

## Jesus Caritas National Fraternity Meeting Conference Call

Tuesday, January 2, 2018 4pm Eastern Time

On the line: Ron Belisle, Hap Ragan, John Jacquel, and Joe Greeley. Greg Pawlowski joined us in the middle of the meeting.

- 1. Review of Life** – Hap led us in an opening prayer. He said that he's growing in a mission orientation (vs. maintenance) – he hired a new music director, let the older one go – she then got a job with the Episcopal church nearby. John suffered another loss – friend and finance council member who died suddenly Sunday. We all need each other to heal – which is starting to happen. The travel has been 'iffy' around Erie after the record snowfall. Joe, after his 12<sup>th</sup> Mass on Christmas weekend, finally 'hit the wall,' a surprise. It makes him seriously consider retirement. Ron said things were fairly placid. When you travel or visit relatives, he said, your spiritual cycle gets disrupted.
- 2. Pan American Assembly** – Alex (Yakima) is going but may come back early (no coverage for weekend)
- 3. Detroit (July)** – Lonely Planet said it's the place to be! We're on the cutting edge.
- 4. Challenges of Jesus Caritas in the USA** – The Church used to be the innovator but we've lost our momentum. Silicon Valley (and associates) are attacking world problems – we must engage the world, Church no longer does that best. The priests in Fraternity used to be on the front lines. Immigration (DACA), opioid crisis, gun violence – we should all talk about these.
- 5. Month of Nazareth** – Tybee Island has 9 bedrooms available. We could rent the old convent from the Diocese – we have the beach – perhaps mid-Sept thru mid-Oct. We could go to Marywood in Jacksonville, FL (2 hour drive) for the embedded retreat. It would be cost effective to have it at Tybee Island. The Council leans this direction, in the event that Bob Amundsen (unavailable today) can't secure something in Colorado.
- 6. Duesletter / Newsletter** - We suggested the need for input – what do you think would help us in our Jesus Caritas promotion? What do you plan to do? – and “we need help in networking as our numbers are getting leaner.” We'll ask for identification of responsables. The newsletter will include Greg's piece on Universal Brotherhood award, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pan American Assembly, and the letter to Spiritual Directors (of Seminaries). But, each of us are urged to write something for this, or an upcoming newsletter.
- 7. Proposed Videos** – Hap saw “The Star” and also the work of Savannah College of Art and Design. How about doing some videos? Ron mentioned he has a VHS tape – it could be converted to YouTube (why stop at DVD?). John suggested doing it in parts (15-20 min segments). There were a series of VHS videos made years ago. There are also some currently posted on YouTube. **Homework for each of us – take a look at a few and comment/recommend.** Ron is headed to Chile to spend a Week of Nazareth with lay fraternities, returning Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. He also asked if we'd gotten word about the Viviers retreat (October 13-23) – John will forward the e-mail.
- 8. Prayer of Abandonment** – was commenced at 5:53 pm EST.

Next Conference Call – Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018