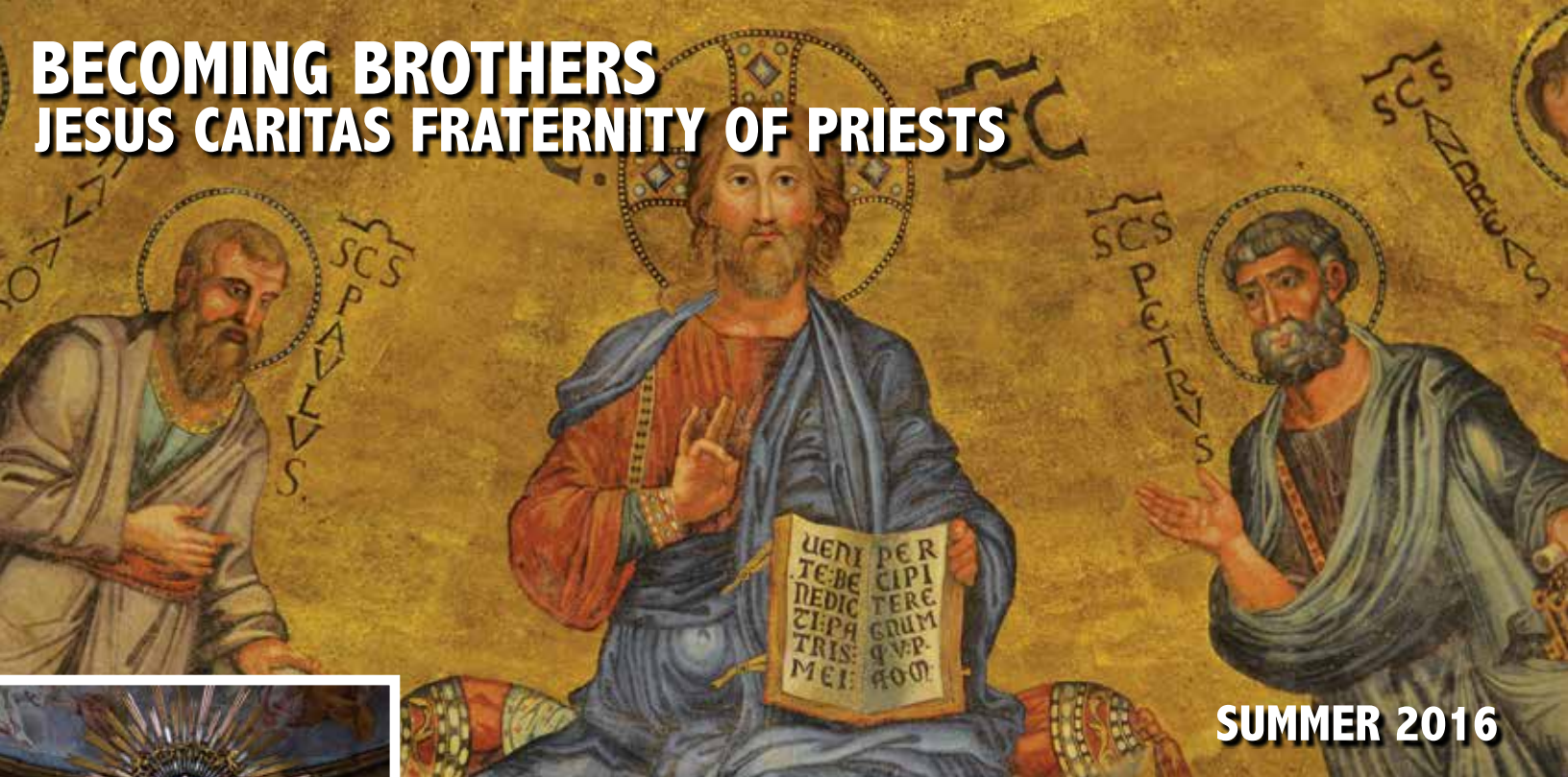


BECOMING BROTHERS JESUS CARITAS FRATERNITY OF PRIESTS



SUMMER 2016



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From the Responsible

Dear Brothers,

In this issue, you will find a list of those brothers who have paid their 2016 dues. The annual dues are \$50. I am grateful to all of you who through your generosity help to promote the spirituality of the Fraternal Life both in our own country and internationally. If you've paid your dues and you do not see your name, please let us know. If you'd still like to pay your dues, we'd very much like to list your name in our next newsletter. And, if shaming works on the guys in your fraternity, please don't hesitate to lay it on.

Included in this newsletter is a report on the annual gathering of the North American Lay Fraternities. And coupled with that report is a feature on Bryan Karvelis, who was so instrumental in forming the laity of his faith community, Transfiguration

in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, in the spirituality of Blessed Charles de Foucauld. As we move closer to celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Blessed Charles' death (December 1, 1916), Greg Pawloski offers an encouragement to all priests to gather and in the very simple way of our spirituality celebrate the life of Charles of Jesus on the local level. On the National level David Bava is working on a gathering of the different branches of the Foucauldian Family in Washington, D.C. on December 1st, 2016. Details of this event will be in our Fall Newsletter.

This month, Dan Danielson will be directing the National Retreat at Christ the King Seminary outside of Buffalo, N.Y. from July 11-15. I always enjoy spending time with my brothers in the Fraternity.

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If the Lord is so concerned about helping us, it is because he knows that the task of anointing his faithful people is demanding; it can tire us. We experience this in so many ways: from the ordinary fatigue brought on by our daily apostolate to the weariness of sickness, death and even martyrdom. The tiredness of priests! Do you know how often I think about this weariness which all of you experience? I think about it and I pray about it, often, especially when I am tired myself. I pray for you as you labor amid the people of God entrusted to your care, many of you in lonely and dangerous places. Our weariness, dear priests, is like incense which silently rises up to heaven (cf. Ps 141:2; Rev 8:3-4). Our weariness goes straight to the heart of the Father. — Pope Francis, Chrism Mass Homily, April 2, 2015

Report on the Gathering of the North American Lay Fraternities

Dear Brothers,

In Early June, we had the great experience of coming together to celebrate the Centennial of the death of our brother Charles de Foucauld. The Boston lay fraternity hosted this event for 50 people representing many different lay fraternities from North America. This annual meeting began on Friday evening and concluded Sunday mid afternoon. As part of the Retreat, we had morning and evening sung prayer, Sunday Eucharist and an

By far though, the biggest miracle was the sense of continuity with each of the speakers, the quality of their knowledge and deep faith, and the joy which everyone experienced being with one another.

hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. We also had small group discussions (5 per group).

The plan which began to percolate in the hearts and minds of the Boston Lay fraternity in the fall of

2015 was a desire to investigate and know more about this holy man of the desert. As we prayed and discussed what we felt we wanted to accomplish for this monumental moment in the charism of the family of Charles of Jesus, several topics and ideas came forth. The title of the weekend: "Charles de Foucauld, the past, the present and the future", was a hope, on our part, to lead everyone into a more profound experience of Charles and to ask ourselves what in Charles' heart touched something in our own heart.

The Retreat/ annual meeting had four wonderful speakers:

1. Ashaki Taha-Cisse, is a Muslim woman who was the guide for the Boston fraternity when they visited the Boston mosque in 2015. Ashaki spoke to us about Islam and her faith. She was the best opening speaker for this kind of event.

2. Father Lenny Tighe, a member of the Boston lay fraternity and one of the most profound followers of Charles and an authority on Charles' life and the subsequent blossoming of the charism of Jesus Caritas. Fr. Lenny spoke to us about the uniqueness of Blessed Charles and his spiritual awakening to the Heart of Jesus which eventually took him to the people of the desert.

3. Ciro Piccirillo, the present co-responsible of the North American lay fraternities. Ciro gave us a personal witness of his ongoing journey of discovering this holy man of the Gospel whose humility, universal brotherhood and service to others, inspires

Ciro to live a life as a husband and father, as a successful medical doctor which closely adheres to the Heart of Jesus, and His message of inclusive love and charity.

4. Mother Olga, the founder of a new community, the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth, a contemplative community which is inspired by Charles de Foucauld. Mother Olga spoke about meeting "the other", accepting a person where they are and who they are. Mother Olga gave some personal reflections on one to one experiences which are holy moments of connection and universal love. She inspired us on our faith journey in the footsteps of Charles of Jesus.

As the local responsible, I had the great joy of spending the weekend meeting new people and renewing friendships and hearing these wonderful speakers. I can attest to the "Master of the impossible", this Jesus who made everything come together in a most satisfying way. Our first miracle was because we outgrew (in number of participants) our original retreat place, we were forced to consider moving to another site, which God provided. In our new retreat center there were fewer stairs and it was easier to get to everything. By far though, the biggest miracle was the sense of continuity with each of the speakers, the quality of their knowledge and deep faith, and the joy which everyone experienced being with one another. With gratitude,

-- Taras Leschishin,
Boston Lay Fraternity

Msgr. Bryan Karvelis

In writing about the Early History of Jesus Caritas in the United States, Juan Romero states that Msgr. Bryan Karvelis of the Brooklyn Diocese in New York, and Father Dan Danielson of the Oakland Diocese in California were the Peter and Paul of the Jesus Caritas Fraternities in the United States. Fr. Romero went on to describe how Msgr. Bryan Karvelis formed lay fraternities in his parish.

“Ordained in the late 1950s, Msgr. Bryan Karvelis died in October 2005, after half a century of priestly ministry and just a couple of months before the beatification of Brother Charles of Jesus. Bryan had grown up in St. Boniface Parish in Brooklyn, and served for almost fifty years as pastor of Transfiguration Parish in the same town. Former New York socialite Dorothy Day, turned apostle-to-the-poor, greatly influenced him. He settled homeless people – mostly immigrants from Latin America – in the rectory, the basement of the convent, and in a shelter across the street from the church. He also turned the former convent into a refuge for AIDS patients.

In spite of illness that included a kidney transplant, Father Karvelis continued to be enthusiastic about having founded Jesus Caritas Fraternities.

Charles de Foucauld, like Dorothy Day, was also a powerful influence on the life Msgr. Karvelis who is remembered as an “urban contemplative.” (*National Catholic Register*, March 10, 2000) In 1966, Msgr. Karvelis began “mini churches” at Transfiguration Parish in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, as a way for parishioners to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus and his message. “Each ‘fraternity’ consisted of fifteen to twenty members who meet in the church basement for study prayer and reflection,” the National Catholic Reporter wrote in the early spring of Jubilee Year 2000. Within his parish, he organized Jesus Caritas-type fraternities akin to the comunidades de base

of Latin America. They became the organizational basis for the whole parish – a community of small communities – and his parish council practically functioned as a Jesus Caritas Fraternity. Karvelis lit a holy fire in Brooklyn, and it inspired a group of highly enthusiastic social-action type priests with a new zeal. The priests of his parish and others of surrounding parishes came to recognize that they needed more prayerful reflection in order to balance their priestly lives. They were going about doing good, and busy about many things, but perhaps not giving sufficient attention to the one thing necessary.

Msgr. Bryan Karvelis wrote about the Eastern USA experiences of Fraternity in *A New Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, a homage to the Broadway play of that title. His option to serve the poor cost him dearly in his later years, as he suffered from hostile non-Catholic elements that literally beat him various times. In spite of illness that included a kidney transplant, Father Karvelis continued to be enthusiastic about having founded Jesus Caritas Fraternities.”

Jesus Caritas Fraternity Membership List

Rev. John C. Kieran	Atlanta	Msgr. Edward Buelt	Denver	Rev. Gregory P. Pawloski	Lincoln
Rev. Daniel J. Berg	Bismarck	Rev. Robert Kinkel	Denver	Rev. Philip J. Rauth	Lincoln
Rev. Chris Kadrmas, Jcl	Bismarck	Rev. Felicien Mbala	Denver	Rev. Joseph Steele	Lincoln
Rev. Marvin Klemmer	Bismarck	Rev. Thomas L. McCormick	Denver	Rev. John A. Zastrow	Lincoln
Rev. Bruce Krebs	Bismarck	Rev. Robert J. Aubrey	Des Moines	Rev. Jeremy Hazuka	Lincoln
Rev. David A. Richter	Bismarck	Rev. Donald G. Bruck	Des Moines	Rev. Francis Colborn	LA
Rev. Roger A. Synek	Bismarck	Rev. Kenneth Gross	Des Moines	Rev. William J. Connor	LA
Rev. Dennis Day	Boise	Rev. Wayne Gubbels	Des Moines	Msgr. Joseph F. Greeley	LA
Rev. Leslie P. Kish	Boise	Rev. Lawrence Hoffmann	Des Moines	Rev. Tim Klosterman	LA
Rev. Joseph Muha	Boise	Rev. David J. Polich	Des Moines	Msgr. Paul M. Montoya	LA
Rev. Joseph F. Schmidt	Boise	Msgr. John F. Hall	Detroit	Rev. Brian Nunes	LA
Msgr. Andrew J. Schumacher	Boise	Rev. Ronald J. De Hondt	Detroit	Most Rev. Joseph Sartoris	LA
Rev. James F. Rafferty	Boston	Rev. Patrick F. Halfpenny	Detroit	Rev. Jerome L. Schmit	LA
Dr. Christopher Lee Coleman	Brooklyn	Most Rev. Donald Hanchon	Detroit	Rev. Norman Supancheck	LA
Rev. David Bellitiere	Buffalo	Rev. Lawrence Kaiser	Detroit	Most Rev. Gerald Wilkerson	LA
Rev. Ryszard Biernat	Buffalo	Rev. Michael Molnar	Detroit	Rev. Richard Aiken	Milwaukee
Rev. Paul R Bossi	Buffalo	Most Rev. Francis R. Reiss	Detroit	Rev. Patrick E. Heppe	Milwaukee
Rev. Richard Csizmar	Buffalo	Rev. John Beal	Erie	Rev. Joseph F. Hornacek	Milwaukee
Rev. Gregory M. Faulhaber	Buffalo	Rev. John M. Fischer	Erie	Rev. Jack Kern	Milwaukee
Rector Joe Gatto	Buffalo	Rev. Leo Gallina	Erie	Rev. Michael F. Michalski	Milwaukee
Rev. John J. Mitka	Buffalo	Rev. John B. Jacquel	Erie	Rev. Glenn Powers	Milwaukee
Rev. William Quinlivan	Buffalo	Rev. Mark Nowak	Erie	Rev. Philip D. Reifenberg	Milwaukee
Rev. Ron Sadjak	Buffalo	Rev. Gregory P. Passauer	Erie	Rev. Daniel J. Sanders	Milwaukee
Msgr. Fred R. Voorhes	Buffalo	Rev. Monty Sayers	Erie	Rev. Michael G. Witczak	Milwaukee
Rev. Peter Clarke	Charleston	Rev. Charles Schmitt	Erie	Rev. Don Zerkel	Milwaukee
Rev. Hubert J. Hart	Cheyenne	Rev. Jerome S. Simmons	Erie	Rev. Neil Zinthefer	Milwaukee
Msgr. James O'Neill	Cheyenne	Rev. Chris Singer	Erie	Bishop Richard J. Garcia, DD	Monterey
Rev. Gary Ruzicka	Cheyenne	Rev. Thomas Suppa	Erie	Rev. Douglas Brougher	N. Orleans
Rev. Daniel P. Coughlin	Chicago	Msgr. John W. Swoger	Erie	Rev. Gary Copping	N. Orleans
Rev. Joseph Mulcrone	Chicago	Rev. Rocco A. Tito	Erie	Rev. Samuel J. Taylor	New York
Rev. Ronald Bryda	Cleveland	Rev. Richard J. Toohey	Erie	Rev. Albert J. Berner	Newark
Rev. Daniel R. Fickes	Cleveland	Rev. Richard J. Schlosser	GF-Billings	Rev. Richard M. Liddy	Newark
Rev. S. Michael Franz	Cleveland	Rev. Michael O'Brien	Jackson	Most Rev. John S. Cummins	Oakland
Rev. Kevin Liebhardt	Cleveland	Rev. Bob Hasenkamp	Kansas City	Rev. Daniel Danielson	Oakland
Rev. Lawrence N. Martello	Cleveland	Rev. Harold F. Schneider	Kansas City	Rev. Denis A. Des Rosiers	Oakland
Rev. Thomas McGovern	Cleveland	Rev. George Seufferling	Kansas City	Rev. Norman F. Hunke	Omaha
Rev. James P. O'Donnell	Cleveland	Rev. Dennis Wait	Kansas City	Rev. Richard Reiser	Omaha
Rev. Thomas O'Donnell	Cleveland	Rev. John C. Reynolds	Kansas City	Rev. Michael Swanton	Omaha
Rev. Kevin Shemuga	Cleveland	Rev. Phillip Winkelbauer	Kansas City	Bishop John Noonan	Orlando
Rev. Ron Szudarek	Cleveland	Rev. Michael Roach	Kansas City	Rev. David Page	Orlando
Rev. William A. Thaden	Cleveland	Rev. Nicholas Baker	Lincoln	Rev. William Cramer	Paterson
Rev. Donald F. Dunn	Col.Springs	Rev. Robert Barnhill	Lincoln	Rev. Richard Altenbaugh	Pnscola-Tal
Rev. George V. Fagan, Jr.	Col.Springs	Rev. Stephen Cooney	Lincoln	Rev. Eugene Casserly	Pnscola-Tal
Rev. Martin J. Ralko	Columbus	Rev. Lyle M. Johnson	Lincoln	Rev. Sebastian C. Naslund	Pnscola-Tal
Msgr. Robert L. Amundsen	Denver	Rev. John Keefe	Lincoln	Bro. Charles W. Roland	Pnscola-Tal

Bishop Thomas Olmsted	Phoenix	Rev. David L. Arnoldt	Savannah	Andrew Williams	Springfld-CG
Msgr. George Schroeder	Phoenix	Rev. Nicholas Mansell	Savannah	Rev. John Johnson	St Louis
Rev. John J. Boyle, Jcl	Portland, OR	Rev. Thomas J. Peyton	Savannah	Rev. Francis L. Fried	St. Paul/Minn
Rev. Mark Cach	Portland, OR	Rev. Gerald P. Ragan, "Hap"	Savannah	Mr. John Hillenbrand	Stockton
Rev. Joseph Heuberger	Portland, OR	Rev. Michael Smith	Savannah	Rev. Robert J. Silva	Stockton
Rev. Gary L. Jacobson	Portland, OR	Rev. Ronald H. Belisle	Seattle	Msgr. Steve J. Rossetti	Syracuse
Rev. Richard G. Rossman	Portland, OR	Rev. James Coyne	Seattle	Rev. Paul E. Eichhoff	Tulsa
Rev. Jonathan A. Woodhall	Raleigh	Rev. Oliver Duggan	Seattle	Rev. John J. Wade	Tulsa
Rev. William Darling	Rochester	Rev. James Eblen	Seattle	Rev. Michael Briese	Wash, DC
Rev. Robert Schrader	Rochester	Rev. Richard Hayatsu	Seattle	Rev. David A. Bava	Wash, DC
Rev. Paul J. Tomasso	Rochester	Rev. James E. Lee	Seattle	Rev. William Foley	Wash, DC
Rev. Albert Hubertus	San Antonio	Rev. Patrick McDermott	Seattle	Rev. Kevin J. Regan	Wash, DC
Rev. Carlos B. Velazquez	San Antonio	Rev. Kevin Moran	Seattle	Rev. Andrew Seiler	Wichita
Msgr. Michael Yarbrough	San Antonio	Rev. Tuan Nguyen	Seattle	Rev. William F. Graney	Wilmington
Rev. Michael J. Sinor	San Diego	Rev. Richard Parle	Seattle	Rev. John Hynes	Wilmington
Rev. Daniel Maguire	San Fran	Rev. John Renggli	Seattle	Rev. Michael B. Roark, Vf	Wilmington
Rev. Anthony McGuire	San Fran	Rev. Michael G. Ryan	Seattle	Rev. Richard Keolker	Yakima
Most Rev. George Niederauer	San Fran	Rev. Steve Sallis	Seattle	Rev. William Shaw	Yakima
Rev. Paul E. Perry	San Fran	Rev. Thomas L. Vandenberg	Seattle	Msgr. Michael J. Cariglio, Jr.	Youngstown
Msgr. Harry G. Schlitt	San Fran	Rev. Clair Boes	Sioux City	Rev. Thomas Cebula	Youngstown
Rev. Wilton S. Smith	San Fran	Rev. Charles D. Skok	Spokane	Rev. Donald Feicht	Youngstown
Rev. Henry Trainor	San Fran	Rev. William Hennecke	Springfld-CG	Rev. Kevin L. McCaffrey	Youngstown
Rev. Gary Thomas	San Jose	Rev. Rick Jones	Springfld-CG	Rev. Mel Rusnak	Youngstown
Rev. Fracis Xavier Eggert	Santa Fe	Rev. Tom McGann, CMF	Springfld-CG	Rev. Edward Wieczorek	Youngstown
Rev. Juan Mendez	Santa Fe	Rev. Scott Sunnenberg	Springfld-CG	Rev. Daniel Cipar	Youngstown
Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan	Santa Fe	Rev. Joji Vincent, OSB	Springfld-CG		



Cultural Corner

What books or films or audio are catching the attention of our fraternity members?

John B. Jacquel offers the following:

1. Eric Metaxas' *Miracles* (2014) - because it addresses the critics that science and religion can't work together - as he reflects upon how they must - before examining a few otherwise unexplainable events in the lives of people he knows.
2. Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief* (2003) - I really liked the movie, but the book is even richer.
3. Bill Geist's *Way off the road [sound recording] : discovering the peculiar charms of small-town America* (2007) His interest in the bizarre and off-beat in small towns across this country, as well as his humorous way of relating these stories, with attention to the goodness of various people he met, made this a priceless traveling companion in my car during the early summer.



Hap Ragan offers these suggestions:

1. *Simplicity Parenting* By Kim Payne is a book I am suggesting to every parent in our faith community. Simplicity Parenting takes the stance that sometimes less can be more. Less as in less frenetic activity, less racing around, less clutter.
2. Brooklyn is quite literally a beautiful film about a young Irish woman who comes to America in the early 1950s and finds love. I cried at the beauty of it. And it showed a priest and a Church that was caring and welcoming to the stranger.
3. I'm addicted to NPR, so I downloaded the free NPR app that allows me to follow the national news on my iPad and listen to my favorite NPR stations wherever I am and whenever I want to. I love it.

An Encouragement —

For The 100 Anniversary of Brother Charles de Foucauld

I have been thinking about the anniversary of Brother Charles, which will be on Thursday, December 1, 2016 and how those in the Diocese and surrounding area could celebrate this anniversary. It is hard to get many together but one experience I had many years ago when Bishop Thomas Olmsted who was in a parish in the diocese at that time before he was made Bishop was an invitation he offered me to come over and have supper and some sharing that evening on the anniversary and life of Brother/Father Charles. This was and is a practice of not only Bishop Olmsted but many members of the Foucauldian Family. My suggestion for this year and beyond would be to do the same. Invite the neighboring brothers/sisters in fraternity over for a little table fellowship and sharing on the life of Brother Charles de Foucauld.

— Fr. Greg Pawloski

The Review of Life

In a pamphlet on the spiritual charisms of the Fraternity that he wrote a few years before his death in May of 2014, Msgr. Des Dillion, the patriarch of the Fraternity in the Northwest wrote the following on the importance of the review of life to the monthly meeting:

“The Review of Life is the pinnacle of our monthly meeting. The Review of Life is the medium of real brotherhood, friendship and prayerful affirmation. It is the most sacred time of our monthly meeting – spiritually, psychologically and socially. Actually, it is the key to real sanctifying friendship in our small community. The common introverted and insular nature of our personality tends to stunt spiritual growth. It is by sharing and caring in confidence with our small fraternity, that spirits can let go and let God. Our sharing, caring and hearing the voice of God grows with the trust and empathy we have for our brothers.

The Review of Life is a time to share how God has spoken or related to us since the last gathering. It is a time to listen carefully and speak our hearts in response to our brothers’ words. It should not be corrupted by personal, parish or financial problems, liturgical regulations, updates of world problems.”

The Synergy Between Francis and Charles

In this Year of Mercy there is a wonderful convergence between the main themes developed by Pope Francis and some fundamental aspects of the spiritual message of Brother Charles:

- The joy that comes from our meeting Jesus
- The urge to mission, which involves friendship and familiarity with the people entrusted to us (with reference to “the smell of the sheep”).
- The desire for a Church capable of “going out to the periphery”
- The proposal of “a Church with and for the poor”.
- The importance of mercy for all those hurt by life...

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From the Responsible *continued from front cover*

If you've never been to a gathering of the National Fraternity, I hope you'd consider attending a future event. And, keep Mark Mertes and Richard Altenbaugh in your prayers as they make the Month of Nazareth. If our fraternity is to have a future, we need to figure out how to help more of our brothers commit to experiencing this wonderful month of formation.

I hope all of you will find some time for rest and relaxation during these crazy, hazy days of summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jerry Ragan".

Fr. Jerry "Hap" Ragan
Brother Responsible, USA

Upcoming Dates

July 4 – 29

*Month of Nazareth
East Aurora, NY*

July 11 - 15

*Jesus Caritas Retreat
East Aurora, NY*

October 24 – 26

National Fraternity Meeting Kansas City, Kan.

November 19

*Day of Recollection on the Spirituality of Bl. Charles
at St. Vincent de Paul Seminary
Boynton Beach, FL*

December 1

*Centennial Commemoration of the Death
of Bl. Charles
Washington, D.C.*