



# Confraternity of Catholic Clergy

## *Sanctitas. Fidelitas. Fraternitas.*

*"If you are what you should be, you will set your whole world on fire!"*  
~ St. Catherine of Siena

### February 1, 2023 – President's Message

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Let me take this opportunity to **welcome our new subscribers** to this monthly newsletter and to remind all of you that we now have more than 150 lay **prayer partners** from the Daily Decade program who are praying for the priests and deacons of our Confraternity.

Two items on the agenda for this month:

1. Check out our new [Priests in Action Forum](#) on the website, which highlights certain activities of our members that are both inspirational and reproducible in other ministry venues. Let's call them **Clergy Best Practices**. If you have a great program or event and want to get word out about it, the Forum page has a set of guidelines for contributing.
2. Sometime toward the middle or end of this month we will send you an email to announce **a new venture of a certain important prelate** in the Church who is stepping out on a ledge to strengthen the integrity of Catholic faith and practice in the US.

The program is embargoed until it launches, so I can't give all the details right now. But as soon as it launches our Confraternity priests will be the first to know! Stay tuned.

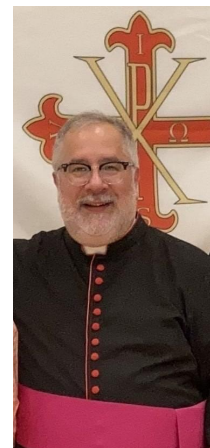
I'll leave you with an amazing quote from our patron, St. John Vianney:

*"If I were to meet a priest and an angel, I should salute the priest before I saluted the angel. The latter is the friend of God; but the priest holds His place."*

On behalf of the CCC Board, know of our prayers for your work in the vineyard.

In Christ and Our Lady,

**Fr. John Trigilio**, PhD, ThD



Confraternity President, and Director of Pastoral Formation, Formation Advisor, Spiritual Director, faculty at Mount St. Mary's Seminary.

Featured on our website recently:  
(The underlined links below take you **directly** to the individual sections of the site:)

### Clergy Online

**Featured:** Amazing Healing of a Good Priest at Lourdes  
Fr. Ezra Sullivan's new book, *Alter Christus*  
See also: Fr. Keyes | Msgr. Antall | Fr. Pericone | Fr. Stravinskis

### Shepherd's Voices

**Featured:** Bishop Burbidge Admonishes Congress – No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion! | Bishop Paprocki on our Eucharistic *Incoherence*

## On the Docket

### **Catholic Priests' Retreat** **Unbound Ministries**

Join us for this priest retreat to learn about Unbound, receive ministry, and connect with other priests who are interested in using Unbound.

- Learn a simple, personal way to pray with your parishioners to be free of their burdens
- Receive personal ministry
- Connect with other priests who use or want to use Unbound in pastoral care

[UNBOUND Ministries Website](#)

**The Church Is a Field Hospital**  
To make our parishes more fully a place where people find healing, priests need to be equipped to guide people into the transformation that Christ is offering them. One such powerful tool is the **UNBOUND** model of discernance.

**Catholic Priest Retreat:  
Training in UNBOUND Ministry**

**May 22-26, 2023**  
St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary  
10701 S. Military Trail  
Boynton Beach, FL 33436

- Learn a simple, gentle approach to pray with your parishioners to be free of their burdens
- Receive personal ministry
- Connect with other priests who use or want to use **UNBOUND** ministry in pastoral care

**SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE**

8:00am	Breakfast
9:15am	Morning Prayer/Mass
10:30am	Morning Session
12:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm	Afternoon Session & Prayer Ministry
5:00pm	Holy Hour & Evening Prayer
6:00pm	Dinner
6:45pm	Evening Session & Prayer Ministry
8:00pm	Social Gathering

**Keynote:** Bishop Gene Robinson, Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego, will share his experience and insights on the importance of discernance in the life of the Church.

**Special Feature:** A special feature of the retreat will be the opportunity to receive personal ministry from the retreaters.

**Registration:** Registration is free, but a donation of \$100 is requested. Space is limited, so register early!

**Contact:** For more information, contact the retreat coordinator at (561) 332-2111.

[CCC Credo](#)

[Our Blog](#)

[Priest Books](#)

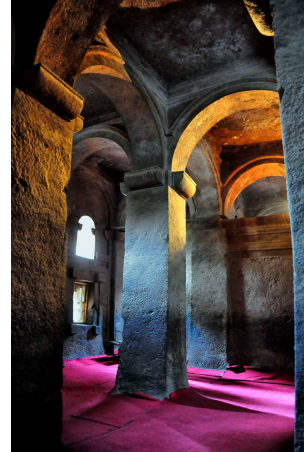
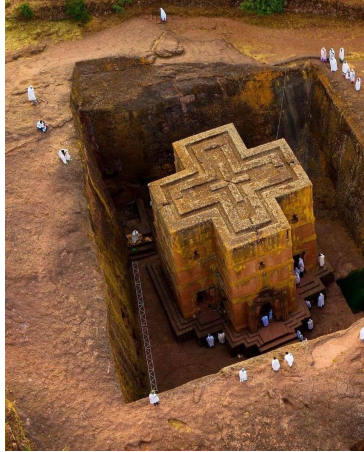
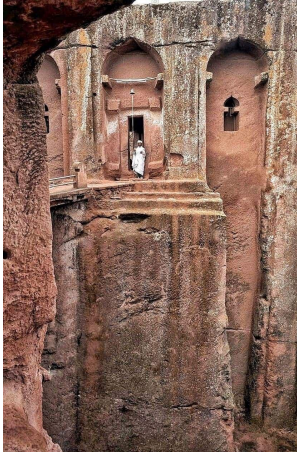
Visit our Priest Bloggers Page

*If you have a blog or know a priest or deacon who does please let us know by clicking on **REPLY** to this email and sending the info to our webmaster to get featured on our page.*

You can also access past editions of our Email Newsletters [[Here](#)]

## Domus Dei

**Feature: The Rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela, Ethiopia**



King Lalibela (1181 to 1221 AD), the ruler of Ethiopia's Zagwe Dynasty, responded to the Muslim conquest of Jerusalem by Saladin in 1187 AD in a most fascinating way. He had **eleven churches cut out of solid volcanic rock** and called them *the New Jerusalem*. Pious legends are all we have concerning the creation of the churches, but it is said that the angels dictated the plan to the king and then assisted in **their construction, which took 24 years**. They are the only churches in the world to have been built from top to bottom.

In an era without hydraulic cutting instruments, **every inch of these churches was hewn by hand**. Tradition states that the laborers who carved them performed this arduous work in penitential fashion as an act of humility. Four of the eleven churches are free-standing monoliths (each carved from a single rock), and seven are cut into red basalt cliffs. Like the Jerusalem of old, the site draws as many as **100,000 visitors each year**, mostly native Ethiopian pilgrims who sometimes travel on foot for days or weeks to arrive in the remote region.

PS — Please also forward this email to any other priests or deacons who may wish to join our team.

Confraternity of Catholic Clergy | PO Box 910308 | San Diego, CA 92191  
Phone: (619) 356-3538  
Mobile: (814) 580-5082  
Email: catholic.clergy@gmail.com  
Webmaster: confraternity@catholicclergy.net  
Website: <https://catholicclergy.net>

