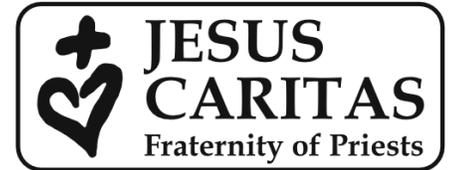


# BECOMING BROTHERS

Fall 2013

## FROM OUR NATIONAL RESPONSIBLE



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Fr. Mark Mertes

Dear Brothers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and anticipating the Advent of the Lord Jesus! This past summer and fall I had the opportunity to join with brothers for several retreat experiences. First I joined Tom McCormick and six brothers who were living the Month of Nazareth in July at the Cardinal Stritch Retreat Center in Mundelein, IL. They welcomed twenty three of us who joined them for the imbedded retreat that was led by Dan Coughlin of the Archdiocese of Chicago July 16-19. With a combination of excerpts from the writings of Brother Charles and personal reflections on his fascinating ministry of priesthood, Dan helped us to see that we are all on mission, always and everywhere in this new time of ministry. The retreat offered a holy hour to begin and to end the day which I personally found very enriching. The beautiful setting of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary enhanced our personal time as well.

Next it was off to Vernon, France, where I met with members of the Jesus Caritas International Council to promote the work of the Fraternity around the world. Jean Francois Berjonneau welcomed our International Responsible, Aurelio Sanz, from Spain, Emmanuel Asi from Pakistan, Felix Rajaonarivelo from Madagascar and myself for 5 days of prayer, work, great French food and a taste of life in France. You can find our "Letter from Vernon" on the website.

Then in October I joined Jim O'Donnell and 17 brothers from the Cleveland and Youngstown dioceses for their annual retreat. We welcomed Jim Murphy from Kilkenney, Ireland. Jim M. spun one yarn after another reminding us to live as Charles lived, offering *la bonté*, the generous gift of a loving presence.

Each of these gatherings was enriching for me. I encourage all of us to find ways to meet in small regional groups, whether as a diocese, or a few dioceses. I find the wisdom and support that comes from shared gatherings to be a real boost in the midst of ministry challenges. Our next national gathering will be our National Assembly this coming July 28-August 1, 2014 in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado. You will find more info on that in this newsletter.

May the Advent of the Lord Jesus enrich your hearts and guide your steps!

*Fr. Mark Mertes*  
Mark Mertes

## NEWS OF THE BROTHERS

From Fr. Doug Brougner of New Orleans:

"I recently celebrated my 50th anniversary of ordination recently-hard to believe. In my homily I mentioned Jesus Caritas as one of the reasons why I'm still a priest... it was a great time to give thanks for so many blessings. I'm still working as Touro hospital chaplain and sacramental priest in residence at Good Shepherd Parish."

"Fr. Winus Roeten, a Jesus Caritas, died this past summer at the age of 89 with 65 yrs. as a priest. His funeral was packed --a real celebration of life-- and the homilist mentioned how important Jesus Caritas was in his life.

Continued on next page



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Annual Mini-Retreat  
February 3-5, 2014  
Atlanta, GA

2014 National Assembly  
July 28 - August 1, 2014  
Colorado Springs, CO

We're online!!!  
Visit us at:

[www.jesus Caritas usa.org](http://www.jesus Caritas usa.org)



## NEWS OF THE BROTHERS

*Continued from previous page*

He made several Months of Nazareth including in 1972 with me at Santa Barbara Mission, led by Dan Danielson... he was active helping out in parishes till a few months ago and only spent a few weeks confined to bed in hospice care."

"Msgr. Des Dillon, reports that he is keeping busy, giving talks, making his Holy hour and still preparing to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2015."

John Jaquel, Eastern Council Rep describes how his fraternity does Lectio Divino on their prayer day:

"Practically speaking, we usually read the gospel du jour as we begin our holy hour. We conclude our hour of silence with the Prayer of Abandonment and then someone (host) reads that gospel passage again - to which we listen intently, and then in silence write down what we believe God is saying to each of us. After the scribbling stops, we read our writings aloud. Then, we listen as the host reads the gospel passage again - and after a period of silence, we each say to God aloud what we wish to say in response. We may/ may not read this gospel passage again and then remain in silence for some moments, before we conclude our "hour" with a silent blessing

with the Blessed Sacrament. We then move on to a snack and Review of Life."

**"It has been key to our priestly life in many, many ways, certainly the most important structure in my own priestly life."**

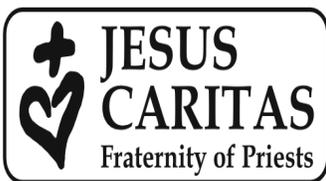
Dan Danielson wrote to me before I attended the International Assembly last November:

"I know you will enjoy the General Meeting. I had the privilege of being able to take part in two of them: in Valmont, near Lourdes and in Sao Paulo, Brazil. I was a very young national responsible when I went to Valmont. I had really gone to see if we were schismatic or not as we emphasized the Fraternity (then we were the only game in town; there were no other forms of priestly

community experiences around yet) and did not so much emphasize Brother Charles, though we did follow the practices of the Fraternity: Adoration, some did the Day in the Desert, Review of Life. Now, I am still a part of the oldest (i.e. longest lasting) Fraternity in the US. This Christmas we will have been together 47 years. It has been key to our priestly life in many, many ways, certainly the most important structure in my own priestly life. May the Lord bless you in your work... Know that I think of the Fraternity often and hope one day to be able to join you in a gathering again."

## A LITTLE MORE ON THE EARLY HISTORY OF JESUS CARITAS IN THE UNITED STATES

*From Jack O'Connor*



Dear Mark:

I read "Becoming Brothers" last night: great, newsy and inspiring as usual. On page three, "Excerpts from: The Early History of Jesus Caritas in the United States from 1963 to 1973" it said: "Msgr. Bryan Karvelis of the Brooklyn diocese in New York and Father Dan Danielson of the Oakland Diocese in California were the Peter and Paul of Jesus Caritas Fraternities in the United States."

When I got back to the Archdiocese of San Francisco from Graduate School in 1963, I was invited to be among those who formed the very first Fraternity on the West Coast.

The first fraternity consisted of: Andy Anderson '59, John Cloherty '60, Rolando Juarez '59, Jim Kennedy '60, Daniel O'Connor '59, Jack O'Connor '60 and John Petroni '59. Our first meeting was at Sacred Heart Rectory in San Francisco. I believe it was in November. That same year, we had our first post-Christmas Retreat at Sunshine Camp, near the Russian River, where poor kids from Oakland used to go for a summer get-away.

Fr. Frank Norris S.S., I believe, told our 'founders' about the Fraternity, but it was John Petroni who really was the initiator, former, of that first Fraternity in the West.

A priest from Canada, a most inspiring and impressive guy, came out and filled us in on the history and spirit of the Fraternity.

It wasn't until a year later, as I recall, that the Christmas Retreat was swelled with interested new fellows and we split into two groups.

Dan Danielson, who I would say was ordained for Oakland, which split off from San Francisco in 1962 or 1964. He was definitely a "shot in the arm" having internalized the spirit of the Fraternity and was a great speaker/presenter. I believe that by then or just before then, we had expanded our Christmas Retreat to include some great guys from The Los Angeles Archdiocese which I think still included Orange Co, at that time. They soon started having their own Christmas Retreats, but I met some great brothers from there.

Sincerely Yours,  
*-Jack O'Connor*



## JESUS CARITAS ANNUAL MINI-RETREAT

Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests is sponsoring a Mini-Retreat for Priests from **February 3-5, 2014** at **Ignatius House Retreat Center in Atlanta, GA**. The retreat begins on Monday, February 3 starting with supper at 6 pm and ending Wednesday, February 5 at noon. **All priests are welcome**. The presenter for these few days is the Father Jerry "Hap" Ragan from the Diocese of Savannah, and Southeastern Regional Responsible of our Fraternity.

The retreat will be held at **Ignatius House Retreat Center, 6700 Riverside Drive, N.W., Atlanta, GA**. Most rooms are on the first floor and all have private baths. There are two wheelchair accessible rooms near the presentation room and the dining room. There are 20 acres of wooded property on the Chattahoochee River with walking trails as well as a deck overlooking the river. The cost for the retreat is **\$325.00** with a deposit of \$50 for the reservations with the balance payable at the retreat. For information and reservations you may contact Fr. Nick Mansell at St Paul Church, 4178 Us Hwy 441 South, Douglas GA , 31535; 912-384-3560.

**(Please note: all reservations should be made through Fr. Nick and not Ignatius House.)**



*St. Ignatius Chapel*

## 2014 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**

The next Jesus Caritas National Assembly will be held in Colorado Springs, CO from July 28 through August 1, 2014. The assembly begins on Monday, July 28 at 5:00 pm with evening prayer and concludes Friday, August 1 after lunch. The cost for the assembly will be \$380 and it includes discernment of new National Responsible, Day of Reflection given by Bishop Felipe Estevez, Bishop of St. Augustine and former National Responsible. Arrangements can be made for transportation to and from Colorado Springs, CO.

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE FILL OUT THE FORM AND SEND IT TO OUR NATIONAL OFFICE:**

**JESUS CARITAS | C/O NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
333 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE | SUITE 1205 | CHICAGO IL 60601**

I will attend the National Assembly in July 2014, enclosed is a check for \$380.

I can't attend, but I would like to make a donation.

**Please provide the following information:**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**City:**

**State:**

**Zip Code:**

**Phone No.**

**Email:**

**Airline:**

**Arrival Date & Time:**

**Flight #:**



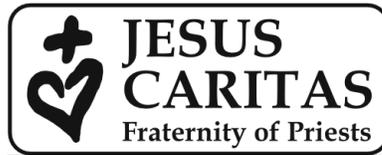
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## JESUS CARITAS 2013 DUES

If you haven't already sent in your dues, please fill out this form and send it to our national office: 333 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1205, Chicago IL 60601.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NO CHANGES

NEW MEMBER TO JC

➤ Please make checks payable to 'Jesus Caritas'

➤ Please fill out and return this form with any corrected changes. **(Please print)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_

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