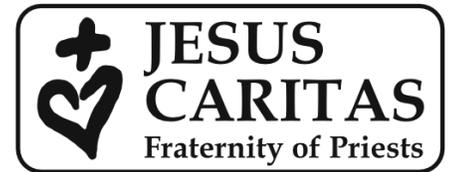
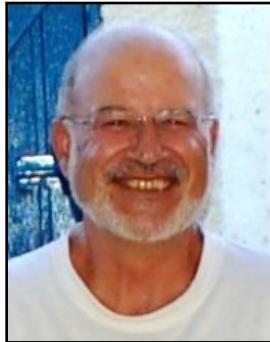


BECOMING BROTHERS

Spring 2015



FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBLE



Aurelio Sanz Baeza

In the midst of this time of Easter, with the joy of the Risen Jesus, and without leaving aside concern for those suffering in so many parts of our world, near and far from us, perhaps right beside us – immigrants, persecuted Christians, those displaced by wars, people treated like animals, child soldiers – people like ourselves living in a different country, or in a social, family or work environment with their Human Rights reduced to pure theory, for reasons we are all aware of, the message of Easter puts us in our place and opens our eyes. That young man dressed in white who in the tomb prepared for Jesus tells the women that Jesus is risen, not to come and embalm him but to go and proclaim that he is alive, that young man is each one of us, and it is our responsibility to tell by our lives as brothers that Jesus is alive, and no stone – greed, envy, hatred, fundamentalism – can hide it and that it is not necessary to continue embalming him with religious formulae that have nothing to do with the Gospel, reduced to an image that is worshipped but not loved.

Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, our Brother, God on Earth, strengthens us today with his light and sends us out to be priests, servants of the people, of the least of people, especially of the poor, not as religious professionals – Lords of the temple or masters of a religious court – (resort, condo, golf club – in each country it will have a different style –), who take refuge in ceremonies – and remain comfortable in their power structures and forms. Francis our Pope begins his Bull *Misericordia Vultus* saying that Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy, and further on, that we are called to live mercy because we first of all have been given mercy. This Holy Year announced by Francis is great news this Easter and calls us to be merciful. However, how difficult and complicated it is to be merciful to those who do not practice it, and that is where we face a challenge in our lives.

It would be good to begin the Holy Year of Mercy in our fraternities doing a Review of Life suggested by each country's situation and by the overall context of our world. Later we will be able to offer some ideas.

In Easter week we took part in the Assembly of the Charles de FOUCAULD Family in Castelfranco, Italy, with the delegates and responsables of the Fraternities working in a fraternal atmosphere which the Disciples of the Gospel afforded us at their central fraternity, making us feel very much at home, accompanied in a simple manner by these young Sisters who are a pure joy. Thanks to them and to the team made up of Marianne, Anne Marie, Antonella and Josep, we worked on the theme 'Charles de FOUCAULD, Man of Prayer, Worker, the Challenges for our Fraternities', sharing our experiences. We shared the responses to the Preparatory Questionnaire. You can see the summary of our Priestly Fraternity response on the web-site www.iesuscaritas.org It is important to highlight all we did about the Centenary of Brother Charles, gathering the initiatives of the different Fraternities and countries. It is very clear that we want to celebrate the Centennial with the simplicity of people of the Gospel and in the style of Nazareth, without any triumphalism.

It was a great joy for me to meet up in Castelfranco once more with Secondo MARTIN, the Italian Responsible, in the open session, and with Giannantonio ALLEGRI, whom I met for the first time. His testimony and peace extravaganza helped me also to feel freed from abductions, attachments and dependencies, and called to forgive again and again those who might harm me. This brother gifts us with his Nazareth of life, heart and open hands to show the mercy of God in situations difficult to imagine. His abductors and his liberation live together in his heart.

Our Brother Charles gives us, witnessing these weeks to changes in the world, to unresolved conflicts, and to new forms of slavery, the possibility from Nazareth to better understand those whose lives become problematic

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What we are Reading:

John Jacquel recently read ***Christianity After Religion (2012)*** by author and speaker **Diana Butler Bass**. She articulates well the current erosion of church participation and at the same time highlights indicators of a new spiritual awakening. What resulted from the perfect storm of traumas, scandals, and cultural shifts – particularly in the decade 200-2010 can also be seen as an opportunity to minister to real needs in new ways. She senses a good future, albeit rough getting there.

Ron Belisle has been reading ***THE CLOISTER WALK***. In it Kathleen Norris romanticizes Benedictine life, and Ron couldn't help but contrast that to Charles deFoucauld's incapacity to live as a Trappist in Syria and instead the unique ministry of serving solo at the end of the world with the most abandoned. Granted, CdF wanted unsuccessfully to found a religious order but instead inspired a form of ministry that penetrates to the working class, the neglected and marginalized the same time trying to keep the minister's heart in front of the tabernacle.

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FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBLE

Continued from previous page

when they lose everything, due to accident, attack, natural catastrophe, war, extreme poverty or illness. How can we understand these suffering people? How do we understand God? Is it a head or a heart problem? How did Brother Charles fit together all he experienced, and how, Gospel in hand, are we called to share and help? For many life has lost its meaning; hope and mercy are the bread we must break daily and this is an exercise of conversion of our hearts, of faith and a contemplative space that puts us on the Cross of Jesus and in the tomb too, to announce fearlessly and joyfully that he is alive, with the stone rolled aside and the door wide open. Sharing pain and joy is a sign of incarnation.

In July we will celebrate the Asian Month of Nazareth in Myanmar, and in November in Marsanne, France. Also in July the Viviers meeting for priests in relation to Islam. These events are mentioned on our web-site www.iesuscaritas.org and we on the International Team urge you to take part, or to pray for the brothers, putting these meetings of the Fraternity in the Lord's hands, as an act of universal brotherhood. We must not stay only in our little fraternity groups of our local or national Fraternities: there are many other brothers of other languages or races who live the charism of Charles de FOUCAULD as diocesan priests. When we share all this, not like a brand label, or like a spiritual group, we are living universal

brotherhood and we draw closer to the model of Jesus, to that of a Samaritan Church, which gets down from its high horse and attends to whoever is in need, without turning back or looking away.

To conclude, thanks for letting me know of any Fraternities events (retreats, Months of Nazareth, meetings...) to announce on the CALENDAR of the web-site. Many thanks to one and all. With Easter joy, which spreads like the water we sprinkle on brothers and sisters in celebrations in our churches, my sincere and fraternal embrace proclaiming the resurrected Jesus.

- **Aurelio SANZ BAEZA**, brother responsible
Perin, Cartagena, Murcia, Spain, 23 April 2015

P.S. - Soon after our Brother Responsible Aurelio sent out this letter, he received a decree from the Congregation for the Clergy which was dated April 14, 2015 and signed by the Prefect of the Congregation, Beniamino Cardinal Stella. The decree contained the good news that gave the Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests "la personnalite juridique". So, if there was ever any doubt, we now are a "legal entity" or have official status within the Universal Church. -**Hap**

ACT NOW ON THESE DATES

The National Fraternity is pleased to announce that the **Fr. John B. Jacquel Triennial Film Festival** is returning to the San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch N. J, this summer from **August 24 – 28, 2015**. Time off is both a blessing and essential to living as a healthy priest. And we are blessed that canon law universally allows all priests 30 days of vacation. Every three years, any priest who belongs to a fraternity (actually all priests are welcome) here in the United States is invited to share 5 of those vacation days with other priests from all over the country. It is a refreshing and renewing experience to be with men who love their vocation and ministry; praying with them, walking the beach, enjoying a swim in the pool or Ocean, playing Farkle together, and of course watching great movies. Please join us for the Summer Gathering of the Jesus Caritas Fraternity at **San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, N.J.** overlooking the vast Atlantic Ocean. Only 30 rooms are available, so act now. Reserve your room today. **Cost for a room and three great meals a day for is \$413**. It will simplify our bookkeeping if you pre-pay by check (Jesus Caritas) when you make your reservation. Should you have to cancel at the last minute, of course your money will be refunded. The nearest airport is Newark and we will try our best to have a brother priest pick you up but train service is also available. Send your check and contact information (include your cell phone #) to the National Office.

SAVE THE DATE: MONTH OF NAZARETH

Who in your fraternity hasn't yet enjoyed the blessing of the Month of Nazareth? Plans are to hold this event from **July 4 – 29 2016** at **Christ the King Seminary, near Buffalo, NY**. You won't be there if you don't mark your calendar now. For more information, go to our website www.jesus Caritasusa.org and find the brochure under publications / materials. Or better yet, ask a brother priest who's made it. Fr. Mark Mertes, former National Responsible and present member of the International Fraternity will direct the Month.

SAVE THE DATES FOR THE OHIO JESUS CARITAS RETREAT

For many years priests in Fraternities in the Cleveland and Youngstown Diocese have been gathering for a Fall Retreat at Loyola Retreat House in Clinton, OH. This year's Retreat will be held **October 4 - 9, 2015**. Fr. Jerry "Hap" Ragan will direct the retreat. More details will be in the Summer Newsletter. Akron is the nearest airport.

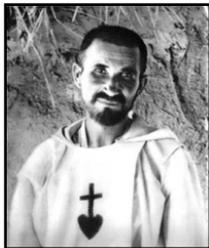


THE SEASONS OF OUR LIVES I

We move towards that time of year when some of our brothers will be in transition. This article was sent in by our Brother Mark Mertes who serves on the International Fraternity. It speaks to a time that some of us dread and others rejoice in. I hope it speaks to us all but especially those who are already retired. –Hap

CHARLES DE FOUCAULD AND MY LIFE IN A RETIREMENT HOME

by Jean-Marie Guilloteau, retired priest (Translated from the French *Courrier des Fraternités*, No. 221, January 2015)



Brother Charles de Foucauld (1858-1916) was assassinated 1 December 1916 in front of the door of his fort (bordj) en Tamanrasset. He was 58 years old. He had spoken nothing about aging and its effects. His writings and their spirituality can nevertheless guide the way of retirement just as they have clarified my pastoral ministry in their days.

I would simply like to speak of what I have lived since my entrance into the retirement home at Landreau at Les Herbiers en Vendée, now called EPHAD. It is home to, at this time, 46 priests and 14 lay and religious (4 men and 10 women). I returned here 5 years ago (31 August 2009). I was apprehensive about my entry into this place, even though I “had a good roadmap” (a good reference) My story intones scenery that directs me to a life of “retreat”.

1) I am retired in a “collectivity.” What does this mean for me?

At 75 years I still have some vitality, despite a “serious diabetic illness,” which has played out in some bad turns in the past 23 years. In 2009, I took my retirement at the House, it was at first a precaution for my health and it helped perhaps to improve my spiritual state: *Planted in the house of the Lord, they shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall always bear fruit even in old age, always vigorous and sturdy. (Psalm 92, 14-15).* It was for me a “great change”: to quit my relationships, my gratifying work, retrain my rhythm of life to a sedentary life, apparently dull; it was a veritable eradication. I never wanted to be put in a place smelling of the odor of the Grand Seminary. Little by little I have consented to live not only in a “collectivity,” but in “community.” Incidentally, last March, Paul Pouplin, our friend and brother in fraternity, spoke

in our spiritual retreat of moving from “chucking it in” to “abandoning” in confidence and in a desire to continue to live “at the pleasure of God” (this expression is the title of a book by P. Azéma).

2) The Landreau Retirement Home has become my Nazareth!

For many years I have tried to live my ministry in the spirit of Nazareth. The fraternity of Jesus Caritas has invited me to not to copy Br. Charles in his life at Nazareth, but to look for a style of life and spirituality in my ministry as priest. I have found surprising and dynamic these words that I have read and underscored. I share a few lines: “*You have carried me in your little Nazareth and also you will live in me, in my soul, also you will be poor in spirit, detached from all that is not mine, having one singular desire: the desire to accomplish my will, carry your cross, not what is pleasing to you but that which I destine you for, the faithful acceptance and loving accomplishing of all your tests in a perfect conformity to my will and the perfect and loving fortitude to see it accomplished in you* (Br. Charles, *Considérations sur les fetes de l’anneé* p.106). Nazareth represents for me the Maison Juste, the right house, that is to say, the “adaptation” to the will of God. I want to speak of the just because the liturgy calls Joseph “the Just one”, and Mary “filled with grace,” and Jesus the beloved son of the Father.

Daily Prayer: It remains eternally true that the best prayer is that which has the most love..... I love the modern and restful chapel of our residence, and the tabernacle set up on a granite column in the adjacent tower. Each day the Eucharist is celebrated, inviting us to be “men of the Eucharist.” Each day morning and evening prayer make us enter into the long history of the People of God and the prayer of the Church for the glory of God and the health of the world! Each month, in community, we make an hour of adoration. And I feel a call to a long rendezvous each day. And it is worth noting that the chapel is consecrated and dedicated to Blessed Charles de Foucauld!

THE SEASONS OF OUR LIVES II

We move towards that time of year when we welcome new brothers as they are ordained. Recently, I met with Deacon Justin Fulton at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. Justin will be ordained to the Priesthood along with five other men on May 23rd in the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln, NE. I was happy to hear that he was inspired by the priests of his Diocese to form a fraternity with the other seminarians from the Diocese of Lincoln who are at St. Charles.

Our Brother Ron Belisle who serves on the National Fraternity has composed a letter that I hope you will copy and send to the newly ordained of your Diocese. You can find the letter on our website along with the trifolds that you can download. - Hap

Dear Colleague,

An open hand of welcome to our presbyterate! I want to bolster your hopes and aspirations as a new priest, but also claiming seniority to offer a few words of advice.

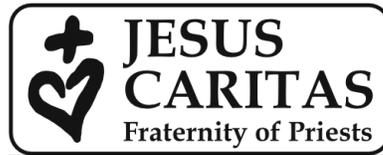
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SEASONS OF OUR LIVES II

Possibly, you have a new car and have to take out insurance on it. Here is a way to insure your priesthood; it is called the JESUS CARITAS FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS. Basically it is a low-keyed group of fellow priests encouraging each other to live out in generosity and joy their priestly ideals.

- Be centered on Christ! A fraternity member pledges to spend an hour before the Blessed Sacrament. At times it is difficult to squeeze it into your day. You may even be tired and doze off. Your mind may stray over everything happening. But you'll be proving to yourself that prayer matters, and that Christ is there for us in the Sacrament of his love.
 - Our group meets monthly for a fraternity day. Inevitably it starts off with "what's new? What's going on?" type of conversation. But Brother Charles de Foucauld directs us to a gospel-centered life, so we read a passage aloud, study it of course, but mainly try to pray it and apply it to our lives. The Review of Life is intended to be more a spiritual check-up than pastoral, although the two get intertwined. I can testify that having brother priests to check out what I am doing and how I am praying has been invaluable. We are giving another brother the permission to call us a jack-ass and in all humility, we need that on occasion.
 - My Month of Nazareth had a profound effect on my MO as a priest. We spent time in Adoration together, we cooked for each other, we did physical work that had a real bonding effect, and we learned the perspective of that priest hermit who sought out the most neglected people on earth to minister to. It was a wonderful experience.
 - Most guys find the Day in the Desert tough. To spend a full day alone, in prayer, without ministry is personally challenging and strategically difficult. If we don't do it, there is a pang of guilt; if we do it we have to accommodate it to the realities of our schedule.
 - Being a Universal Brother has received strong endorsement from Pope Francis' "smell of the sheep" statement. As fraternity members we strive to have the compassion of Christ towards the poor, the marginalized, and the immigrant. What a model Brother Charles was in this!
- I have included with this letter the set of trifolds that describe in greater detail what the Fraternity of Priests is all about. After you have read them, let me know if you have an interest in finding a fraternity and I pledge I will help you! May your priestly days be blessed!