

**I PANAMERICAN ASSEMBLY.
PRIESTLY FRATERNITY IESUS CARITAS
15 to 19 of February of 2016.**

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER.

PROPOSALS FOR GROWTH IN OUR FRATERNITIES

After listening to the realities of our countries and our fraternities of priests, illuminated by the witnesses of our Brother Charles and Pope Francis, in an atmosphere of prayer and discernment, we have approved a joint group of proposals for human, spiritual and pastoral growth, for our Fraternities of Priests in America.

We have worked in the five areas and three levels:

- International Team
- Nacional and Regional Teams
- Local Fraternities.

AREA 1: SPIRITUALITY.

Our Priestly Fraternity IESUS CARITAS have some of their own means for developing the Life in the Spirit in their members. Our First proposal is to live and study them in a specific manner on the diverse levels and in the encounters of our Fraternity.

❖ MONTH OF NAZARETH (MN).

This is without a doubt one of the essential means for our spiritual growth and for defining our identity as a Fraternity inspired by our Blessed Charles de Foucauld.

To the International Team we propose:

- Encourage the realization of the MN in the countries that still have not realized it or it has been a long time since they have offered the MN.
- Convoke a team of four persons to realize a specific study about the identity, purpose; content and manner to offer (realize) the MN which permits the redaction of a document with the Common Orientations, respecting the particular cultures of each country. This document will be presented for approbation in the next General Assembly.

- Recuperate the material about the MN elaborated in the last General Assembly, in order that these serve as material for the document “Common Orientations for offering a MN”.
- Communicate the realization of the MN in the different countries in order to favor the international sharing of the same.

To the National and Regional Teams we propose:

- Give value again to the participation in the MN as an opportunity for consolidation of our spirituality. .
- Have a Team, or at least one person, who is specialized in the MN.
- Motivate those who have not participated in this experience through the testimonies or witnesses of those who have lived the MN and give a personal invitation from the National or Regional Director (Responsible)
- Facilitate the re-emplacement of those brothers who desire to participate in the MN, but cannot leave their parishes alone.
- Make an effort to finance the MN and encourage all the Fraternities of the country to economically support the realization of the MN.

To the Local Fraternities:

- Animate the brothers who have not participated in the MN.
- Invite the priests to participate in the MN, taking into account these two criterion: priests who have been for some time participating in the life of the Fraternities or in our national or regional encounters; exceptionally those priests who have felt an interior impulse to participate in the MN for the need of personal, spiritual growth.

MONTHS OF NAZARETH THAT ARE PROGRAMMED

United States, 04 to 29 of July, 2016, Buffalo (NY)

Director: Mark Mertes.

Brasil, 03 to 30 of January, 2017, Goiàs

Director: José Anchieta y Antonio Lopes.

México, 24 of July to 20 of August , 2017, Tehuacan.

Director: Fernando Tapia.

❖ **LIFE AND MISSION OF OUR BROTHER CHARLES.**

Undoubtedly our Brother Charles de Foucauld is our principal reference in the following of Jesus of Nazareth, for this reason we propose:

At all levels:

- Promote activities and studies about the spirituality, life and mission of Brother Charles, for our brothers of the Fraternity and open to laity, deacons, religious men and women, seminarians and priests, especially in this year of the one-hundredth anniversary of the his Death by martyrdom.

At the National and Regional levels:

- Publish bibliography, promote translations and organize symposiums about the life and mission of our Brother Charles.

❖ **MONTHLY DESERT DAY**

This is one of the classic means of the Christian spirituality and, in particular, of our spirituality, for entering in a profound communion with God. Without a doubt, the reports of our Fraternities show that it is one of the least used means. This remains as a great challenge for all of us.

At the local level of Fraternities, we propose:

- Make an agreement to go together to the same place that is appropriate for realizing the desert day in solitude, arrange that everyone can be alone individually and at the end of the day get together to make a revision of life or celebrate the Eucharist.

❖ **ANNUAL RETREAT**

According to the reports, This is one of the means for spiritual growth that is best developed in our Fraternities.

At the National and Regional levels we propose:

- Be vigilant so that within the Annual Retreat the practice of means of spiritual growth are included that are part of our Fraternity: adoration, desert day, revision of life, etc.
- In some cases, one could dedicate the last day of the retreat to a profound study of some of the means of spiritual growth.

❖ **DAILY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION.**

At all levels:

- Integrate this practice in all of our encounters of the Fraternity.

At the personal level:

- Propose an hour of Adoration daily, although this is done gradually: First 15 minutes, later 30 minutes, etc., so that little by little we come to taste and value this until it is totally integrated into our daily lives.

❖ **REVISIÓN OF LIFE.**

There are various methods for the Revision of Life. The important aspect is to share from the heart in order to contemplate the passing of God in our lives.

At all levels we propose:

Include the Revision of Life in all of our encounters, retreats, workshops, etc.

AREA 2: PRIESTLY FRATERNITY.

At all levels we propose that the Persons in charge continue with the style of frequent communication and visits to the diverse Fraternities.

To the International Team we propose:

- Promote and animate the continental assemblies.
- Promote the text of the theologian Javier Pinto to all the Fraternities of the world. Add the notes to the text that were made in this assembly.

To the Nacional and Regional Teams we propose:

- Continue to organize the Month of Nazareth whenever it is possible.
- Implement other actions to motivate in the spirit of the Fraternity (communicative style, frequent, presence, etc.)

- Celebrate the one hundred years of the death of Charles de Foucauld with an encounter of all the Fraternities of the region in order to reflect upon how the spirit of Brother Charles lives on in the present and revitalize the charism.
- Re-think the organization of the country or of the region with the help of laity in the works of service such as graphical designs, communications, etc.
- Organize an encounter or workshop of formation of Persons in Charge on the local Level in order to animate in the Spirit of Brother Charles, in the methodology of Monthly work in each Fraternity, etc.
- Send more frequently the news of the country or region to the International Person in Charge in order to share them on the page of WEB of our Fraternity: www.iesuscaritas.org. The countries that have a page create a link with this.

To the LOCAL FRATERNITIES WE PROPOSE:

- Practice an effective accompaniment, which is in solidarity with the sick brothers, the elderly and those who have left the ministry.
- Elect a Local Person who is responsible, if you don't have one, that facilitates the communication with the Nacional or Regional Responsible.
- Study the texts of Javier Pinto, Tony Philpot and others who have actualized and have gone more profoundly into the charism of Brother Charles.
- Assume an attitude of listening toward the brother priests of our presbyteries with the purpose of helping and accompanying them, without being paternalistic and judgmental toward other manners of living the ministry.
- Motivate the visit to the international web site.

AREA 3: PASTORAL MISSION

As diocesan priests we know that the Lord Jesus expects us to be His authentic disciples and missionaries of the Gospel in His style.

At all levels we propose:

- That in all the encounters we may live moments of sharing, with some type of the peripheral, such as visits to the homes, community celebrations or hospitality in homes of families, etc.

To the International team we propose:

- Propose and present an instrument of reading and work where the members of the Fraternity may support the characteristics of a parish or community attended pastorally by a priest of Iesus Caritas, taking into account the orientations of *Evangelii Gaudium*.

National and Regional teams:

- We propose working in the next years (retreats and encounters of formation) in relationship with the experience of Brother Charles and the proposals of Pope Francis (especially *Evangelii Gaudium*) of being a church on the frontier, that is animated to go out to meet the fragile and suffering in the geographical and existential peripheries.

To the Local Fraternities we propose:

- Promote among the priests of the Fraternity *Jesus Caritas*, an attitude of being open to assume pastoral destinations that are difficult to accept.
- Return to the testimonies of the Latin-American and North American Fathers of the Church (Pedro Casaldáliga, Helder Camara, Samuel Ruiz, Oscar Romero, Segundo Galilea, Arturo Paoli, Virgilio Elizondo, Jaques Leclerc, etc.) through the written texts, the movies and the testimonies of priests that have shared their lives, in order to inspire our pastoral work.

AREA 4: BONDS OF FRATERNITY

To the National and Regional teams we propose:

- Animate and participate in the common events of the family, as anniversaries of Brother Charles, for which we recommend, create a structure that convokes representatives of the Spiritual Family “Charles de Foucauld”, called Council, Team, etc.
- Share bulletins and publications that are edited, to the bishops of the country.
- Invite the bishop to participate in some of the meetings of the Fraternity.

To the Local Fraternities we propose:

- Animate the brothers to participate in the activities of the presbytery and get acquainted with the priests on special occasions (such as assuming new pastoral missions, in moments of sickness or death, etc.)
- Continue caring for the contact with the seminarians.

AREA 5: GROWTH OF OUR PRIESTLY FRATERNITY.

To the International Team we propose:

- The election of a Continental Responsible Person, with the following criteria and functions.

Criteria of election:

Disponibility.

The service lasts for 6 years.

Has lived the Month of Nazareth.

Possesses the commitment of belonging to the Fraternity.

Approval by the respective bishop.

Functions:

Coordinate the Continental Assemblies.

Coordinate the communications between the Regional Fraternities.

Communication with the Regional International Responsible Person.

Be preoccupied with the new regional Fraternities.

Right to voice and vote in the World Assemblies

Frequency of the Pan American Assemblies:

Every 3 years, and exceptionally the next in 2018.

To the National and International Teams we propose:

- Share our spirituality with the Young People, for this there are two experiences, of the Chilean Fraternity that can be reproduced in other countries.

WEEK OF NAZARETH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

CHILE: experience that has been realized 5 times.

DESIGNED FOR: Young people from 18 to 29 years.

OBJECTIVE: present in a theoretical-practical manner the principles of the spirituality of Foucauld: prayer, adoration, Eucharist, manual work, Fraternity (Revision of Life) and day in the desert.

There are materials available for repeating and accompanying the experience in the other countries.

WEEK OF NAZARETH FOR SEMINARIANS

CHILE: experience has realized for 3 years (2009-2011).

The plan of this week was used as for the Week of Nazareth for Young people, emphasizing the elements for priests. Also we offer material for repeating in other countries and including accompanying the experience.

- We propose fomenting and accompanying the creation of FRATERNITIES OF YOUTH, nourished with the spirituality of Brother Charles. There exists some experiences:

CHILE: continue with Young People who have participated in the Week of Nazareth and desire to continue with a local Fraternity; periodic encounters of prayer, realizing revision of life and sharing.

QUÉBEC (Montreal): Sons of immigrants that have united to have dinner and pray together. This is accompanied by a layman of the Fraternities: Ciro.

- Propose a greater closeness with our Bishops and the Episcopal Conferences of our countries.
- Offer preachers for the retreats of the presbyteriums. There are several experiences:

BRASIL: Have offered the bishops a group of priests of the Fraternities to share a retreat for their priests. Edson Damian was one who has realized many of these and during this time was able to share a good part of the spirituality.

EE.UU also has some priests responsible on the national level.

To the local Fraternities:

- Make more efforts in sharing the charism of Brother Charles, in first place with our Gospel witness and an active presence in our presbyteriums.
- Share with our presbyteriums, parishes and wherever we are, that we are part of this spirituality.
- Optional use of distinctive symbols of the Fraternity: heart with the cross, stole, among others.
- Support experiences that permit spreading the spirituality. For example: House of Nazareth (Little Sisters of Jesus, Chile).
- Name Brother Charles in the Eucharist in the moment of mentioning the saints.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE ASSEMBLY