

Reflection Outline for Priests' Day of Recollection
Villa Maria Catholic Life Center
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I. PRIESTLY FRATERNITY AND THE APOSTOLATE

- A. When Americans hear the word “fraternity,” most likely they think of a college frat house.
1. A place where college guys live, eat and, perhaps most of all, party together.
 2. Priestly fraternity can also involve guys living, eating, and partying together, but it is much more than that!
- B. Our priestly fraternity is the consequence of the divine filiation received at Baptism and the sacramental identification with Christ received with Holy Orders.
1. At baptism, we become adopted sons of God.
 2. This means that God is our Father, which makes us brothers.
 3. At ordination, we are identified with Christ as an *Alter Christus*.
 4. Jesus is Our Lord, but He is also our Brother.
- C. Implications of brotherhood:
1. I am from a family of 7 boys and 2 girls, so I have 6 brothers.
 2. We lived, ate, prayed, played, and worked together.
 3. As priests, we often live, eat, pray, play, and work together.
 - a) Feeling responsible for the sanctity – the happiness – of our fellow priests, having at least a few whom we try to get to know especially well.
 - b) Helping them to receive spiritual and doctrinal means of formation,
 - c) Fraternity should include the human warmth of our friendship.
 - d) Helping them to rest, give them supernatural advice, make fraternal correction.
- D. Priests working together: collaboration in the apostolate.
1. We are not lone rangers.
 2. Even if assigned as the only priest to a parish or parishes, priests are collaborators first of all with their bishop, a successor of the apostles, and with each other in the mission entrusted to us by Christ.
 3. Apostolate with our friends (cf. *In Conversation with God*, vol. 2/80.3).
- E. Since God is our Father and Jesus is our Brother, Mary is our mother. (cf. *Christ is Passing By*, n. 139).

II. May God give us this grace. Amen.