

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.

OUR FRATERNITIES ENCOURAGE:

- Contemplative Prayer
- Devotion to the Eucharist
- Solitude, especially as experienced in a Desert Day
- Simplicity of life
- Closeness to the poor
- Friendship, fraternity, international brotherhood

Our 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.

THE ORDINARY ELEMENTS OF A FRATERNITY DAY INCLUDE:

- Praying with and sharing the Word
- Adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist
- Review of life
- Time for friendly, relaxed fellowship

THE PRACTICE OF 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, and 2) the Holy Spirit is truly among us, especially as we seek Jesus together as brothers; it is the Holy Spirit who in some way is heard through the Fraternity members and through their reflections on the “event” presented.

In the midst of all that I am doing for Christ, what is Christ doing within me?

The Review of Life helps us truly to live in the full light of faith. In the Review of Life we are not speaking of a detailed examination of conscience, but rather 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.

LET ONLY YOUR
WILL BE DONE IN ME,
AND IN ALL
YOUR CREATURES.
I WISH NO MORE
THAN THIS,
O LORD.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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.”

CLOSENESS TO THE POOR

Living in the presence of God, accepting our own poverty enables us to identify with other in their poverty. God’s power works through human weakness.

The Fraternity promotes a vision of the Church where the poor become first for us. It seeks to be with the poor, to share their bread and to help them realistically through our resources. Giving our attention to the poor has the same priority as adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist.

*Can the one possessed and loved
by Jesus be left aside?*



*Can the one possessed and loved
by Jesus be unhappy?*



*The one who is loved by Jesus,
isn’t that one rich enough?*



*The one who possesses Jesus,
isn’t that one rich enough?*

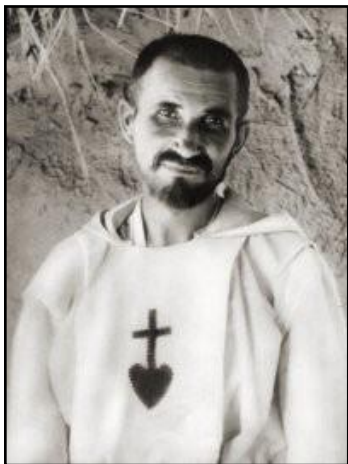
“Each and every priests, therefore, is joined to his brother priests by a bond of charity, prayer and every kind of cooperation.”

(P.O. #8)

THE JESUS CARITAS FRATERNITY TAKES ITS inspiration from the life and charisms of Charles de Foucauld. While some of our local groups still find Brother Charles to be a strange and distant person whom they have yet to meet in depth, 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



GETTING STARTED

If you want to start a Jesus Caritas Group, begin with a few friends in a prayer group and gradually work in the values and charisms of our fraternity. Also you can write for the booklet *Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests* to:

Jesus Caritas National Office
PO Box 2638
Augusta, GA 30914
Or visit: www.JesusCaritasUSA.org

PRAYER OF ABANDONMENT

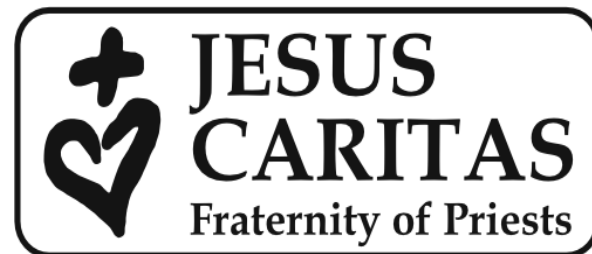
Father,

*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



A Way of Life For Diocesan Priests Nourished In The Eucharist By Allowing Ourselves To *Become* Eucharist...

***Taken,
Broken,
Blessed,
Given.***