



PRIESTLY FRATERNITY
IESUS CARITAS

LETTER FROM AURELIO,
BROTHER RESPONSIBLE,
EASTER, APRIL 2013

Dear brothers,

in this Paschal time the events that cause us to think and listen, whether near or far from us, such as the election of pope Francis – a cause of joy and hope for all -, the situation in Central Africa, in Syria, with open warfare, threats from North Korea, in Nigeria or in Pakistan where Christians suffer the wrath of fundamentalisms, in places of suffering, where the fraternities of the Family of Brother Charles have been seriously affected, but where the faith of Christians is being reborn in the very difficulty which they endure, as a fruit of the Resurrection, good and bad news stories question us and make us put people, communities and fraternities in our prayer before the Risen Lord.



A cause of great joy is the recovery of our brother, Mariano PUGA, who successfully was operated on for the repair of his mitral valve in Santiago, Chile, where he had a pacemaker inserted into his heart, after his health problems following the accident he had in Rwanda. He is well, growing in strength in order to be able to keep on the path of announcing the Good News of Jesus. Mariano, we need you for many more years!

Last December I shared with the Spanish Fraternity this new stage for me; in January with the fraternities of Burkina Faso and England – where Donald STOKER was elected as Regional Responsible; in February I did so with the brothers of French-speaking Belgium. I am committed to accompanying the fraternities with my little experience to deepen their spirit of Nazareth, to reflect upon belonging to the Fraternity, to both feel ourselves and be brothers committed to a better world.

During Easter Week I took part in the gathering that takes place every two years of delegates and responsible of the Charles de FOUCAULD Association with brothers and sisters of eight nationalities, from 16 of the fraternities that make up the de FOUCAULD Family in the world, in the Seminary of Viviers, France, where we were hosted by the Disciples of the Gospel. It was a week of truly universal fraternity, of celebration, of listening, of festivity, of encounter with the roots of Brother Charles, of communion with the present day suffering of the Central Africa – the



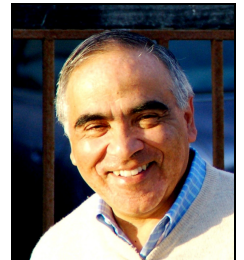
testimony of a Little Sister from there rent open all our hearts-, and of mutual sharing. We visited ND des Neiges, (Our Lady of the Snows Trappist monastery) with snow over a metre deep, to honour Brother Charles and where he began his Trappist life, where we were enriched by talks by Antonella, a Disciple of the Gospel, Pierre SOURISSEAU, who has documented Charles de FOUCAULD, Maurice BOUVIER, his postulator and a member of the Priests Fraternity, Claude RAULT, bishop of Ghardaia, Algeria, and Xavier GUFFLET, a Little Brother of the Gospel, on the study and reading of the Word of God in brother Charles. It moved us to handle originals of his writings, copybooks,



notes, a piece of his Way of the Cross and the chalice used for his first Mass. I believe we all understand him a little better. The contact with his personal effects, beyond any fetishist considerations, helps one to hear his heart beat as a friend of Jesus, his pilgrimage in search of the lowest place. We elected a new coordinating team: Antonella, Anne Marie, of the Jesus Caritas Fraternity (secular

institute), and Josep, of the Comunitat de Jesús. Marianne BONZELET is secretary again and Jeannine the moderating. We've programmed our next meeting for April 2015 in Castelfranco, Italy, with the Disciples of the Gospel, on the theme: "Charles de FOUCAULD, man of prayer and work, what interpellation today?" We all committed ourselves to study how best to celebrate the centenary of the death of brother Charles in 2016. This meeting in Viviers strengthened me personally as a brother in a universal family, as a small grain of sand in the desert or on the beach of our planet and a small mustard seed which will give shade in the garden of humanity and embrace in its branches whoever seeks rest.

The Chilean fraternity had its national assembly and has chosen Fernando TAPIA as new regional responsible. With his team made up by José Agustín TAPIA, Juan BARRAZA and Víctor GODOY. Strength and heart to these brothers who have both so humble and great a task.



To our brothers in Asia we add our best wishes for a fruitful dialogue with Islam, for the difficulties which Christians face in some countries, those who accompany a Church which is young and growing. Arthur CHARLES, who was elected continental responsible last January in the last Asian assembly in Colombo, thus is encouraging his brothers in the Asian Easter Letter.

Rereading pope Francis' Chrism Mass homily, as bishop of Rome, this so hoped for man for our Church suggests my reflecting on our understanding of being pastors. As diocesan priests we have a style which, without being either unique or special is the lifestyle of Nazareth. The Pope has spoken implicitly of this lifestyle in his homily. Not to be functionaries nor dispensers of sacraments: but to be pastors with the "smell of the sheep" and fishermen with the smell of fish. May we not be ashamed to be identified with

the least or with those who stink from marginalization. To be with, being joined to, that the life of nobody in my community be foreign to me, that in their struggle I may also offer my hand, and my shoulder to cry on. The Easter of every day is to give life where joy is lacking, hope and zest for life; it is to remind our comfortable Christians in church that to believe in Jesus goes much further than a conformist and self-complacent spirituality, that we cannot enclose ourselves in norms and condemnations so as not to be regarded as weirdoes. "To smell of sheep" is to allow myself to be loved by those who surround me, without putting myself above them with clerical paternalism; may the Spirit of the Risen Jesus encourage us this Easter to cultivate friendship with our people, naturally, just as we are. We do not know how brother Charles smelled, whether of sheep or of camel... what he did smell of, for sure, was of Jesus.

Courage, humility and much love.

A hug and a prayer for each one of you.

Aurelio SANZ BAEZA,
Brother Responsible



Perín, Spain, 10th April 2013.

(Translation of Liam Ó CUÍV, irish brother. Thank you!)