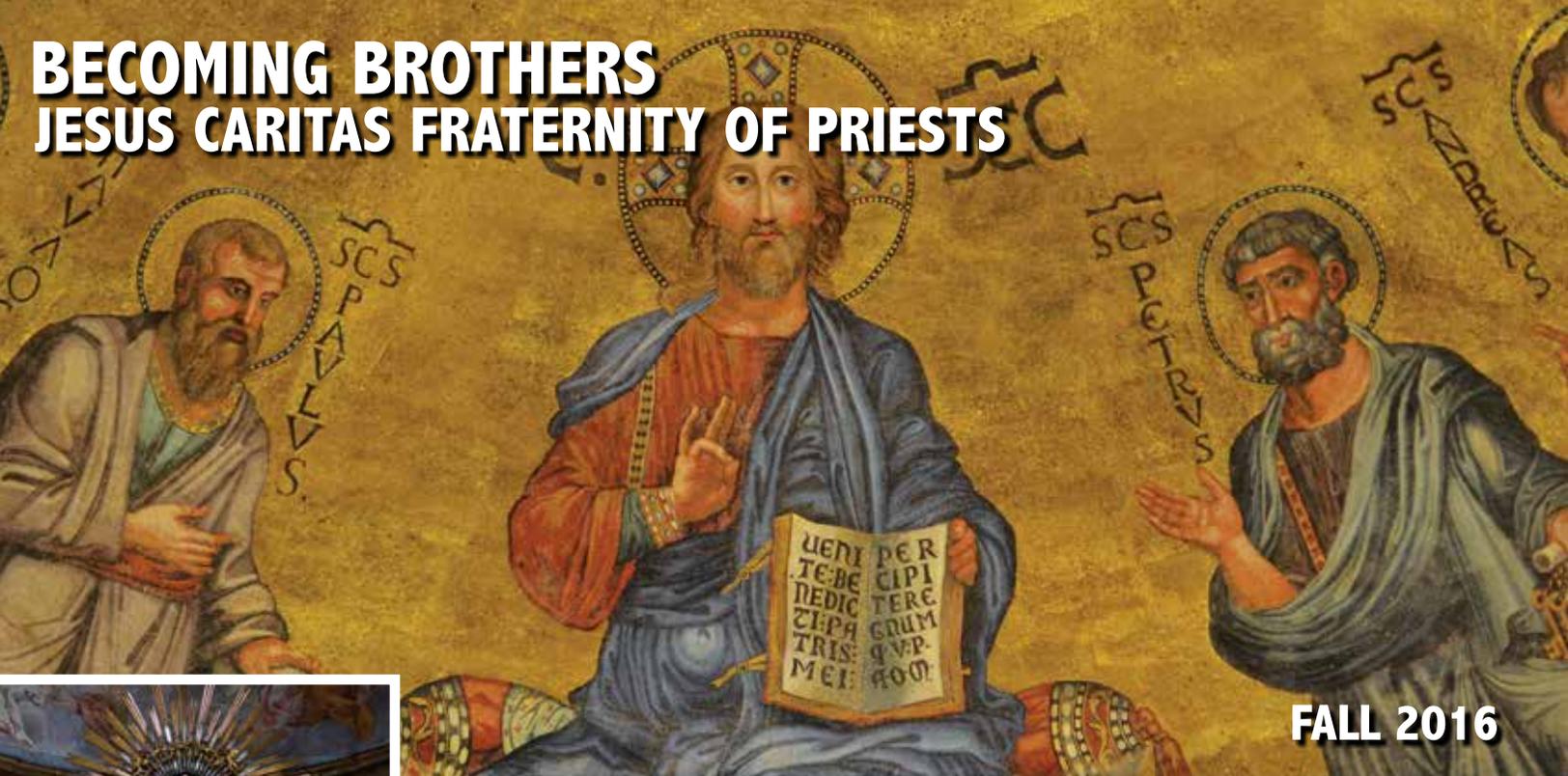


# BECOMING BROTHERS JESUS CARITAS FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS



FALL 2016



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Dear Brothers,

It has been a busy fall for our parish and our parish school, and I had hoped to get this newsletter out a little earlier. *Mea Culpa!*

It is Oct. 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, as I sit down to write this letter. I am reminded of my last visit to Assisi where I made a Desert Day on March 24, 2015. I made a holy hour in the Basilica of St. Clare in the Chapel of the Crucifix. The Crucifix, of course, is the San Damiano Crucifix. It wasn't the most perfect setting for contemplative prayer as hundreds of tourists passed through. Still, I was happy to pray there and observe that most had no idea of the significance of this crucifix, but some very much did. As I gazed upon our Lord, I, like St. Francis, heard that quiet voice within call me to mission. It was not "rebuild my Church." It was simply "be with." But be with whom, Lord? It was a good question to ponder.

After my holy hour I made my way down to the Basilica of St. Francis for the Eucharist. During Mass, the Lord was kind enough to complete His thought

so that I'd have a deeper sense of mission. "Be with the Builders." As pastor of a big "corporate" parish, St. Mary on the Hill, I am now more conscious than ever of being present to all those wonderful parishioners who give of their time and energy to help build up God's Kingdom. Presently, we are in the midst of a Priority Planning Process. We look forward to celebrating 100 years as a faith community in 2017 and we are trying to discern a deeper sense of mission as we move forward. I find listening to the "builders" in our parish to be very energizing.

I've always viewed my responsibilities with the Fraternity and a caring outreach to all priests as a very important part of my ministry. I see you, my brothers, as Builders of the Kingdom. The call to build a deeper sense of priestly spirituality and fraternity among us has so enriched my life. At times trying to organize priests can be like herding a bunch of cats, but there is also much grace in the effort, and it has blessed me with a number of great mentors and many good friends.

*continued on page 7*

# A Heartfelt Tribute to Msgr. Tony Philpot

## *A Great Priest, a Man of Wisdom, a Holy Friend to All!*

Former International Responsible, Monsignor Tony Philpot, has died at the age of 81. Tony struggled bravely with cancer and died on July 16. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

Anthony (always known as Tony) John Philpot was born on March 24, 1935, in Croydon, England, the eldest child of William and Josephine. When war broke out his father's office was moved to Bedford, and he subsequently went to Bedford School, alma mater of John Bunyan.

In 1953 Tony began his studies for the priesthood at the Venerable English College in Rome, and was ordained in 1959 at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, completing his Licentiate in Theology the next year, and returning to the Diocese of Northampton to serve as assistant priest, first at St Joseph's, Bedford and then at Northampton Cathedral.

His first pastoral charge was in Leighton Buzzard, and thereafter, all his parish appointments were in what later became the Diocese of East Anglia. He took over the parish of St Mark's in Ipswich, when the Franciscans left, and was later moved to Newmarket, following a short spell working with the Society of St James in South America.

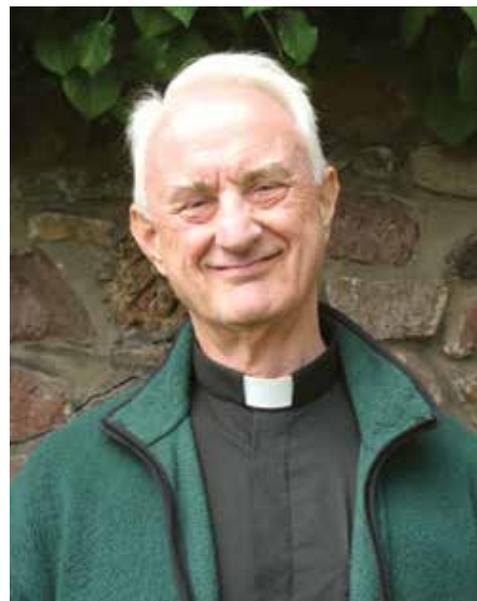
In 1980, Bishop Alan Clark asked him to move to Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge, where he remained for 14 years. His time there, where his gifts as a talented preacher and a gentle pastor were much appreciated, was one of change. Though the liturgical wars

which had dogged his predecessor, Canon Paul Taylor, were over, Tony was involved in major reorganization of Catholic state secondary education in Cambridge, as well as a major and much needed refurbishment of the rectory.

When the Diocese of East Anglia was established in 1976, Bishop Alan Clark asked him to take charge of religious education, and later appointed him as one of his vicars general. The 1980s was a time when mutual support for the priests of the diocese was given high priority and Tony was given responsibility to head up the Ministry to Priests Program.

It was during this time that Tony become involved in the Jesus Caritas Fraternity, inspired by the spirituality of Charles de Foucauld, for which he eventually became the worldwide responsible. This took him out of the country for a considerable time each year, and as a seasoned traveler to all corners of the globe, he soon learnt the perils of delayed and lost luggage. So, in keeping with his own simple lifestyle, it was his proud boast that he could be away for three weeks at a time, just taking hand luggage with him and washing and drying his clothes on a daily basis.

Following his time in Cambridge, Tony took the unusual step of returning to St Mark's in Ipswich, where he had been parish priest some years before, and after a relatively short time there, he was asked to take over the running of Palazzola, the country villa of the English College in



Rome, on the edge of Lake Albano. Unsurprisingly, he was asked to move from Palazzola, to become Spiritual Director at the Venerable English College, a post which he held for about five years.

He was increasingly in demand as a retreat giver, and there can be few dioceses in England and Wales that did not benefit from his accessible wisdom and deeply-rooted personal spirituality. His way with words was put to good use in two excellent books *Priesthood in Reality* – 'living the reality of the diocesan priest in a changing world.' and *You Shall be Holy* – 'spiritual basics.' These books are still available through Amazon.

There were few others in the English-speaking world that could rival Tony's eloquence in all matters concerning priestly fraternity and spirituality. Tony Philpot was a great priest, a man of wisdom, a holy friend to all! *Requiescat in pace!*

# Is Living Universal Fellowship a Utopia?

As we move towards the centennial of the death of Charles de Foucauld, the Little Sisters of Jesus have contributed this editorial:

December 1st, 1916 – December 1st, 2016. He wanted to be called the universal brother.

Converted by the testimony of faith of believers of a different religion, this “lover of God” spent long hours in contemplation before the Eucharist and in meditating long hours on the word of God. This fashioned his heart and he felt on fire with the love that Jesus came to bring to earth. He wanted in turn to carry it to the poorest and most forgotten.

From Beni Abbes, Algeria, where he was living in a quite cosmopolitan milieu, he wrote the following to his cousin Marie de Bondy on January 3, 1902: “I want all the people who live here, Christians, Muslims, Jews, and Idolaters, to get used to seeing me as their brother - the universal brother. They are beginning to call my house ‘the fraternity’ (the khaoua in Arabic) and that sounds so good to me.”

The world today is shaken by wars, blind violence, and poverty bordering on misery. All of this provokes massive migrations of persons towards a “better world.” Words like “welcome,” “hospitality,” “sharing,” “violence,” and “fear” resound in us and shake us. Is it possible to live tranquilly? What to do?

In the footsteps of Charles de Foucauld, Isr Magdeleine wanted to live this universal love of Jesus in the midst of nomad Arab Muslims in Algeria. After a few months of living alone with them, she wrote: “I am thinking of the deep friendship between these poor

unfortunate nomads and myself. I saw that a love of friendship can exist despite differences of race, culture and social condition.” A utopia?

Brother Charles found in the Word of God, the Gospel taken literally, the motivation for reacting in front of the needs of those around him: “I do not want to betray my children and to not do for Jesus present in his members what they need. It is Jesus in this painful condition: whatever you do to one of these little ones, you do it to me.” He welcomed the soldiers of the garrison, gave hospitality to travelers who passed by, but he was especially attentive to the poorest and in listening to them he became aware of the reality of slavery and called it “monstrous.” He wrote letter after letter to alert public opinion and had harsh words to denounce this violation of the fundamental human rights of a person.

A few months before his death, Charles wrote to his friend Louis Massignon, “I don’t think that there is a word of the Gospel that has made a more profound impression on me and transformed my life more than this one: All that you do to one of these little ones, you do to me.” Let us have faith in this Word and our life will be transformed.

In his message for the world day of migrants and refugees 2016, Pope Francis wrote, “The courage of Faith, Hope, and Charity help us to reduce the distances that separate us from human tragedies. Jesus Christ is always waiting for us to recognize him in migrants and refugees, in displaced persons and the exiled, and also in this way, he calls us to share our resources.” Let us take the risk to believe in the living Word, Jesus Christ, and to perform acts of mercy as we try to follow in his footsteps.

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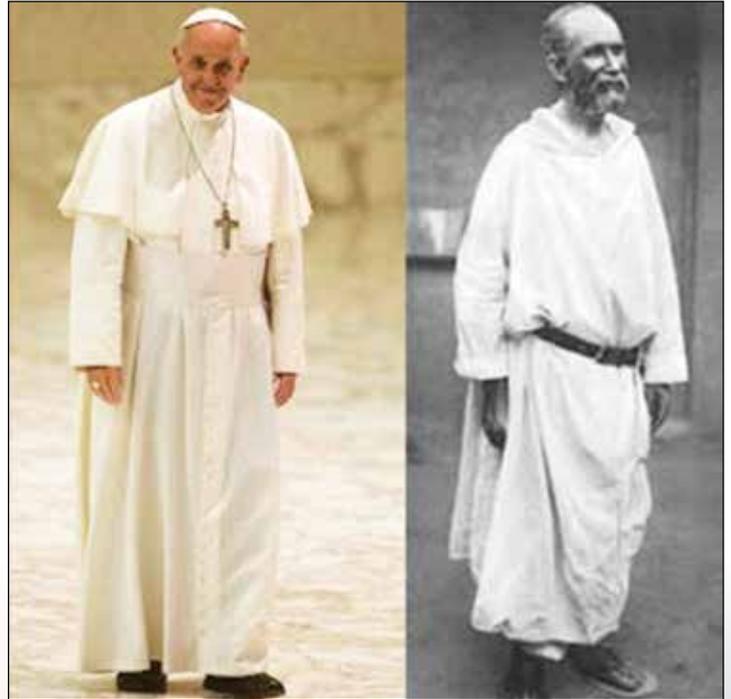
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# Message of Our Holy Father Pope Francis on the Occasion of the Centenary of the Death of Blessed Charles of Jesus

*July 20, 2016*

The Holy Father unites with all the members and followers of Blessed Charles' spirituality through God's grace. The Holy Father hopes that all will follow the example of Blessed Charles who lived a quiet life influencing those around him in their ordinary and daily lives. Blessed Charles' Christ like example of desiring to be a "universal brother," revealed the importance of being close to the poor and abandoned, demonstrates the worth and dignity of humanity. "Each Christian must see others as a well beloved friend." In essence, for Blessed Charles, in loving others, one learns to love God. May the witness of Brother Charles of Jesus in his humble and hidden life, given over to the service of others, encourage young people to discern the call of God and respond with joy in leaving all to follow God, free of the desire to be rich and powerful. Trusting in Blessed Charles' intercession during this Jubilee Year of Mercy, peace and reconciliation among the peoples, the Holy Father gives His apostolic blessing to all those who follow Blessed Charles' spirituality and may they be blessed with his radiance.



# Gatherings to Celebrate the Centennial of the Death of Blessed Charles de Foucauld

**Date:** December 1, 2016

**Location:** Washington Retreat House  
4000 Harewood Rd NE, Washington, DC 20017

**Responsible:** Fr. David Bava — holyredeemer.dc@adwparish.org

**Agenda:**

9:30	Gather	Noon	Lunch
10:00	Conference	1:00	Conference
11:00	Eucharist	2:00	Holy Hour

*We are inviting members of all branches of the Family to join us as we reflect on the Spirituality of Nazareth. Please contact Fr. David so we have a good count for lunch.*

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**Location:** Immaculate Conception Parish  
715 E. Main St, Clarion, PA 16214

**Host:** Fr. Monty Sayers — (814) 226-8433

**Agenda:**

1:30	Gather
2:00	Life of Charles (Jacquel)
2:30	Holy Hour (Sayers) (end with Prayer of Abandonment)
3:30	Scripture (Strohmeyer)
4:00	Examine of Consciousness (Fischer)
4:30	Issues: Presence in Diocese — visibility, Universal Brotherhood — brother priests in Diocese and JC lifestyle in personal ministry
5:00	Dinner (Sayers)

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**Location:** Holy Family Church  
4377 Utica St., Denver, CO 80212

**Responsible:** Msgr. Bob Amundsen — frbobamundsen@msn.com

**Agenda:**

11:00	Holy Hour
Noon	Lunch
1:00	Reflections on Blessed Charles and Caritas Fraternity and Spirituality until 3:00

There is also a gathering planned for Seattle. Please see our web-site for more details. <http://www.jesus Caritas usa.org>. Responsibles are encouraged to gather your fraternities to observe this day in some way. We'd be happy to post details of your event on our web-site. Email the National Office at [jesus.caritas.usa@gmail.com](mailto:jesus.caritas.usa@gmail.com)

At very reasonable prices, Lenny Tighe has taken the initiative to produce beautiful medals, lapel pins, and Jesus Caritas crosses for the upcoming Centennial year starting Dec. 1, 2015. You can view and purchase these items at <http://cristianosunidos.org/foucauld2016/shop/>

## Month of Nazareth Retreat

Twenty-six priests from across the country spent five days with Fr. Dan Danielson (Oakland, Calif.) reflecting upon God's magnificent gifts of life, of priesthood, of ministry, of aging, and of Jesus Caritas – the gift received through Br. Charles de Foucauld. The retreat was held July 11-15 at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y. Although Buffalo (9) and Erie (7) had the most participants, we joined with brothers from California, Washington, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Louisiana, Georgia, and Delaware to experience the remarkable graces of beautiful surroundings, delicious meals, Holy Hours, Happy Hours, prayer, and a memorably warm Day in the Desert.

We encountered God who, like the character in Jack London's "White Fang," is a quiet, patient, non-aggressive master of a wild dog (ourselves). Dan invited us, as John Henry Newman poetically mused in "Lead Thou Me On," to a deeper, richer union with the Lord. The key to living celibacy as a gift, Dan said, is to have an affective relationship with Christ – something most clergy lack.

This retreat experience provided for us who attended an experience of the wider fraternity in profound ways. Perhaps you ought to plan now to attend the National Assembly in Camarillo, California, next summer to taste some of the same.

— John Jacquel, Erie, PA

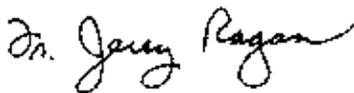


## From the Responsible *continued from front cover*

This month the National Fraternity will meet in Kansas City (Oct. 24–26), where Mark Mertes is hosting our International Responsible, Aurelio Sanz and the International Fraternity. It will be good to be with these Builders of our Fraternity. Keep us in your prayers. And on Dec. 1, I encourage you to meet in your fraternities to observe the Centennial of the death of Blessed Charles. Much of the content of this newsletter focuses on that memorial. Shot to death on Dec. 1, 1916 in the obscure village of Tamanrasset deep in the Sarah of Algeria, it's hard to believe that someone who died alone could have influenced so many different groups. I believe at least 16 religious congregations are founded on his spirituality.

Finally, I am happy to announce that a longtime builder of fraternity and a former National Responsible, the Most Rev. Donald F. Hanchon, has agreed to be the Bishop Liaison to the USCCB for our Fraternity. Bishop Hanchon was ordained auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit on May 5, 2011. He has served as pastor of Most Holy Redeemer Parish in southwest Detroit since 1999. I am so very grateful for his willingness to speak on behalf of the Fraternity to his brother Bishops.

Fraternally,



Fr. Jerry "Hap" Ragan

## National Fraternity

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### Bishop Liaison to the USCCB

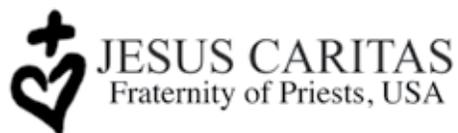
Most Rev. Donald F. Hanchon  
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# JESUS CARITAS FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS

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## Upcoming Dates

**October 24-26**

Kansas City, Kan.

Meeting of the National Fraternity

**October 25**

Kansas City, Kan.

Mass and Dinner with the International Fraternity

**November 19**

Boynton Beach, Fla.

Day of Recollection at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary

**December 1**

Various Sites

Centennial of the Death of Blessed Charles de Foucauld

**February 6-8**

Atlanta, Ga.

Jesus Caritas Retreat at Ignatius House

**July 17-21**

Camarillo, Calif.

Jesus Caritas National Assembly