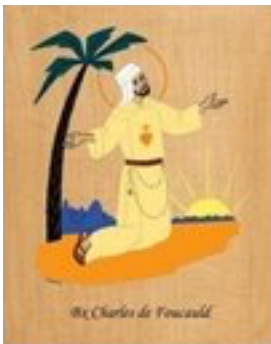


## THE JESUS CARITAS FRATERNITY

It takes its inspiration from the life and charisms of Charles de Foucauld. While most of our members see Brother Charles as a grand adventurer and a totally driven personality, some of our local groups still find Brother Charles to be eccentric and distant, one whom they have yet to meet in depth. Eventually they find themselves united in heart with this man who sought to know and imitate Jesus, to encounter Jesus loved for His own sake, as the source of his ministry. For many groups, Brother Charles is becoming like another brother in their midst whose presence and life story become as much an influence upon them, as their own lives. Above all, each priest finds these words of Charles resonating within him, helping him to focus his Christian and Priestly vocation:

*I love Our Lord,  
Jesus Christ,  
although with a  
heart that wants to  
love more and  
better. But  
nonetheless, I love  
Him, and cannot  
bear another life  
than that which  
leads to Him."*



Charles de Foucauld

*"Let only your will be done in me"*

### Jesus Calls

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matt. 18:20

### Response of Brother Charles

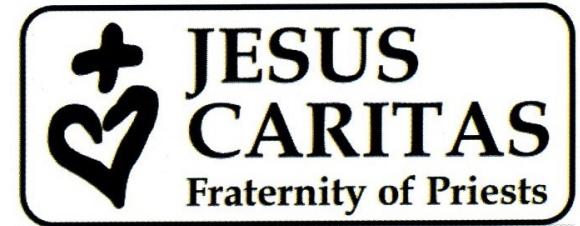
#### My Response

*Father,  
I abandon myself into Your hands  
Do with me as You will  
Whatever You may do  
I thank You,  
I am ready for all,  
I accept all.  
Let only Your will be done in me  
and in all Your creatures.  
I wish no more than this, O Lord.  
Into Your hands I commend my soul.  
I offer it to You with all the love of my  
heart  
for I love You, Lord  
and so need to give myself  
To surrender myself into Your hands  
without reserve  
and with boundless confidence  
For You are my Father! Amen  
Charles de Foucauld PRAYER OF ABANDONMENT*

### GETTING STARTED

If you want to start a Jesus Caritas Group, begin with a few friends in an hour before the Blessed Sacrament, then gather as a support group and gradually work in the values and charisms of the Jesus Caritas fraternity. For additional information contact:

**Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests**  
1420 Monte Sano Avenue  
Augusta GA 30904  
<[www.jesuscaritasusa.org](http://www.jesuscaritasusa.org)>



# Forming Fraternity

A Way of Life For Diocesan  
Priests Nourished In The  
Eucharist By Allowing  
Ourselves To Become Eucharist...  
Taken - Broken - Blessed - Given

## THE SPIRITUAL OUTLOOK OF FRATERNITY

Diocesan priests often characterize their spirituality as not being of any particular "school" except the school of discipleship discovered in the Word and Sacrament and lived out with their people. Yet we view Brother Charles a prophet to the fraternities. He inspires us by his charisms and challenges us to be truly present, as an equal, to our people, especially by our life and love, and to live in faith without constantly seeking results from our work. These inspirations, when reflected upon in Fraternity, challenge us to commit our lives to Jesus, through our brothers, for His people. In so doing, we can grow into a full ministerial spirituality, rooted in our common baptism and ordered to service in the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

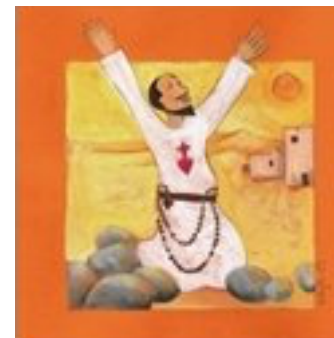
## JESUS CARITAS FRATERNITY ENCOURAGES

- Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament
- Modeling our lives on Jesus in the Gospels
- Simplicity of life
- Reviewing our life with our brothers on a monthly basis
- Being a universal brother
- Times of Solitude as experienced in a Desert Day
- a Month of Nazareth
- Friendship, fraternity, international brotherhood

Fraternities of four to seven brothers meet once a month. The brothers focus their attention on Jesus present among them through each other in their love of Him and their service of His Gospel.

## ELEMENTS OF A FRATERNITY DAY

- Praying with and sharing the Word  
Learn of me, Jesus said, for I am meek and humble of heart.
- Adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist  
The Fraternity encourages a prolonged period of an hour each day spent in the presence of the Eucharistic Presence, as Charles said, a prayer in which a person "looks wordlessly on God, solely occupied with contemplating Him, telling Him with looks that he loves Him, while uttering no words, even in thought."
- Review of life  
The Review of Life is a central practice in the life of Fraternities. The Review of Life rests on two fundamental facts:
  1. God acts through the events, or at least more forcefully through certain elements of our lives, to become present to us, to manifest His love and to bring us to renew and deepen our relationship with Him;
  2. the Holy Spirit is truly among us, especially as we seek Jesus together as brothers. We are speaking of prayerful awareness of Christ's working in us. It is really a corporate effort at the "discernment of spirits," examining the impulses of our hearts and our ideas, in the light of the Gospel and in the presence of our brothers.
- Time for friendly, relaxed companionship



## FRATERNITY

We wither if we have no one to confide in, no-one to offer us unconditional support, no one who knows us as we really are and still accepts us.

Too often there is the feeling of living a lie, of bluffing the public, including our colleagues. 'If they know what I was really like, they'd want no more to do with me.'

Do you know, I think this is the greatest sacrifice involved in celibacy? Long after you get accustomed to the sacrifice of physical intimacy, this subtler form of aloneness endures. I'm not saying this to put people off the priesthood -- I am still convinced that the priesthood is utterly worthwhile, and the greatest and most creative calling a man can follow....

Look realistically at the facts-- and at the things that are vital to make priestly life more fruitful. and and at the top of the list of vital necessities I would put -- fraternity! Fraternity seems to me the proper way of living celibacy. It would be a tragic if we included that the vocation to be celibate was a vocation to be solitary, withdrawn, intensely private, unrelated. But for some it is so in practice. Fraternity is the opposite of this. It is a willingness to meet my brother on the level of his deep down self -- or as much of it as he wishes to share with me -- and the willingness to do, to make myself vulnerable and lower my own defenses.

Tony Philpott, *Brothers in Christ*, pp.57-58 to hel