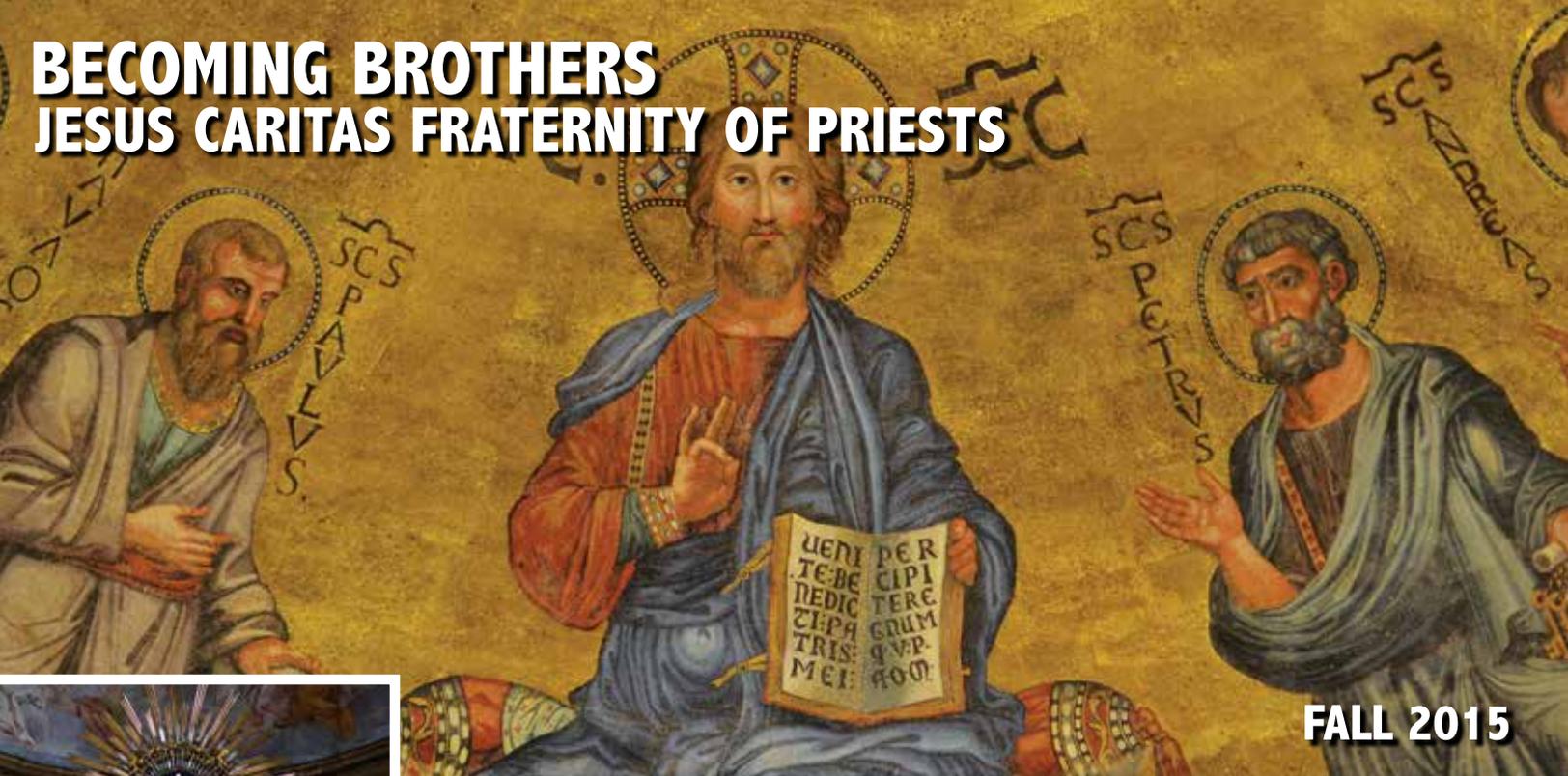


BECOMING BROTHERS JESUS CARITAS FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS



FALL 2015



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WE HAVE MOVED

The National Office has moved to Augusta, Ga. Many thanks to Yahaira de Landaverry for all the good work she has done as Administrator of the Fraternity for the past ten years. Yahaira is with child and we pray through the intercession of Nuestra Señora de La Leche y Buen Parto for her good health and that of her baby. We wish her family the very best. And we welcome Catherine Meehan Tribby as our new Administrator.
Our new address is:

Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests
1420 Monte Sano Ave.
Augusta, GA. 30904

From the Responsible

Dear Brothers,

I pray that you've found some time this summer to be "re-created." I've been blessed to spend some joyful days with my family escaping the heat of Georgia as we traveled to Cape Cod and the Boston area. And I've also experienced great blessings and loving care from my faith family here in Augusta.

One of my mentors in the priesthood — and for a time my spiritual director — was Fr. Chuck Gallagher, SJ, who taught me the importance of giving myself in love to the people of my faith community. Chuck would say, "They need to know that you belong to them." For Chuck, as leaders of the Eucharistic Body of Christ, we need to be totally committed to living in communion with our faith family and, thus, as we experience the Sacramental love of God through one another, we are drawn ever deeper in the Mystery of God present in our midst.

It is a two-way street, and the more I am committed to the people of my faith community, the more I am

amazed that they always "give back" even more to me. So, it was a relatively easy decision to move the national office to Augusta. There are so many talented and energetic folks here in my faith community that I can rely on to help. I am grateful for all the good work that Yahaira de Landaverry has done over the years for the Fraternity from her base in Illinois. And, as I form my "team" of volunteers, I am amazed at all the work Yahaira did by herself.

Catherine Meehan Tribby is our new administrator. Dori Thorstad continues to keep us in good financial order. Shannon Axon will help us with information technology issues. As you can see in this issue, I've turned to Katie Conner for her writing skills and sense of social justice issues. Christy McArdle will lend her energies to special projects. And her brother-in-law, Eric McArdle, who is president of Catholic Stewardship Consultants, was very kind to offer the skills of his

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Charles of Jesus and Modern Day Slavery

by Katie Conner

Bl. Charles de Foucauld, distinguished by gentleness and deep humility, showed a remarkable “other side” of his character when faced with the oppression of others. In those moments, he spoke and acted with a boldness that was all but shocking to his fellow clergymen at the time.

Charles insisted, “There is one case when we must resist evil forcefully. It is when it is not a case of defending ourselves but of protecting others. It takes



forcefulness to defend the weak and the innocent when their oppressors wrong them. The spirit of peace is not a spirit of weakness, but a spirit of strength.”

Though France had officially abolished the practice of slavery after establishing colonial rule in Algeria where Charles was living, the practice continued to flourish while officials turned a blind eye. Charles spoke out vigorously, demanding action from Church authorities and going so far as to personally buy the freedom of slaves from their captors.

Charles declared, “We must stand up for the rights of our neighbor who is suffering from injustice; we must defend them all the more vigorously because we see Jesus present in them. Surely this is our duty because of our love for others for his sake. We have no right to be ‘sleeping watchmen’ or dumb watchdogs. Whenever we see evil we must sound the alarm.”

Describing the situation in Algeria, Charles said, “Beside the huge and monstrous injustice that is

always at the root of slavery there is a special injustice here. Almost all the slaves were kidnapped as children, either from Sudan or from Touat when they were between five and 15 years old.”

It sounds unthinkable. Yet this deplorable practice continues today right here in our own country where at least 100,000 American children are enslaved as victims of sex trafficking each year. It’s known as Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking and the average age at which a boy or girl is first exploited is 13. It’s a lucrative business. The city of Atlanta alone generated a profit of almost \$300 million last year from sex trafficking.

It sounds unthinkable. Yet this deplorable practice continues today right here in our own country where at least 100,000 American children are enslaved as victims of sex trafficking each year.

But in the spirit of Charles de Foucauld, individuals around the country are beginning to stand up for these little sisters and brothers, speaking out to bring awareness to this hidden form of slavery, demanding action from lawmakers, and going about the complex task of bringing restoration and healing to these profoundly abused victims.

In Augusta, Ga., a ministry called iCare has been established to combat sex trafficking and offer services to victims and children of the victims who at extreme risk for exploitation, as well. iCare was founded by a couple who had been serving the homeless through a ministry of their church. They would bring food, supplies and the message of Christ’s love to the downtown area where homeless folks were known to congregate.

The couple had recently returned from a mission trip to Africa and were awakened there to the horrors of sex trafficking and the great danger to not only the women victims, but the babies of the victims, as well.

Continued on next page

Their long-term ministry goal had been to return to Africa to serve trafficking victims and their children, however as they got to know the stories of the homeless folks they were serving in downtown Augusta, they began to realize the need for such ministry lay much closer to home.

iCare has a four-pronged approach to combating sex trafficking, which includes bringing awareness of the issue to the local community, preventing at-risk youth from exploitation, intervening to assist victims rescued from trafficking in the immediate days and hours after rescue, and providing long-term restoration services to victims and their children.

As part of its restoration component, iCare is in the process of building two restoration homes on a parcel of rural property. One home will be for the victims and the other will be for the young children of the victims. It is the first ministry in the country where both mothers

and children can heal in close proximity, each receiving the specialized care that they need.

The needs of these victims are tremendous. The task of taking down the powerful, multi-million dollar sex trafficking industry is staggering. This work will require the combined efforts of the Church, of lawmakers and law enforcement, of the business community and of caring individuals. But it can and must be done. As Bl. Charles de Foucauld has said, "When an injustice is being done to someone and there is something they can do to help, the brothers and sisters will not stand by idly, but will say or do all they can to help. Behind masks and outward appearances, they will see in everyone an inexpressibly sacred being in whom Jesus lives."

For more information about the issue of sex trafficking and opportunities in your state to combat it, visit the website of Shared Hope International, www.sharedhope.org.

Green Booklet and Contemplation

On Sept. 8, 1939 Isr Magdeleine made her religious profession. The date marks the foundation of the Little Sisters of Jesus. In the early years of the community Isr Magdeleine wrote a "foundational text" called the Green Booklet. The following extract is taken from that text, which remains one of the Little Sisters source-documents:

You must bring your CONTEMPLATIVE VOCATION into the midst of the EVERYDAY LIFE of HUMANKIND. Are you fully aware that, despite the outer appearances of leading an apostolic life, you must be a true contemplative? ... In order that your communities may always be open and welcoming without this being a drawback but rather an advantage, they must be homes radiant with prayer and love, simplicity and peace, gentleness and joy. Your homes must be like the house of Nazareth, with Jesus living among you. Through prayer and love Jesus must so fill your heart and your soul that others may see him through you. ...

Contemplatives in the midst of the world, daring to say that their contemplative life can be lived to the full

in the crowded cities or even on the highways as well as in the silence of a monastery ... some people are surprised at this, but think of Jesus, the greatest contemplative of all. Think of his hidden life at Bethlehem and Nazareth, of his public life on the roads. ... Do not let these words "contemplative" and contemplative vocation" frighten you. Do not picture an exceptional vocation so high that most people can never come near it.

Brother Charles of Jesus tell you what it means. It is a completely simple, trusting and loving attitude of someone talking intimately with Jesus. It is the affection of a little child for his father, the confident sharing of a friend with a friend:

"When we love someone, we want to speak to him endlessly. Prayer is nothing else: a familiar conversation with our Beloved. We gaze at him, we tell him we love him, we rejoice to be at his feet." — Br. Charles of Jesus

This is the essence of prayer and the meaning of contemplation.

An Encouragement

by Hap Ragan (SAV)

Two extended retreats have formed me in the priesthood. One was a 30-day Ignatian Retreat in 1992 and the other was the Month of Nazareth in 2004. Both continue to bear fruit in my everyday life. Sometime in your life as a priest in Jesus Caritas, it is important to set aside an extended time to pray, study, and devote oneself to the charisms of the Fraternity. The Month of Nazareth presents an excellent opportunity to step back, evaluate, and prioritize anew the practices and principles to which we have all made a commitment. Such an endeavor takes time and freedom from the distractions, preoccupations, and energy draining tasks with which we are bombarded in our everyday ministry. For me, the month was a true novitiate in fraternal life but especially in contemplative prayer.

For some, the Month of Nazareth has been a veritable life-changing event. For others, it has been a month of much-needed rest. For all, it is an opportunity to grow more deeply in the experience and in an understanding of Fraternity. Those who have “made the Month” report a quantum leap in successfully living out the particular charisms of Jesus Caritas. For many, it is an immersion in the mystery of their own priesthood and the priesthood of Jesus Caritas.

You may be asking, “How can a priest take a whole month off?” Most participants take off the four weeks, with only the three weekends inclusive. Dioceses usually recognize the week of retreat as fulfilling the annual canonical requirement.

And, Canon Law (cc.533,550) grants priests a full month for vacation each year. Since one of these weeks is retreat, you still have vacation time coming!

The Month is important. Every fraternity member should attend a Month of Nazareth. It is well worth making a priority and following through. If you haven’t yet made the Month, take a few moments now to resolve to do so. Begin now to plan ahead; block out the time and keep that calendar clear. Finding coverage for three weekends in a row will be a challenge, but fraternity brothers have already volunteered to fill-in for a weekend or two. Most priests are able to cover much of the costs of the Month by combining their continuing education and retreat allowances. Please do not allow the costs to be an obstacle. If you need help with coverage or costs contact me by cell at 706-267-1073, or by email at hapragan@hotmail.com.

What Our Brothers Are Saying About the Month of Nazareth

“An incredible grace! A pearl of great price! Go sell whatever you have and buy the field!”

“The faith sharing and Reviews of Life were done in a caring and supportive atmosphere, respectful of each person’s uniqueness.”

“The Desert Days became opportunities for me to grow in my relationship with Jesus.”

“The early hour of adoration was not always easy, but keeping it as the first activity of the day was a stroke of genius. It focused our attention on the infinite majesty of God for the rest of the day.”

“The openness to speak and share deeply shows the respect for the brothers, despite many obvious theological and political differences. It witnesses to the fact of pluralism as a gift and that God has as many faces as we who are created in God’s image.”

“The Month is analogous to the Sacrament of Confirmation as completing one’s initiation into the church... The daily holy hour brings me to a consciousness of the many brothers and sisters from around the world who are companions with me in this prayer experience.”



Month of Nazareth

Time:
July 4 – 29, 2016

Place:
Christ the King Seminary,
East Aurora, NY

Cost:
\$900

Director:
Fr. Mark Mertes (KCK)

Retreat within the Month:
July 11 -15

Directed by:
Fr. Dan Danielson (OAK)

Cost:
\$300

A Sincere Thank You!

Karachi, Thursday, July 30, 2015

This note comes to you as my sincere thanks for making the Asian Month of Nazareth 2015 a success! No doubt a lot of hard work went into making Asian Month of Nazareth 2015 go off so smoothly. I would like to thank all who made it happen.

According to my own informal assessment, Asian Month of Nazareth 2015 was a quality community event to be held after almost 20 years. Our hosts, Fraternity Members from Myanmar, did an excellent job organizing and managing the event. We extend our unending gratitude to them once again with these words!

A big thank you to all of those who gave input [Emmanuel Asi, Pakistan, Thomaïar Susai — RIP, India, Edo C. Coroza and Tony Llanes, Philipppians and Arthur Charles, Pakistan] If it were not for you, such an informative and valuable Month of Nazareth would not have been possible. Thank you to all of our Jesus Caritas Brothers from Europe and the United States for their financial help! Without your support and ongoing contributions to us, the Asian Month of Nazareth 2015 could not have been such a success.

Last but not least, the attendees. Thank you all for participating in Asian Month of Nazareth 2015. Without you, there would not have been Month of Nazareth. So, once again THANK YOU so much for your attendance, interest and support. Hopefully, we will be able to have Asian Assembly next year in 2016 in the Philippines!

God bless you and please remember me in your prayers,

Sincerely yours,
Arthur Charles
Asian Responsible

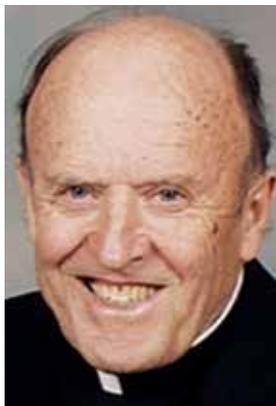
Editor's Note: Unfortunately, towards the end of the Month Fr. Thomaïar Susai, the parish priest of Holy Family Church in the Archdiocese of Bangalore, suffered a stroke and died. Please pray for him and all those who mourn his passing. And thank you to all who have paid their annual dues, which allows us to help our brothers in fraternity throughout the world.



Father Gerry Keefe Remembered as Gifted Spiritual Director

Obituary

If a priest truly desires to enter into the life and spirit of the Jesus Caritas Fraternity, then a Month of Nazareth is a foundational experience. There are a few priests in the United States who have so valued the experience that they have made the Month more than once. Fr. Gerry Keefe was one of them. Gerry was a humble and deeply spiritual man. Word of his death comes from Fr. Roger Hessian. Bob Zykowski wrote this obituary in *The Catholic Spirit*:



Father Gerald Keefe, who died March 19, 2015 at the age of 93, is being remembered as a kind and humble priest, pastor and spiritual director. "His kindness and humility radiated from him wherever he went," remembered Father Eugene Pouliot, a retired priest of the archdiocese.

"He was a priest's priest," added Father Kenneth Pierre, who recalled that he was a schoolboy at St. Andrew School in St. Paul when he first saw Father Keefe. "He was an assistant pastor at St. Mark [in St. Paul, his first priestly assignment] then, and he would attend all their sports games."

Born Jan. 28, 1922, in Minneapolis to Daniel and Mary (Heiling) Keefe, Gerry Keefe attended Nazareth Hall and the St. Paul Seminary before being ordained in 1947.

While still serving at St. Mark, Father Keefe did what Father Pierre called "his flagship work" as spiritual director at the St. Paul Seminary in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

In 1963 he was named the founding pastor of St. William in Fridley. He also served briefly at St. Olaf in Minneapolis

and St. Joseph the Worker in Maple Grove. He joined Father Gerard Rowan as co-pastor of St. Rita in Cottage Grove, where, from 1980 to 1987, the quieter Father Keefe was lovingly referred to as "Mr. Inside" to Father Rowan's "Mr. Outside," a reflection of how the two priests divided ministry responsibilities in a way that fit their personalities.

"He was an inspiration to me as a priest," Father Pierre said. "He was an original spiritual thinker."

Upcoming Dates

August 24-28	Long Branch, NJ	Vacation Days (706-267-1073)
September 25	Pilgrims Mass at the Shrine of St. Katherine Drexel during Papal Visit to U.S. (706-267-1073)	
October 4-9	Clinton, OH	Jesus Caritas Retreat for Priests (330-896-2315) Reservations at www.loyolaretreathouse.com
October 19-29	Murcia, Spain	Meeting of the International Fraternity
February 15-19	Cuernavaca, MX	First Pan American Assembly
July 4-29	East Aurora, NY	Month of Nazareth
July 11-15	East Aurora, NY	Retreat during the Month of Nazareth

Summer Checklist for Summer Responsibilities

- Summer is the time for moving and when reassignments take place. Have you sent these address changes to the National Responsible?
- Vacation time! Urge fraternity members to stop on their trips to visit priests in remote areas or classmates in small rural parishes. Invite them into fraternity.
- Suggest that members in the Review of Life mention how they managed the Hour of Adoration, Liturgy of the Hours, and other commitments during the leisurely summertime.
- The weather is good; why not organize a joint Day in the Desert together, and conclude it with a picnic, a swim, or an overnight camping trip?
- The Month of Nazareth is our basic training for Fraternity. Encourage those in your group who have never made the Month to make it next July.
- \$50 dues should have already been paid. Check with your members, and point out that much of that fee is spent in promoting Fraternity in 3rd-World Countries.

List of Council Members

National Responsible

Rev. Jerry Ragan
1420 Monte Sano Avenue
Augusta, GA 30904
706-733-6627
Email: hapragan@hotmail.com

Western Council Member

Rev. Joseph Greeley
3519 St. Pancratius Place
Lakewood, CA 90712
562-634-6111; fax: 562-634-7817
Email: stpanpastor@sbcglobal.net

Central Council Member

Rev. Greg Pawloski
St. Joseph's Church
1306 23rd Street/PO Box 406
Auburn, NE 68305-0406
402-274-9777
Email: gppawloski@yahoo.com

Eastern Council Member

Rev. John B. Jacquet
Holy Rosary Church
2701 East Avenue
Erie, PA 16504
814-456-4254
Email: pastor_holy_rosary@neo.rr.com

South Central Council Member

Rev. Bob L. Amundsen
Immaculate Conception Parish
715 Cabrini Drive
Lafayette, CO 80026-2676
303-665-5103 Ext. 106
Email: frbob@lafayettecatholic.org

Northwestern Council Member

Rev. Ronald H Belisle
1200 E. Phillips Lake Loop Road
Shelton, WA 98584
360-427-4300
Email: ronbelisle@hctc.com

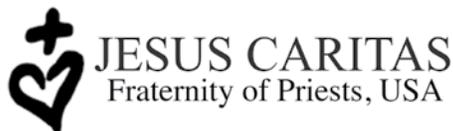
International Council Member

Rev. Mark Mertes
Blessed Sacrament Church
2203 Parallel Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66104
913-321-1958; fax: 913-321-1997
Email: frmarkkck2010@gmail.com

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From the Responsible

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staff to help produce our newsletter. I am blessed to have such giving folks in my Faith Family.

There is still room for our vacation days gathering at the Jersey Shore. So, if you are on the East Coast and haven't had much of a break this summer, give me a call (706-267-1073) and we can make last-minute arrangements for you to join us at San Alfonso Retreat House in Long Branch, N.J. from August 24 -28.

Finally, I want the big thrust of this newsletter to be a recruiting effort for next summer's Month of Nazareth at Christ the King Seminary in Buffalo, N.Y. Thanks to our advance team of Fr. John Jacquel (Erie), Fr. Greg Faulhaber (Buffalo) and Fr. Gayle Angelli of Christ the King Seminary, we've been able to come up with the best price for a Month of Nazareth in over a decade. The projected cost of the month will be \$900 for each priest and the week of retreat will cost \$300 for each priest. I pray these prices will be so affordable that a good number of fraternity members

will be able to come to Buffalo next summer. And the great news is that Fr. Dan Danielson, the Western Patriarch of our Fraternity, will make one last trip to the East to be our Retreat Director for the embedded retreat of the Month, which will be July 11–15, 2016. So, plan to attend and spread the good news among the brothers. And recruit, recruit, recruit for the Month, for as the 'fathers' of the Fraternity remind us, "the month of Nazareth is considered de rigeur to enter into the life and spirit of Jesus Caritas. Registration for the month will be in the Fall Newsletter but please begin recruiting now!

Fraternally,



Jerry "Hap" Ragan
Brother Responsible, USA