

## WHAT OUR BROTHERS SAY 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 personal 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 of Nazareth helps move us from the small group support (of the local Fraternity) to becoming universal brothers which lies at the heart of Jesus Caritas. 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."*

### Jesus Calls

Joseph went to the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way what was said through the prophets was fulfilled: He shall be called a Nazorean. *Mt 2:23*

### Brother Charles Responds

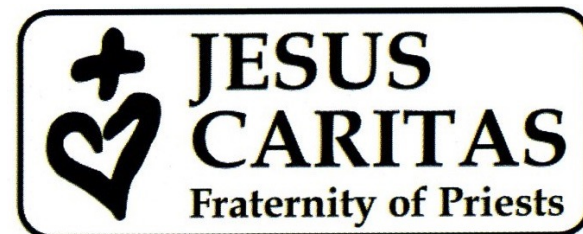
Take Jesus' life in Nazareth as an objective in all things, in its simplicity and its greatness... live just like Jesus of Nazareth -- no special costume or habit, no cloister, no living apart from others, rather living close to them. *Tamanrasset Workbook #46*

### I Respond

I should offer my selfless friendship to those who are placed along my route by the Lord. It is friendship that is the language of the Kingdom of God.

Charles' discovery of Nazareth is, then, something new: new at that time, and, apart from a few traces in the early period, new in the whole history of the Church. How did Charles come to know of Nazareth? He first went there, without much initial enthusiasm, on the recommendation of Abbe Huvelin, who had suggested to him a visit to the Holy Land, as part of his search for his vocation. Once there, an "attraction" for the place immediately took hold of Charles. What exactly did this attraction consist in? Not in the meager physical remains, but, as he later put it, in the discovery of "God the workman of Nazareth". It was like a seed, once implanted, that grew and developed, and came to dominate his whole life.

Ian Latham, Ch 5, *Vision of the Gospel*



# MONTH OF NAZARETH

For Brother Charles de Foucauld, "Nazareth" was the place and the lived experience in which Jesus became the Obedient Son, the Faithful Servant, the Suffering Servant, the Universal Brother. In Jesus Caritas "Nazareth" stands as a symbol of God's transforming grace offered to us, his sons and priests.

## THE MONTH OF NAZARETH

What's it all about?

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 v/e 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 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 Christ.

*"The Month of Nazareth is a sharing of the fraternal life at every level: prayer, reflection, manual work, leisure, etc. There is a deepening shared spiritual awareness of the great original intuitions of the Fraternity, with an attempt to confront the conflicting appeals of the Church and the world, the situations in which priests have to live." (from the Directory)*

In the United States, the Month is generally offered at least every third year at a site which affords a comfortable climate, adequate exercise facilities, and space to be apart from other programs. For four weeks, the participants live by supporting each other not only in prayer and faith sharing, but also in service, e.g., manual labor and food preparation. There is also the challenge of living

with and valuing the disparate personalities, temperaments, ages and experiences, strengths and weaknesses which such close living affords. Forming a fraternity for these weeks is critical in order to experience the benefits that can be received by living out the Jesus Caritas way of life.

### What can I expect?

Participants gather under the guidance of a priest with previous experience of the Month who volunteers to facilitate and manage the myriad of details necessary to experience a good Month. Often, this is either a previous National Council member or past National Responsible.

Take Jesus' life in Nazareth as an objective in all things, in its simplicity and its greatness... live just like Jesus of Nazareth -- no special costume or habit, no cloister, no living apart from others, rather living close to them.

*Michel Lafon, 15 Days of Prayer with Charles de Foucault, p. 40*

The month is spent exploring many important topics: from the life of Br. Charles de Foucault to aspects of the monthly Review of Life; from the practice of the Day in the Desert to the essential elements that mark someone who lives a Foucauldian community life.

The order of each day is meant to be relaxed while including the essential elements of Adoration, Eucharist, and adequate time for Personal History Giving and fraternal Reviews of Life. Other activities, depending on time and place, may be included in the Month. One week of the Month is given as a Retreat with extended time for prayer and conferences

Weekends allow ample free time to pursue personal leisure activities, although many fraternities choose to spend this time together in a more relaxed way. The cost for the month is meant to be kept modest and affordable to all. In fact, our national treasury subsidizes the Month in the U.S., and gives generously to other countries worldwide so to keep the Month of Nazareth accessible to everyone who desires to go.

Normally, a donation is requested, although you will need to cover your own travel expenses.

### What do I do now?

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 a priest 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 it a priority. 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. Many have done it and all are glad they did.

If you cannot make the next Month, is it possible for you to support one of your fraternity brothers in making it? Even if it is impossible for more

---

### For Information

Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests  
1420 Monte Sano Ave.  
Augusta GA 30904  
<hapragan@hotmail.com

4/15/2016