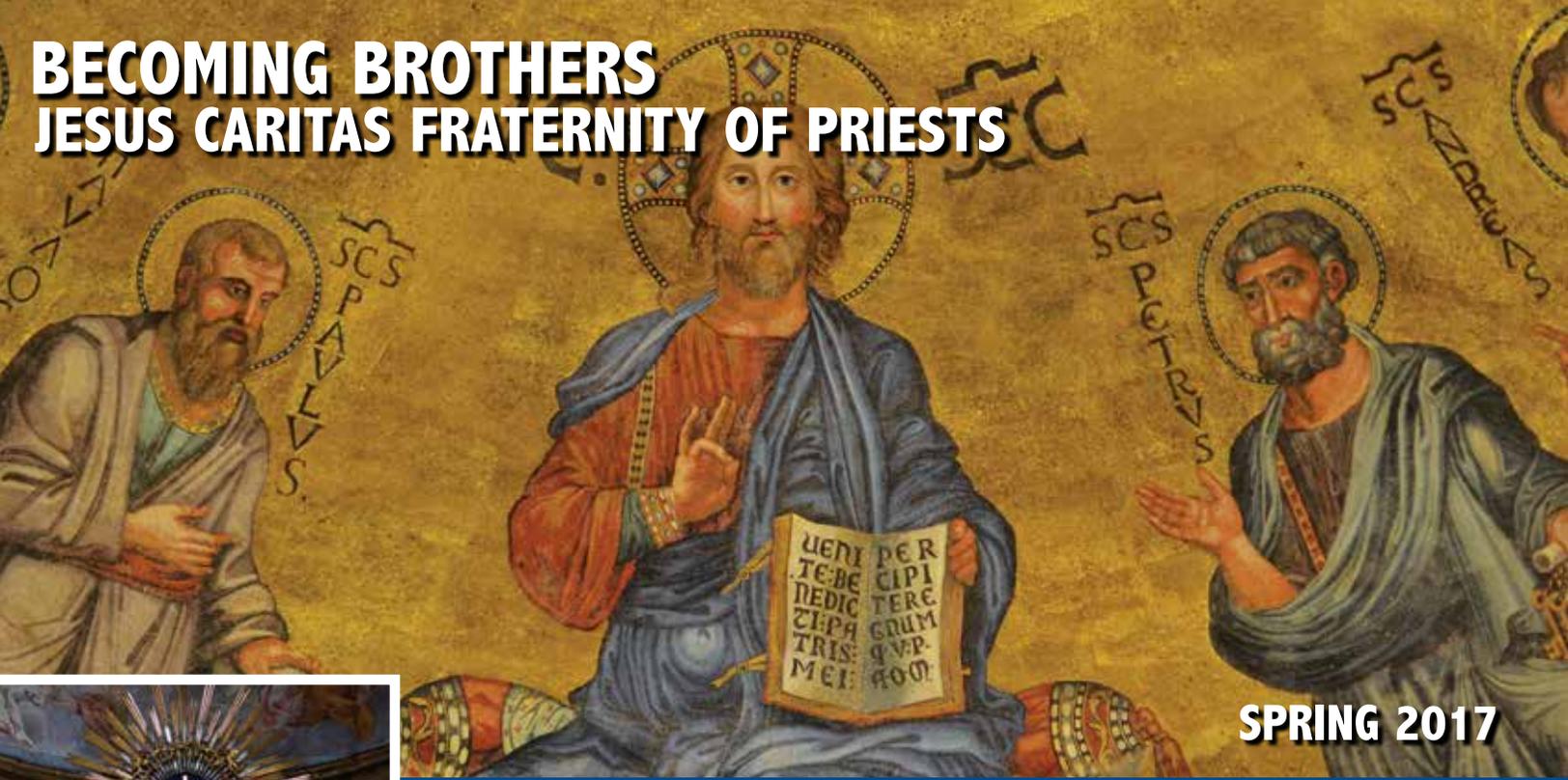


# BECOMING BROTHERS JESUS CARITAS FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS



SPRING 2017



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## From the National Responsible

Dear Brothers,

It has been a busy Lent here in Augusta. The parish is celebrating its 100th Anniversary and we had a great Lenten Mission directed by priests with ties to St. Mary on the Hill: Fr. Pablo Migone who was ordained out of our faith community in 2009, Msgr. Jim Costigan who preceded me as pastor, and Bishop Kevin Boland who in 1959 began his priestly ministry in our parish. The parish is also in the process of filling three key positions: Music Director, School Principal, and Director of Mission. As we move towards filling those positions, I hope and pray that I will begin to experience a real Easter joy with these new beginnings. I pray that you too will experience new life and joy in this Easter season.

In this Easter season one of my friends and mentors in Fraternity, Fr. Mike Smith, a former National Responsible is challenged to experience the joy of the Resurrection in a new way. On Friday of the First Week of Lent here in Augusta, a surgeon discovered that Mike not only had a malignant Klatskin's tumor in his bile duct but he also had inoperable cancer of his abdominal wall. So Mike has experienced the paschal mystery in a very personal way this past Lent. In being a witness to the Resurrection by his joyful spirit and active love of his neighbor, especially the poor and the marginalized, Mike has brought so many



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## Letter of Jean François and Aurelio

Dear Brothers,

We have worked this week on Fraternity affairs and especially, in relation to those who are at the heart of our concern and who motivate us, that is to say, each one of you. In this little Nazareth that is Vernon, at the home of our brother François MARIN, who has hosted us as if we were his sons, we remember you and thank God that you are our brothers. Many thanks, François, for providing a resting place for the pilgrim and receiving your brothers.

We centered our work on reviewing pending Fraternity issues in a good climate of dialogue, sharing ideas, viewpoints and the concern to resolve outstanding matters and for the immediate future operation of the Fraternity: the questionnaires for the European Assembly this Summer in Poland, and for the World meeting in India in January 2019, the finances of the International Fraternity, the furnishing of a 2016 Fraternity report to be sent to the Congregation for the Clergy in the Vatican, the new fraternity in Haiti, preparations for the meeting of responsables and delegates of the Charles de FOUCAULD Family in April in Aachen, echoes of the Centenary of brother Charles, which arrive from different countries, our concerns for the health of Félix, from Madagascar, and the recovery of Suso, from Spain, having undergone surgery, etc.

On Monday, 6th March we shared with the responsables for the Regions of Île de France and Normandy (Yves de MALLMANN, Joseph JOURJON, Louis YON and Xavier CHAVANE) in an extended time of dialogue and encounter. It was wonderful to be able to meet each other in fraternity, in order to share in common the realities of our fraternities and our concerns. We believe that in Europe we are living through a time of transition which is a real Nazareth with the ageing of our Fraternities. There is a very serious call to live this moment with optimism and with of love for this Nazareth spirituality while we are ever older with few young members joining us. Living simply and at the same time the commitment of a universal brotherhood in an Europe that is very focused on itself, and inward looking, rejecting the stranger, the refugee, full of fears that give rise to an increase of populist politics and reactionary trends. Faced with all this, and in line with Pope Francis, we feel called to give witness to Brother Charles' message of universal brotherhood and the missionary character of our charism as the Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests. Dialogue with Muslims in Europe we believe to be possible, and many expressions of rapprochement are to be found in a great many Christian communities. Prejudices must come down and the temptation to regard others as a threat. For example, in France, a third of working class areas are Muslim. We must learn how to enter into dialogue with this reality.



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## Letter *continued from page 2*

On Tuesday 7th we had a visit from Jacques GAILLOT, Titular Bishop of Partenia, a member of the Fraternity who came from Paris to share in our work in Jean François' home. The time we spent together was a great gift from the moment we picked him up at the Vernon train-station until his departure. We could learn from the wisdom of the simple how to be more humanitarian, how to be priests in a difficult world, how to be open to hope and how to live without the securities and comforts of being Westerners. Thank you, Jacques, for coming to spend time with us and for all the testimonies throughout your life of a dedication to the cause of Jesus.

On Wednesday 8th we worked in the morning and in the afternoon, we approached Gouville, in order to be with Michel PINCHON, whom we found to be strong and sound. His home is open to numerous visits of the people of the locality or from further afield with whom he shares with generosity his experience and wisdom. We had supper with Jean Louis RATTIER and took part in the meeting of the Bible workshop of his parish in Damville, sharing on his pastoral activity and his day to day work. It is always rewarding to take part in each brother's Nazareth, both exterior and interior. Nazareth is the lived experience of how we situate ourselves fraternally before all that surrounds us, in an ever-closer union with Jesus.

We highly valued the work of Fernando TAPIA, Jean Michel BORTHEIRIE and Manuel POZO in Almería, Spain, drawing up a basic outline on the Month of Nazareth. This document will be studied for approval at the Bangalore Assembly. Thanks to these brothers for having responded to this request from us in the International Team.

Let us remember that we must make an effort in all regions to support the International fund, especially as the next World Assembly in Bangalore in 2019 has a budget to meet and we need to cover expenses. As an International Team we try to save resources as much as possible. Our thanks to those fraternities who have already generously paid their share.



Our web-site [iesuscaritas.org](http://iesuscaritas.org) is open to the contributions of all fraternities. We await your articles, news and notices of forthcoming to publish them in our Diary. This is a means of communication that brings us closely together.

Our time of reflection has also taken into account the call to live, as a Fraternity, our ministry as missionaries within the diocesan presbyterate, wherever we are based, be it a parish, a hospital, a prison, or with organisations that help refugees, or people displaced by war or poverty, or in places that care for the needy of our societies, with the call to go to the last, like Charles de FOUCAULD, because it is there that we meet Christ. As Pope Francis reminds us, there is no spiritual life without an open, generous and merciful heart.

“Let us go forth, then, let us go forth to offer everyone the life of Jesus Christ...I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security... More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus tirelessly repeats to us: Give them something to eat yourselves” (Mk 6:37). (Evangelli Gaudium, 49)

From Vernon, we wish you a path to Easter with Jesus and the brothers and sisters as companions on the road.

A big embrace.

Jean François and Aurelio  
Vernon, Normandy, France, 10 March, 2017

# THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD FROM JULY 17 -- 21, 2017 AT ST. JOHN'S SEMINARY, CAMARILLO, CA. Ideally, each fraternity in the United States would send a member to the Assembly. If the fraternity has been a blessing to your priesthood, we need to gather so as to figure out how to share our good news. Besides our national gatherings are always great experiences. If you haven't yet register for the National Assembly, please fill out the form below and send it to our National Office, 1420 Monte Sano Ave, Augusta, GA 30904, along with your check payable to: Jesus Caritas.

## TOP 10 REASONS TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- ❖ Daily prayer and adoration and repasts with like-minded brothers.
- ❖ Insights and inspiration offered by Fr. Fernando Tapia of Chile
- ❖ See Van Gogh's "Irises" at the Getty Center
- ❖ Ride the Ferris Wheel on Santa Monica Pier
- ❖ You have been blessed by Priestly Fraternity
- ❖ Offer your input and discernment for the new National Responsible
- ❖ SoCal beautiful weather... average daily high on July 30 is 76° degrees
- ❖ Go on location with John B. Jacquel to the Movie Capital of the World
- ❖ See the LA Cathedral and the Communion of Saints Tapestries
- ❖ Jesus Caritas has offered you a spiritual framework for your ministry



- I will attend the National Assembly in July 2017, enclosed is a check for \$400.
- I can't attend, but I would like to make a donation.

### Please provide the following information:

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell No. \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Airline: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Airport (LAX, LGB, JWA), Date & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Flight #: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Bangalore Questionnaire

In view of the International Assembly of Bangalore in January 2019, this questionnaire is directed to all the Fraternities by the International Council. The theme chosen for this assembly is Missionary Diocesan Priests Inspired by the witness of Br. Charles de Foucauld.

Pope Francis calls us to a new impulse for evangelization in his exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*. The International Council asks that each fraternity would make a review of life from this questionnaire so that the reflection of the international assembly will be rooted in the life and mission of each one of us as diocesan priests.

The opinion of the National Fraternity is that these questions are abstract in the spirit of a theological reflection that is not much practices in the American experience. We are more practical folks, so give them consideration but also give the International Council a sense of what attracted you to fraternity and why it is important to your spiritual life and ministry.

Our collated national report will be sent to Aurelio, the International Responsible by September 2017 so that the International Council can use this in their meeting in January 2018 in Bangalore.

## The Bangalore Questionnaire

### Part One: Human

How do our political, economic, social and cultural realities touch me and my fraternity?

### Part Two: Church

How have we, as a diocese, parishes and communities, been inspired and illuminated by *Evangelii Gaudium* to be a Church reaching out to the peripheries? What are the obstacles and dangers in this journey?

### Part Three: Fraternities

How do we experience the spirituality of Br. Charles through the Review of Life, Day in the Desert, Eucharistic Adoration, and accompanying the poor?

## SPRING CHECKLIST FOR RESPONSIBLES

- \$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. A list of our dues paying members will be posted in the summer newsletter.
- Encourage at least one member of your fraternity to attend the National Assembly.
- Send a list of your Fraternity Brothers into to the national office and note if any have made the Month of Nazareth.
- At your May or June meeting discuss the Bangalore Questionnaire and e-mail a report to the national office: [jesus.caritas.usa@gmail.com](mailto:jesus.caritas.usa@gmail.com).

# Report on the South American Assembly of the Lay Fraternities

*by Fr. Lenny Tighe*

In February I attended a four day meeting in Brazilia, Brazil which included the Lay Fraternities of Brazil, Argentina, Chile. There were 70 people mostly speaking Portuguese, but Spanish was spoken as well as a little English. It was held at the Brazilian Conference of Bishops Center for the continued education of missionaries to the Amazon.

The Lay Fraternities are very strong and numerous in all Latin America, and Blessed Charles de Foucauld is very well known. There are 15 books in Portuguese published by just one Catholic press in Brazil. And there are close to 100 books on Blessed Charles in Spanish. In the English we have 5. This may explain why Foucauld has made little or no impact on us. People here in the states know little of his life and even less of his contemplative spirituality. The lay fraternities in South America have about 10 members per group. They have adoration when available in a church. They are not connected to any one parish. They always have some kind of meal together. They have Review of Life, at every meeting and the writings of Foucauld are central to the character of the group. Each group's members are involved in some way with peace and justice issues, but there is no one particular group activity. Some events include all their family members. The Lay group is a spiritual well, a source of community and inviting depth of faith. They have frequent days of recollection and retreats. They are perhaps a current form of a base community, and each person works in their parish in some form of ministry. Often they are not fed by the spiritual life of the parish and desire something deeper.

There are now 13 congregations and many new young communities founded on the life and vision of Foucauld; In Vietnam, Canada, and of course Europe. Worth mentioning is the amazing growth of the Foucauld communities in Malta. Many of the Jesus Caritas priests are involved in creating the Lay Fraternities and encourage them in the spirituality of Blessed Charles. It seems natural that if a Jesus Caritas priest finds their fraternity so valuable they want to share the model and the charism of Foucauld with others. Most Lay Fraternities see their groups as a base community held together by the spirituality of Foucauld, which is the common bond for each of them.

In the USA and Canada we have very few lay fraternities: in Boston, Philadelphia, Montreal and Mt Vernon, NY. Fr Howard Calkins (who suffers from severe dementia) was very committed to the growth of lay fraternities. Fr Brian Karvelis of Brooklyn, NY had 20 fraternities in his parish, all Spanish speaking. The Lay Fraternities also have a parish retreat house which is well used.

Would that every Jesus Caritas priest in the US could share their fraternity experience and plant the seeds to begin a Jesus Caritas Lay Fraternity.

*Lenny can be contacted at [Amadeus617@aol.com](mailto:Amadeus617@aol.com)*

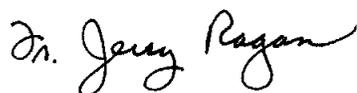
At very reasonable prices, Lenny Tighe has taken the initiative to produce beautiful medals, lapel pins, and Jesus Caritas crosses. You can view and purchase these items at <http://cristianosunidos.org/foucauld2016/shop/>

## From the Responsible *continued from front cover*

of us ever deeper into the Mystery of God's love. His "little way" is rooted in an Incarnational Spirituality, so Mike is hoping that he might experience Christmas one more time in his life before he journeys on to the glory of an eternal Easter.

May God bless all our journeys as we celebrate the triumph of our Lord Jesus this Easter Season. With fraternal love I wish you the blessings of this Easter season.

Fraternally,



Fr. Jerry "Hap" Ragan

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*You can contact Fr. Mike Smith through St. Matthew Parish, 221 John Paul Ave., Statesboro, GA 30458 or through his email: [mhsinboro@yahoo.com](mailto:mhsinboro@yahoo.com)*

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# National Fraternity

### National Responsible

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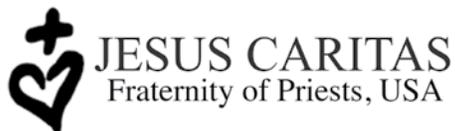
### Bishop Liaison

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1420 Monte Sano Ave., Augusta, GA 30904



## A Jesus Caritas Examination of Conscience

The questions that aren't asked but should be about our priesthood:

- 1) Why aren't we kinder -- to our people and to one another and to ourselves?
- 2) Are we more strangers to each other rather than a fraternity of brothers?
- 3) How much integrity are we living with? What have we compromised away?
  - 4) Have we turned into old fart bachelors?
  - 5) Are we still able to laugh when we minister? Cry?

— Fr. Dominic Grassi



Priestly friendship: this is a treasure, a treasure that we must cultivate among ourselves — friendship among you, priestly friendship. Not all can be intimate friends. But how beautiful a priestly friendship is! When priests, as two brothers, three brothers, four brothers, know one another, speak of their problems, of their joys, of their expectations, so many things .... priestly friendship. Seek this, it's important to be friends. I think this helps a lot to live the priestly life, to live the spiritual life, the apostolic life, community life and also the intellectual life: priestly friendship. If I met a priest who said to me: "I've never had a friend," I would think that this priest has not had one of the most beautiful joys of the priestly life: priestly friendship. It is what I wish for you. I wish that you be friends with those that the Lord puts before you for friendship. I wish you this in life.

Priestly friendship is a force of perseverance, of apostolic joy, of courage, and also of a sense of humor. It's beautiful, most beautiful! — Pope Francis, May 12, 2014