



# Priestly People

WE ALL ARE THE PRIESTLY PEOPLE OF GOD. TOGETHER, WE ARE LEADERS IN RESPONDING TO THE EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF PRIESTS AND BROTHERS.

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## Christmas 2016

Dear Priestly People,

As we age many of us find that our short term memory begins to fade and fail, but that our long term memory functions quite well. As we get older we may not remember much about yesterday but we do seem able to recall moments and events from decades ago which we believed were long forgotten.

Some things that come to mind as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord are memories of moments filled with happiness, moments we can recall at almost any age. We remember our own happy times as children, the warmth of family and friends, the smell of Christmas dinner, gifts under the tree, sparkling lights in and outside the house, glimmering tinsel and glistening snow.

Perhaps we think longingly of days gone by and wish we could have it all back again - the way it used to be. We smile as we remember decorating the aromatic pine scented live Christmas Tree, going to midnight Mass and singing carols on Christmas morning. We think back on traditions unique to our own families and remember how we dreamt about passing on those customs to future generations. We look at old pictures that captured the innocence of gleeful children opening up a few presents that cost just enough to touch the hearts and souls of those giving and receiving gifts without putting a family into debt for endless ages.

Yes, Christmas was, is and will be a time to look back, a time to remember, a time to rejoice and celebrate.

Whether we are young or old, in good health or in hospice care, whether we feel that our faith is alive

and growing or closer to dead than we might care to mention, Christmas is a day worth celebrating.

What I love most about Christmas is everything!

When faith takes root and grows in the heart and soul of a true believer, troubles flee and take a back seat in our lives. Hope is born and love flows from the abundance of grace in the Divine Heart of our "new born King."

Illness, loss, pain, shame, fear, greed, lust, guilt, fault finding, anxiety, blaming and so much more all become insignificant when we place them next to the manger. The darkness of a "Silent Night, Holy Night" gives way to the joyful shouts of "Glory to God in the Highest" and peace to God's people on earth.

This Christmas we ask you to please remember the Servants of the Paraclete in your prayers. In your kindness pray too for the priests and brothers we serve, many of whom have nowhere else to turn. If possible please consider a generous gift to the Servants of the Paraclete. We have embraced this Year of Mercy! Our ministry is filled with mercy!

We have been blessed this year with ten ordinations, one (Filipino) to the diaconate and nine to the priesthood. Six Vietnamese will become priests, along with one Filipino, one Ghanaian and one Nigerian. We have a new community in Ghana still searching for a permanent home. Our novice master is 87 years young and still works hard each day in his service of the Lord! Imagine being 87 and moving from America, to the Philippines and then to Ghana!

Our oldest Paraclete priest celebrates his 94th birthday on Christmas Eve. Every Saturday he goes to visit people in a local nursing home, accompanying a priest who celebrates liturgy for the residents.

We have ten men in the early stages of religious formation and another ten in temporary vows. All of them need computers, books, money for traveling to and from school, clothing, medical care, etc. Most of our members come from very poor countries and their families are not able to provide support for them during their seminary training. We need your generosity to assist us in getting them to ordination.

The growth of the Servants of the Paraclete and their mission is needed more and more each day as priests around the globe struggle with many of the same issues that all priests face in their daily lives.

We are set to serve wherever we are called!

We thank you for your fidelity and generosity over the years and promise to remember you and your loved one's faithfully in our daily prayers and Masses.

May God bless you all and grant you a joy filled Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

Thank you & God bless you!

*David J. Fitzgerald, sP*

Fr. David, sP

Be sure to visit all of our websites!

[www.theservants.org](http://www.theservants.org)

[www.thefitzgeraldcenter.org](http://www.thefitzgeraldcenter.org)

[www.lourdeshouseofprayer.org](http://www.lourdeshouseofprayer.org)

[www.mtcarmelrenewalcenter.org](http://www.mtcarmelrenewalcenter.org)



2016 Servant of the Paraclete ordinations to the Diaconate and Priesthood as well as final vows of two members from the Siena Italy Community. Congratulations to all of our members who are newly ordained - coming from Vietnam, Philippines, Ghana and Nigeria.

A global community preparing to serve in the Ministry of Mercy.