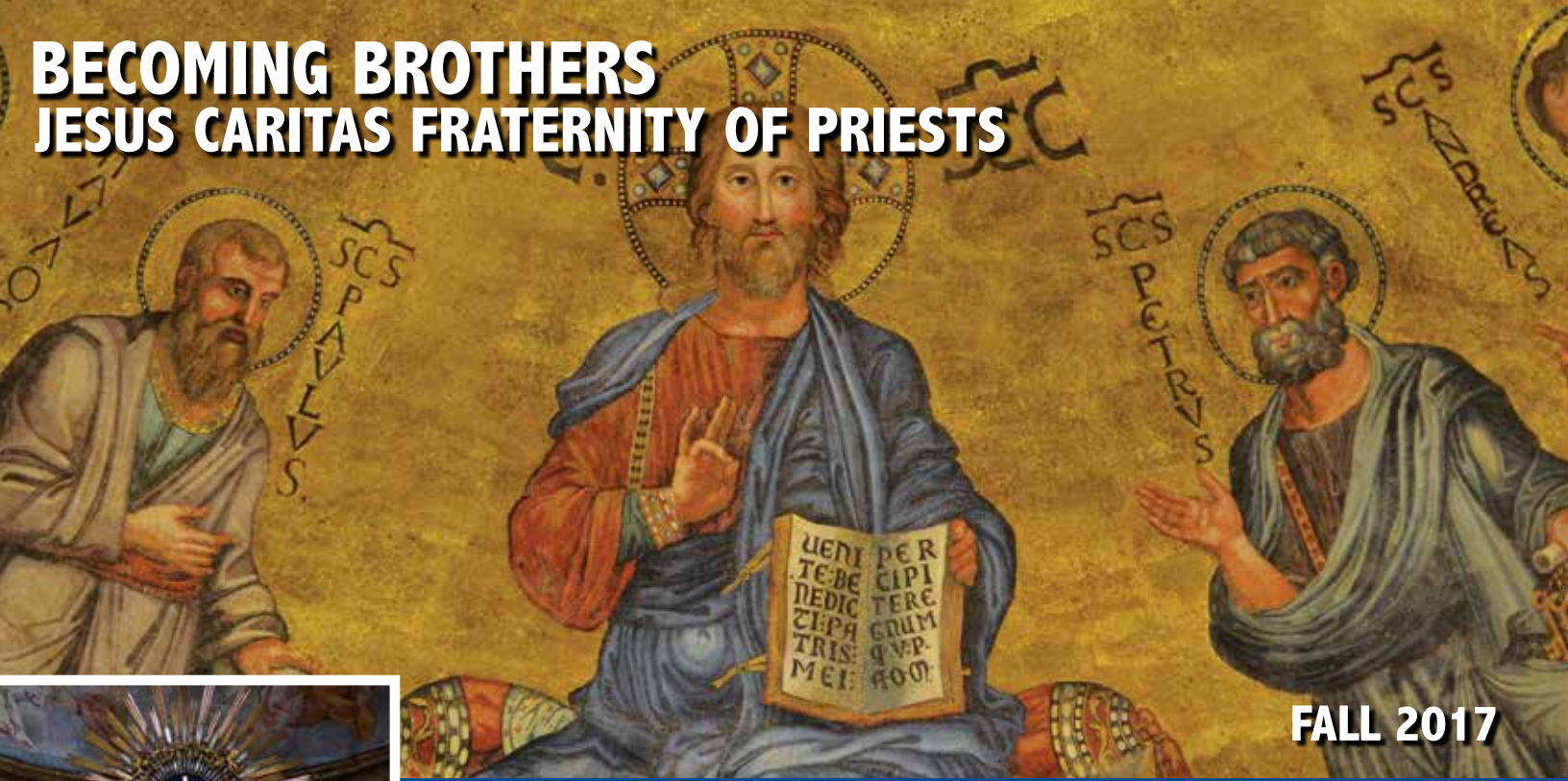


BECOMING BROTHERS JESUS CARITAS FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS



FALL 2017



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From the Responsible

Dear Brothers,

I am slowly getting settled in Paradise, aka Tybee Island, GA. Being transferred has always been rooted in the Pascal Mystery for me. It has been an experience of dying. Last year the Bishop signed off on allowing me to buy my retirement condo from the parish. Naturally, I assumed that meant I'd be in Augusta until my retirement – silly me. So, after 15 years of pastoring the wonderful faith community of St. Mary on the Hill in Augusta, I packed up my office and some clothes and headed to the beach. Before coming, there was a long farewell and the affirmation and social gatherings were a great blessing. But the “letting go” was difficult for me and most (who am I not to follow in the footsteps of Jesus and be rejected by some) of the parishioners.

Through prayer and spiritual direction, I worked through most of the anger and disappointment and now I am enjoying the resurrection end of the



Pascal Mystery. From the stress of caring for 75 full-time employees and a parish school, I've moved to caring for 1 employee and a charter school that pays to use our old school buildings. Tybee Island is a close-knit quirky little community. I am loving the laid-back attitude of “island time”. St. Michael's has 150 families to look after as opposed to 2400 households in Augusta. Folks have been so very welcoming here and

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Jesus Caritas Vacation Days

July 2-6, 2018 + Detroit, MI

Detroit!!! Vacation!!!! Really!!!!!! Yes, really. Talk about an American City that knows about living the Pascal Mystery. In 1940, Detroit was the fourth largest city behind New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. In 1950 its population peaked at 1,849,568. Detroit's population is now 677,116, which drops it to 21st in the nation. In the last few decades, it has been overwhelmed by poverty, crime, and abandoned buildings. Detroit knows a lot about the dying part of the Paschal Mystery. It's the kind of city that Blessed Charles de Foucauld would have been proud to vacation in.

Yet the Detroit of today is on the rise and experiencing a revitalization, with abandoned buildings undergoing commercial real estate developments, young couples, community gardens, and new businesses breathing new life into the city. So, "come and see" what it is like to spend a few days of vacation with priests who have been living the fraternal life for years. We will

stay at the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center. There will be good food and fireworks, fellowship and good fun together. If you've never been to the Henry Ford Museum, it alone makes it worth the trip to Detroit. Sign-up will be in the Winter newsletter.

Also mark February 5- 7, 2018 on your calendar. Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests is sponsoring a Mini Retreat at Ignatius House Retreat Center in Atlanta, GA. This is the oldest continuous gathering of the fraternity on a regional basis in the United States. Ignatius House occupies 20 wooded acres overlooking the Chattahoochee River. All priests are welcome. Father Tim McKeown will direct the Retreat. Tim is a priest of the Diocese of Savannah and pastor of Saint Francis Xavier Church, Brunswick, GA. He is a former vice rector for seminary life of the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Registration for the Retreat will also be in the Winter Newsletter.

"Come and See" Days

What might a missionary outreach to our brother priests look like? If you are the convener of your fraternity, please talk to you brothers about welcoming the priests in your area or Diocese to a "Come and See" Day so priests can get a sense of the structure of your monthly gathering – what it is like to reflect on the gospel together, to spend an hour in adoration, to enjoy a relaxed meal, to share how you have perceived God present in your life and ministry during the past month. Ideally, new fraternities could grow out of these days. If your fraternity is open to such a day, please e-mail the date, location, and contact information to Shannon Axon at jesus.caritas.usa@gmail.com and she will be happy to post that information to our Website, www.jesus Caritas usa.org/



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

I have to admit that I have been having a hard time writing this reflection on Eucharistic Adoration in the Fraternity. I always want to blame it on the devil which may be true but it is my own procrastination and weakness in writing. Deciding to do this I felt I needed to go over to the church and have some time before our Eucharistic Lord. He helped me greatly as He always has.

I must also say that I have struggled a bit in having a hour of adoration every day. I usually get in some time daily but not always an hour at one time. There are always excuses.

This evening I felt humility on both sides during this time of adoration, from Him and me. During adoration there is normally a quietness and the PRESENCE. In the Fraternity one of the charisms of Brother Charles for me has been this presence. He was always present, available to those around him and with our Eucharistic Lord. Others have said that being present to our Lord in adoration helps us to be present to those around us. Bl. Charles said, (it's) "a prayer in which a person 'looks wordlessly on God, solely occupied with contemplating Him, telling Him with looks that he loves Him, while

uttering no words, even in thought'" (Pamphlet: Taken, Broken, Blessed, Given). In Eucharistic Adoration we meet Jesus face-to-face, Person-to-person, in Love and with my love.

So many before me have helped me and reminded me of this need in my life and in the priesthood, St. Therese, St. John Paul II, St. Theresa of Calcutta, and of course Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. Our Bishop, James D. Conley, says it well in a Pastoral Letter on Adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist: Love Made Visible. "In the Eucharist, we are made sharers in Christ's mission of love.... Priests who spend time adoring Christ in the Eucharist are strengthened to serve the Church and the world as ministers of mercy and truth."

In spending time with our Eucharistic Lord in adoration, it's the silence, the Presence, and the Love (Caritas), that Brother Charles de Foucauld painted on the wall of his chapel--"Jesus + Love," This is what it is all about. His love for me and my love for Him. It's about a need, a commitment, an Encounter. Amen.
-- Fr. Greg Pawloski

COME AND SEE *A Letter from Camarillo*

Above all, always see Jesus in every person, and consequently treat each one not only as an equal and as a brother or sister, but also with great humility, respect and selfless generosity.

— Blessed Charles de Foucauld

Dear Brothers,

We are 18 priests and a Bishop who gathered at St. John Seminary in Camarillo, CA from July 17th to the 21st for the triannual Assembly of the Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests USA. We came from all areas of our country and were delighted to welcome Fr. Fernando Tapia, from Santiago, Chile, who serves as our Pan American Responsible.* We were also blessed to have the wisdom of six former National Responsibles at this assembly including Bishop Don Hanchon who now serves as our liaison to the U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops.

This Assembly marked our fiftieth anniversary as an independent Region of the Jesus Caritas International Fraternity of Priests. Fr. Dan Danielson was elected the first National Responsible of Jesus Caritas USA in 1967. It was his efforts that led to the creation of hundreds of fraternities throughout the United States. He has dedicated his life to the service of his brother priests.

Dan was a member of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry and helped write the Bishops' document, "The Spiritual Renewal of the American Priesthood." He also co-founded the National Organization for Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy. His own local fraternity has been meeting for over 50 years. Dan's passion for encouraging fraternity among priests also inspired him to lead 100 priests' retreats over his lifetime.

For all these reasons it was a joy for us at the Assembly to celebrate Fr. Dan Danielson as the inaugural recipient of the Universal Brother Award. This Award is presented by the Jesus Caritas Fraternity



USA at its annual gathering to a Diocesan priest who exemplifies the spirituality of Blessed Charles de Foucauld and has discovered through his message a way of living the Gospel more fully to the ends of the earth, in fraternal sharing with his brother priests, in caring for the least among us, and in silent adoration of our Eucharistic Lord.

We came to the Assembly still feeling the void left by the recent deaths of two of our former National Responsibles, Fr. Mike Smith and Msgr. Howie Calkins. Both men were humble and holy priests who through their gentle humor taught us all to live with joy. So, we prayed in thanksgiving for all our brothers in fraternity who have gone on to Glory. How good it was to be in fraternity with them!

And praying for an ever increasing number of deceased brothers underscored for us that by far, the most striking trend facing our fraternities is that we are aging and dying off. This of course is reflective of a general trend in the American priesthood. In 1990, there were a little over 34,000 diocesan priests in the U.S.; in 2014 the number had dwindled down to 16,462 active diocesan priests. In 2014, 3,448 out of our 17,337 parishes were without a resident priest. This can all be somewhat discouraging. It is a trend that is bringing ever increasing stress and isolation to the Diocesan priesthood.

In preparing our answers to the Questionnaire for the International Assembly in Bangalore,

India, we also reflected upon the challenges that we face with the complex political and economic realities of our day. Both in our civil and faith communities we

are a divided people. The Church remains the largest provider of services and outreach to the poor and yet we talk less and less prophetically about social justice issues. We experience great polarity not only in our politics but also in our faith communities. There is growing economic disparity. The poor fear they will be left without health care and the “stranger” in our midst fears at any moment he will be deported. There is an ever increasing secularization of our culture that affects our ministry every day. And yet, as priests, we seldom talk about these challenges; much less bring them to our prayer.



How do we respond to all of this? Do we “circle the wagons” and simply concern ourselves with “walking each other home” until the last priest in our dwindling fraternities “turns out the lights.” Our do we realize that we still have “a little blood left in our veins” and continue to reach out to our brother priests, especially our younger brothers who face such tremendous challenges, to share with them the fraternal spirituality that has enriched our lives and ministry? We have a gift to share and moving forward from this assembly we realize that we need to tell our story and invite our brother priests to come and see.

Our spirituality finds its roots in the life of Blessed Charles de Foucauld who many judge to have lived a very odd life as a missionary diocesan priest in the Sahara Desert where he was eventually shot to death on December 1, 1916. While his life may seem “distant” to the experience of most Diocesan priests today, the priests of the fraternities have found that the elements of his spiritual life (a life rooted in the gospel, Eucharistic adoration and contemplative prayer, simplicity of life and love for the poor, an openness to all and fraternity with our brother priests) offer a wonderful foundation for our priesthood. We commit ourselves to a life rich in prayer as we search for the face of God in life and the people we meet every day.

As Fernando Tapia reminded us in his meditations during the Assembly ours is an Incarnation Spirituality. “God did not simply wave his magic wand over our humanity and retreat to heaven.” ** Jesus immersed himself in our humanity. In the spirit of Blessed Charles our Fraternity tries to follow Jesus, the Nazorean. It

was in his daily life at Nazareth that Jesus was schooled in the ways of the Kingdom. Thus in the Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis reminds us that “an evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people’s daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in the people. Evangelizers thus take on the “smell of the sheep” and the sheep are willing to hear their voice.” (EG 24).

We in the Jesus Caritas Fraternity USA are not ready to “turn out the lights”. As with most movements in the Church, there may come the day when our time as past. But we still have a gift to share. By acclamation we reconfirmed Fr. Jerry “Hap” Ragan as our National Responsible. We recommit ourselves to sharing the gift of Fraternity with our Bishops and with our seminarians. We recommit ourselves to helping our brothers who are already in Fraternity to come to a deeper understanding of our spirituality and we invite our brother priests and bishops who are searching for a great spiritual support system to “Come and See” the priestly fraternity that has so enriched our lives.

Fraternally in Christ,

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| + Don Hanchon | Fernando Tapia |
| Mark Mertes | Jerry “Hap” Ragan |
| Dan Danielson | Tom McCormick |
| Don Dunn | Greg Pawloski |
| Bob Amundsen | Ron Belisle |
| Joe Greeley | John Jacquel |
| Dick Rossman | Chuck Roland |
| Sammy Taylor | Will Connor |
| Alejandro Trejo Estrada | John Murray |
| Norman Supancheck | |

*The first three Jesus Caritas Fraternities were organized in France in 1952. They adopted the French concept of leadership and so used the term Responsible to designate the leader.

** *J. Metz in Poverty of Spirit*

Priests and Bishops with Current Dues

Rev. Todd Unger	Rev. Ronald Bryda	Msgr. Mike Mullen	Most Rev. Dominic A. Marconi, D.D.
Rev. Bruce Krebs	Rev. Thomas A. Haren	Rev. Bob Hasenkamp	Rev. Albert J. Berner
Ron Belisle	Rev. Thomas O'Donnell	Rev. Dennis Wait	Rev. Carl Arico
Joe Greeley	Rev. Donald F. Dunn	Rev. George Seufferling	Rev. Richard M. Liddy
John Jacquell	Rev. George V. Fagan, Jr.	Rev. John C. Reynolds	Most Rev. John S. Cummins
Dick Rossman	Rev. John F. Slattery	Rev. Mark G. Mertes	Rev. Daniel Danielson
Chuck Roland	Rev. Martin J. Ralko	Rev. Michael Roach	Rev. Michael W. Grewe
Sammy Taylor	Msgr. Edward Buelt	Rev. Gregory P. Pawloski	Rev. Richard Reiser
Will Connor	Msgr. Robert L. Amundsen	Rev. James F. Benton	Rev. Rodney Kneifl
Alejandro Trejo Estrada	Rev. Bert Chilson	Rev. Jeremy Hazuka	Bishop Tod D. Brown
John Murray	Rev. Frank Maroney	Rev. Julius Tvrdy	Rev. William Cramer
Norman Supancheck	Rev. Jerome M. Rohr	Rev. Lyle M. Johnson	Rev. Eugene Casserly
Rev. Chris Kadrmas, Jcl	Rev. Jude Geilenkirchen	Rev. Nicholas Baker	Rev. Sebastian C. Naslund
Rev. Daniel J. Berg	Rev. Martin Lally	Rev. Philip J. Rauth	Bro. Charles W. Roland
Msgr. Andrew J. Schumacher	Rev. Reinhold B. Weissbeck	Rev. Robert Barnhill	Rev. Greg Nelson
Rev. Dennis Day	Rev. Robert Kinkel	Rev. Stephen Cooney	Bishop Thomas Olmsted
Rev. Joseph F. Schmidt	Rev. Stephen Adams	Bishop Alexander Salazar	Msgr. George Schroeder
Rev. Joseph Muha	Rev. Thomas L. McCormick	Most Rev. Gerald Wilkerson	Rev. Gary L. Jacobson
Rev. Leslie P. Kish	Rev. Tom A. Bradtke	Most Rev. Joseph Sartoris	Rev. Joseph Heuberger
Rev. James F. Rafferty	Rev. David J. Polich	Msgr. Dick Martini	Rev. Richard G. Rossman
Msgr. Fred R. Voorhes	Rev. Donald G. Bruck	Msgr. Joseph F. Greeley	Rev. Daniel Juelfs
Msgr. James E. Wall	Rev. Lawrence Hoffmann	Msgr. Paul M. Montoya	Rev. Raymond H. Fleming
Rev. Daniel P. Walsh	Rev. Lazarus Kirigia	Rev. Brian Nunes	Rev. Robert Schrader
Rev. Gregory M. Faulhaber	Rev. Robert J. Aubrey	Rev. David Loftus	Rev. William Darling
Rev. John J. Mitka	Rev. Wayne Gubbels	Rev. Francis Colborn	Rev. William Graf
Rev. Richard Csizmar	Most Rev. Donald Hanchon	Rev. Jerome L. Schmit	Rev. Gerard Ringenback
Rev. Ron Sajdak	Rev. Michael Molnar	Rev. Norman Supancheck	Rev. Robert Bussen
Msgr. James O'Neill	Rev. Patrick F. Halfpenny	Rev. William J. Connor	Msgr. Michael Yarbrough
Rev. Gary J. Ruzicka	Msgr. John W. Swoger	Rev. John Hedrick	Rev. Carlos B. Velazquez
Rev. Hubert J. Hart	Rev. Charles Schmitt	Rev. Daniel J. Sanders	Rev. Michael Degerolami
Rev. John E. Murray	Rev. Chris Singer	Rev. Don Zerkel	Rev. Joseph Mel Collier
Rev. Michael Carr	Rev. George Strohmeier	Rev. Glenn Powers	Rev. Michael J. Sinor
Rev. Thomas Ogg	Rev. Gregory P. Passauer	Rev. Jerome Hudziak	Msgr. Harry G. Schlitt
Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin	Rev. John B. Jacquell	Rev. Joseph F. Hornacek	Rev. Paul E. Perry
Rev. Joseph Mulcrone	Rev. John M. Fischer	Rev. Michael F. Michalski	Rev. Christopher D. Bernabe
Rev. Daniel R. Fickes	Rev. Johnathan Schmolt	Rev. Michael T. Newman	Rev. Fracis Xavier Eggert
Rev. David Baugh	Rev. Leo Gallina	Rev. Neil Zinthefer	Rev. Juan Mendez
Rev. Francis P. Walsh	Rev. Monty Sayers	Rev. Patrick E. Heppe	Rev. David L. Arnoldt
Rev. James P. O'Donnell	Rev. Norman K. Douglas	Rev. Philip D. Reifenberg	Rev. Gerald P. Ragan, "Hap"
Rev. Kevin Liebhardt	Rev. Thomas Suppa	Rev. Richard Aiken	Rev. John Brown
Rev. Robert E. Pahler	Rev. Gerald J. Harr	Rev. Douglas Brougher	Rev. Michael Smith
Rev. Robert J. Sanson	Rev. Richard J. Schlosser	Rev. Samuel J. Taylor	Rev. Nicholas Mansell
	Andrew Williams		

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From the Responsible *continued from front cover*

I find that the ocean and sunsets and night skies are nourishing my contemplative spirit. Resurrection is a lovely grace.

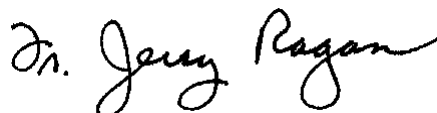
Fraternity is also a lovely grace. But are our fraternities dying out so that a new way of being a priest in the 21st Century might rise? Has our time to “to let go” arrived? My answer is a very emphatic “NO”!!! If I did not believe in the viability of our fraternities, I would not have accepted another 3-year term as Responsible of Jesus Caritas USA. We have a gift to share and there is much work to be done. Praise God that my new assignment will hopefully allow me a little more time to devote to our Fraternity.

Diocesan priests face great challenges these days. I think we will be lost if we try to go it alone. It is all too easy to become isolated, which is antithetical to our calling. We are called to be men of communion, so a sense of fraternity among our brothers should be at the heart of who we are as priests. So, I am asking you to join me in developing a missionary outreach to our brother priests. If you are a member of a healthy fraternity, make the mission of your group to care about all the priests in your area.

Pray for and visit with those priests who are elderly or sick. Gather all the priests nearby to an occasional meal out or to a movie. Be aware of how difficult it can be for the newly ordained to transition from seminary life to active ministry. Invite them to “come and see” what a fraternity day is like. If you don’t have room for them in your own fraternity, encourage them to form their own and support them in doing so. The gift you have received, give as a gift (Mt. 10:8).

I am grateful to all the priests and bishops whose names are listed in this newsletter for the support they give to the work of the Fraternity. Beyond the annual dues, I am grateful to those of you who contribute to the Fraternity or remember us in your will. Your generosity helps to grow the Fraternity both in the United States and Internationally. Thank you.

Fraternally,



Fr. Jerry “Hap” Ragan

Current Dues *continued from page 6*

Rev. Robert Cushing	Rev. Rick Jones	Rev. John Gabage
Rev. Thomas J. Peyton	Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki	Rev. Michael B. Roark,
Rev. James Eblen	Most Rev. Felipe Estevez	Rev. William F. Graney
Rev. Michael C. O'Brien	Rev. Roger Hessian	Fr. Alejandro Trejo-Estrada
Rev. Michael J. McDermott	Msgr. John Armistead	Rev. Michael J. Ibach
Rev. Patrick McDermott	Msgr. Steve J. Rossetti	Rev. Richard Keolker
Rev. Richard Hayatsu	Rev. Donald Karlen	Rev. William Shaw
Rev. Richard Spicer	Rev. James Caldwell	Rev. Daniel Cipar
Rev. Ronald H. Belisle	Rev. John J. Wade	Rev. Donald Feicht
Rev. Tuan Nguyen	Rev. Paul E. Eichhoff	Rev. Edward Wieczorek
Rev. Albert Grasher	Rev. Kevin J. Regan	Rev. Mel Rusnak
Rev. Charles D. Skok	Rev. Michael Briese	Rev. Thomas Cebula
Rev. Chaz Dunn	Rev. William Foley	
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