



Dear John,

September 1, 2024

As I write this letter, Opus Bono has just completed its' third retreat for priests in 2024. This is our sixth year of hosting these retreats for priests, many of whom are in crisis, but also for those that are simply troubled, tempted, discouraged or suffering. The one constant for them is a sense of frustration and fatigue. Frustrated that the church fights to prevent them from exercising the priestly duties which they vowed to undertake on their ordination day. Fatigue that comes from fighting for many years to be allowed to continue those priestly duties.

In addition to their conflicts with the church hierarchy many of the priests who attended are also frustrated by their current life circumstances. **Father Ted** has been told that he has until the end of August to find a new place to live. The person with whom he had been living is moving and he cannot move with them. He lives on a small amount of social security and a very small savings account. **He will be homeless if he does not find a new place to live.** Opus Bono has been trying to help him find something he can afford but thus far has not been successful. **Father Samuel** was recently placed on administrative leave by his diocese and forced to leave his rectory. **Now he has been diagnosed with cancer which has spread to his lymph nodes.** He was in an extreme state of fatigue and despair when he showed up for the retreat. After three days of joint prayer, fellowship, and spiritual renewal he was still very worried about his health, but he was finally smiling and interacting actively with other priests. Another priest had recently lost his mother after he had taken care of her daily for several years. I am sure many of you (me included)

have lost parents to death and you can understand how that feeling of loss can cause fatigue.

One of the things that we often experience when we are frustrated and fatigued is that we can lash out, harbor resentment and think the worst of ourselves and others. **St Paul tells us to refrain from “bitterness, fury, anger and reviling”**. He says we should **“taste and see the goodness of the Lord”**. This goodness is given to us through the Eucharist, but we can also experience it through charity. It is your generous nature which allows Opus Bono to provide the retreats, services and aid which can forestall the bitterness and fury which some priests experience. The services, programming and retreats which your donations allow Opus Bono to provide then in turn allow these priests to have an opportunity to **“taste and see the goodness of the Lord”**.

John in thanksgiving for the miracle of the Holy Catholic Priesthood, and in honor of all the dedicated and caring priests who have given so much to us through the years, would you please prayerfully consider offering your most generous gift of \$100, \$500, \$1,000 or more.

Priests like Fr Ted and Fr Samuel are depending on you for support. Please help them succeed.

Sincerely, with prayers to Our Lady of Priests on your behalf.



John Smith
President

P.S. - Opus Bono is not registered to solicit in CA, DC, NC, ND, or IL. If you live in one of these states, we ask only for your prayers. Please do not consider this a solicitation for a donation. But please take the time to complete and return the prayer slip included with this letter. We still want to include your prayer intentions when the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered in Our Lady of Priests Chapel for our Partners in Mission!

In the account contained herein the names of the priests have been changed to protect their privacy.