

BECOMING BROTHERS

Fall 2010

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FROM OUR NATIONAL RESPONSIBLE



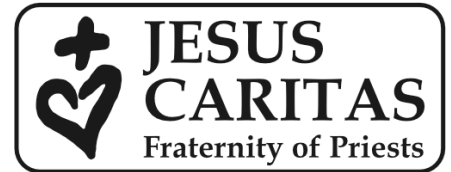
Fr. Mark Mertes

Dear Brothers,

I hope these late autumn days are finding you well and that you have been able to achieve a measure of rest and balance. Recently 5 members of the National Council met for two days of work, prayer and fellowship in Atlanta.

I'm grateful to Jerry "Hap" Ragan for working out the logistics for our meeting. Our conversation over the course of the meeting covered all sorts of topics. Firstly we spent time in prayer deepening our own connections as brothers in fraternity. As we listened to one another's insights we found our own faith life deepening. I'm convinced that healthy fraternity helps us to connect with our local brothers and then inspires us to look outward toward our brothers and sisters in our parishes and in our world. Regular fraternity gatherings refresh and strengthen us for the 'work' of being really present to others.

One of the more humorous moments of our meeting was when we all tried out Facebook. To be better able to reach out to our brother priests in this world of I-pads, Droids, tweets and Facebook we thought we should give it a whirl. The fact of the matter is that you can teach an old priest new tricks. Come Holy Spirit as we learn new ways to keep in touch..... I invite you to join us on Facebook at "Jesus Caritas." If you don't know how to do it, ask your 28 year old



associate or your 15 year old niece and they can show you the way!

The bulk of our meeting was spent in planning for the 2011 Assembly which will be held in Kansas City this coming August 1-5, 2011. Please reserve this week as a week to come together as brothers. The other topic that we spent a lot of time on was the creation of another edition of BE BROTHERS INTERNATIONAL. We have gone several years without this collection of stories and reflections from English speaking brothers throughout the world and we are committed to publishing one by March of next year. Let me know if you would like to assist in this process.

Let us pray for one another, especially on the Memorial of Blessed Charles de Foucauld on Dec. 1. You'll find the prayers for his memorial in the newsletter. May we encounter the Risen Lord in the "Nazareth" of our lives; Christ made known to us in the many simple, hidden and ordinary activities of our days.

Fraternally,

Fr. Mark Mertes

Mark Mertes



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

"Supporting each other in the Priesthood of Jesus Christ"

A mini Retreat sponsored by Jesus Caritas February 7 - 9, 2011

See Page 4 for more details.

Jesus Caritas National Assembly August 1 - 5, 2011 will be held at Savior of the World Pastoral Center 12601 Parallel Parkway Kansas City, KS 66109

See Page 3 for more Details.



WHAT IS THE REVIEW OF LIFE?

At the upcoming National Assembly in Kansas City in 2011 our topic for reflection will be the Review of Life. What should it look like? How does one prepare? How do we respond to our brothers who have shared their review? For your consideration, the International Council offers these reflections:

The review of life belongs to the core way of the fraternity life. Here we experience the sacrament of brotherhood.

Through the fraternity we may foster our capability to see the grace of God at work in our lives, our ministry, and the world. Even our human weakness and our failures can be an instrument through which God is working. For Brother Charles this has become evident in the course of his life.

We do not do this review of life alone. We rely on the help of our brothers. They listen to us and so they create an atmosphere of trust and confidence and openness. We are encouraged by the presence and the testimonies of our brothers. We are not necessarily friends, because we do not choose one another, but because of our commitment to the Gospel and the fraternity.

In the local fraternities the review of life is best linked with the time of prayer and Eucharistic adoration. We become aware of the presence and the grace of God. His love encourages and

challenges us. Because of his paternity we are all brothers one to another. By the reading of the Scriptures we may discover God is at work in our lives and the world.

The object of review of life is not foremost our pastoral strategy or the situation of the Church or our parish, but about our lives. It is more about our being than our doing; it is about our heart and our feelings. The questions are: whom do we love? What are our desires and anxieties? What are the sources of our confidence and hopes?

Fraternity meetings mostly have informal moments like sharing of a meal, conversation, moments of leisure, enjoyment and recreation.

Among the fruits of the review of life we may become more faithful and more respectful to our local Church and the presbyterate. We may become more open to the signs and the values of the coming Kingdom and become more available for its demands.

PRAYERS FOR THE MEMORIAL OF BLESSED CHARLES DE FOUCAULD DECEMBER 1

Opening Prayer:

God our Father, you called Blessed Charles to live your love in the intimacy of your Son, Jesus of Nazareth. Give us the grace to find in the Gospel, the foundations of a radiating Christian life, and to find in the Eucharist the source of a universal brother – and sisterhood. Through Jesus Christ...

Prayer over the gifts:

Almighty Lord look on the sacrifice we offer on the feast of Blessed Charles. Grant that we may express in our lives the mysteries of your Passion which we now celebrate. Through Jesus...

Prayer after Communion:

We have been strengthened Almighty Lord at your holy table. Grant that we may imitate the example of Blessed Charles, seeking to serve you faithfully, loving everyone with unending love. Through Jesus...



[Translation from the Thanksgiving Mass for the Beatification of Brother Charles, Abbey of Tre Fontane, 14 November 2005]



JESUS CARITAS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

AUGUST 1 - 5, 2011

SAVIOR OF THE WORLD PASTORAL CENTER

SAVE THE DATE!!

The **Jesus Caritas National Assembly** is for any one who is participating in a **Jesus Caritas Priest Fraternity**, or would like to. The Assembly Includes a **Day of Reflection**, a chance to hear from members of the International Foucauldian family, a **Desert Day** and **discernment of the next National Responsible**. It's a great chance to get away, to be with like minded brothers, and to be inspired for ministry and life in the 21st Century.

This year the assembly will be held at the **Savior of the World Pastoral Center**, 12601 Parallel Parkway, Kansas City, KS 66109, [P] 913.721.1097. (Savior of the World is a 20 minute drive from Kansas City International Airport (MCI))

The Cost for the week will be approximately \$400. More information to follow.

JESUS CARITAS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REGISTRATION FORM

August 1 - 5, 2011

Savior of the World Pastoral Center
12601 Parallel Parkway
Kansas City, KS 66109
913.721.1097

Please provide the following information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Send your registration form to Yahaira Noriega by fax or to our National Office at:

Jesus Caritas National Assembly
333 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1205
Chicago IL 60601
[F] 312.442.9709



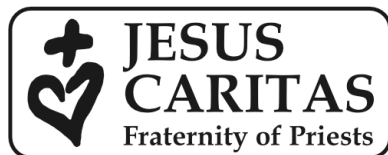
JESUS CARITAS

333 N. Michigan Avenue
Suite 1205
Chicago, IL 60601

[P] 312.442.9700 Ext. 208
[F] 312.442.9709

Please visit us at:

www.jesuscarritasusa.org



333 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 1205
Chicago, IL 60601

List of Council Members

National Responsible

Rev. Mark Mertes
Blessed Sacrament Church
2203 Parallel Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66104
[P] 913-321-1958; [F] 913-321-1997
Email: frmarkkck2010@gmail.com

Western Council Member

Rev. Joseph Greeley
3519 St. Pancratius Place
Lakewood, CA 90712
[P] 562.634.6111; [F] 562.634.7817
Email: stpanpastor@sbcglobal.net

Southeastern Council Member

Rev. Jerry Ragan
1420 Monte Sano Avenue
Augusta, GA 30904
[P] 706.733.6627
Email: hpragan@hotmail.com

Central Council Member

Rev. John Cyr
St. Patrick Church of Merna
1001 N. Towanda Barnes Road
Bloomington, IL 61705
[P] 217.649.6873
Email: frjohncyr@yahoo.com

Eastern Council Member

Rev. Jerry Devore
44 Haddon Street, #3
Bridgeport, CT 06605
[P] 203.334.7946
Email: gtd103@optimum.net

South Central Council Member

Rev. Phil Henning
5667 Old Pearsall Road
San Antonio, TX 78242
[P] 210.623.3970
Email: Phenning74@hotmail.com

Northwestern Council Member

Rev. Dick Rossman
1150 Maxwell Road
Eugene, OR 97404
[P] 541.579.3569
Email: dickr@stpetereugene.org

ANNOUNCEMENT

Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests is sponsoring a Mini Retreat for Priests from February 7 - 9, 2011 at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia. The retreat will be led by Father Mark Mertes (Diocese of Kansas City), our present National Responsible for Jesus Caritas. This is the oldest continuous gathering of the fraternity on a regional basis in the United States. The focus for this year's gathering will be the "Supporting each other in the Priesthood of Jesus Christ." The Retreat begins Monday, February 7 at 6:00 p.m. and ends on Wednesday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m. Transportation can be easily arranged from the Atlanta airport. The monastery requests a donation of \$60.00 per night for food and lodging. Cost of the retreat itself is \$30. To register send \$30. to Father Jerry Ragan, St. Mary-on-the-Hill, 1420 Monte Sano Ave., Augusta, GA 30904. Tel: 706-733-6627. E-mail: hpragan@hotmail.com.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Thanks to all of those who have supported the National Fraternity by paying their annual dues! In addition to supporting the National Council your dues will assist us in donating \$6000 to the International Council. They are beginning preparations for the next International Assembly in 2012. Our donation will assist brothers in other countries who lack the abundant resources that we possess. It's not too late to send in your dues!