

THE MONTH OF NAZARETH
September 23 -October 18, 2019
Tybee Island, Georgia (Adjacent to Savannah, GA)
Director for the Month is Msgr. Bob Amundsen (Archdiocese of Denver)

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.

The daily rhythm of fraternity life deepens our appreciation for the:

- Spirituality of Nazareth
- Life and Faith Journey of Brother Charles
- The spirit and structures of Jesus Caritas Priests' Fraternity and other relevant themes.
- The gifts of the Fraternity.

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 life-changing event. For others, it has been a month of much-needed rest. For many, it is an immersion in the mystery of their own priesthood and the priesthood of Jesus Christ. For all, it is an opportunity to grow more deeply in the experience and in an understanding of Fraternity and supports our successfully living out the particular charisms of Jesus Caritas.

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 values 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. For three 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. One day a week is given over to the Day in the Desert. 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. The fourth week will be a five-day retreat to be held at Marywood Retreat Center in St. Johns, Florida. The retreat week is open to Caritas priests from throughout the country.

Now is the time to plan for the Month of Nazareth. It may seem very challenging to take an entire month away from our everyday duties. And finding someone to cover while you are away may be difficult. There are Caritas priests around the country who would be willing to help out. And many times, our brother priests are willing to give us support when they know what we are doing. For more information about this or any aspect of the Month, please email Shannon at jesus.caritas.usa@gmail.com. Sign-up early. The Month will be limited to 8 priests.