

GUIDELINES FOR THE REALIZATION OF NAZARETH WEEK FOR YOUTH.

PRESENTATION

The Charles de Foucauld Spiritual Family has organized annually, from 2012 to 2019, a NAZARETH WEEK FOR YOUTH, in different places in Chile. Its purpose has been to help young people to meet Jesus of Nazareth more deeply, to love him with passion and to follow him faithfully, in the midst of the realities of this world, in the way of the Blessed Charles of Foucauld.



In July 2019 the convenience of stopping and evaluating the experience had was seen. To do this, Javier Pinto¹ was commissioned to write a synthesis document of the eight weeks, containing an account of what young people lived, some testimonies from them, a systematization of the characteristics of the experience and some projections and challenges for the future².

It was also necessary to conduct a survey, via the internet, of young people who had participated once or several times in the various weeks of Nazareth. The questions aimed to know the fruits that this spiritual and ecclesial experience had had in their lives and to collect their opinions regarding the future of it. 17 youth responded. A report was made with these data.

Finally, a workshop of evaluation of the experience was organized with representatives of the various branches of the spiritual Family: Little Sisters of Jesus, Iesus Caritas Secular Institute, Iesus Caritas Priestly Fraternity, Adult Lay Fraternity and Youth Lay Fraternity.

Seven people in total who met from February 3 to 5, 2020, at the Saint Rose of Pelequén Sanctuary, served by a priest of Iesus Caritas.

During the workshop, in a climate of prayer and discernment, the documents mentioned above were studied, the experience was evaluated, it was reflected on and basically two things were concluded:

1. The Nazareth Weeks have been a key experience in the spiritual growth of the young participants, which is why it is necessary to continue it.
2. To the young people who have already participated in them, it is convenient to offer another experience that points to a deepening in the spirituality of Brother Charles.

As an aid to the first point, it was agreed to write these GUIDELINES FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE NAZARETH WEEK FOR YOUTH, which includes the work carried out in the Evaluation Workshop and allows the experience to continue, even if the organizers change. It will also allow sharing it with brothers and sisters of our Spiritual Family from other countries.

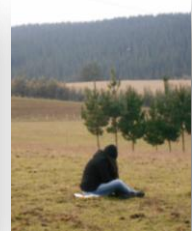
¹ Javier Pinto is a Chilean lay theologian who participated in the preparation and realization of several weeks of Nazareth for young people.

² Javier Pinto, "Week of Nazareth for Youth. Reviewing the path traveled", September 2019.

GOAL OF THE NAZARETH WEEK (NW)

To have a deep encounter with Jesus of Nazareth to love him more and follow him with greater fidelity, in today's Chile, in the footsteps of the Blessed Charles of Foucauld

- experiencing the basic pillars of his spirituality: life in fraternity, sharing with the poor through manual work, Eucharistic life, the experience of meeting God in the desert and review of life,
- in a youthful, happy, simple and welcoming climate.



PEDAGOGICAL CRITERIA FOR ITS REALIZATION

- A simple place will be found, but with enough space for a group of young people to live together for a week. There will be roaming throughout the country, privileging the geographical peripheries.
- NW activities should not be sophisticated or foreign to the young person's daily life, but activities that can be carried out beyond the end of the NW, in such a way that they are incorporated as growth habits in the normal spiritual life of the participants.
- The topics for reflection must be based on the Word of God and on the texts of Brother Charles and of Latin American saints such as Bishop Romero.
- The pedagogy of the Week must be active and participatory: learning by doing, sharing, reflecting and celebrating.
- Both the preparation and the realization and projections of the NW will be assumed by all branches of the Spiritual Family of Charles de Foucauld, in terms of motivation for the young people to participate, to expose some topics during the Week, to be part of the Team Organizer of the NW and to collaborate in its financing.
- Experience has shown us that the best day to start the NW is Saturday, in such a way that one of the first activities of young people is to share the Eucharist with the Local Community on Sunday. We are not a sect. We are part of the People of God who lives from the Eucharist.
- The visit of the local Bishop increases the sense of Church in the youth and it is convenient to invite him at the time that he can.

- As for the date, the summer holidays seem to be the most appropriate.



DAILY ITINERARY

The objectives of the NW will be achieved through various activities carried out by the youth during the day:

- **Daily morning prayer** usually done by fraternities and with the help of a subsidy to be provided.
- **Daily table service** at meal times. Shifts are made.
- **Themes of reflection** every day
- **Manual work** and contact with local workers, two or three hours, on days 3, 4 and 5.
- **Eucharistic adoration** together one day. Free every day.
- **Eucharist**: altogether days 1, 6 and 8. Free every day.
- **Closing**: at the end of the day, make a brief plenary session to collect the experiences lived that day and thank the Father / Mother God, except on days 6 and 8 when the Eucharist is celebrated.



ORGANIZING TEAM PROFILE

The NW requires an Organizing Team that meets the following characteristics:

- Composed of at least three people, belonging to the different branches of the Charles de Foucauld spiritual family. The team may have a broader support network, for example for logistics.
- That one or two people from the Team have participated in any previous NW.
- That at least one person has an aptitude for personal spiritual accompaniment.
- That the members of the Team have availability to meet virtual or in person in order to prepare for the NW, with enough anticipation. At least the last meeting should be in person.



PROFILE OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

From the experience of these eight years, it is seen that the participants should have the following characteristics:

- Between 18 and 29 years of age, without exceptions.
- That he/she has made a journey of faith because the NW is not to start in faith but to consolidate it.
- That he/she has or has had ecclesial participation because the NW supposes that the participant has certain handling of basic elements such as Biblical reading, personal prayer, Eucharistic participation.
- That he or she be presented by a member of the spiritual family of Charles de Foucauld: a Little Sister of Jesus, a member of the Iesus Caritas Secular Institute, someone from the Lay Fraternity or a priest from IESUS CARITAS. The person presenting it is asked to have had an interview with the participant to explain the purpose of the NW and there should be no confusion or misunderstanding.
- If a young person who does not fit this profile presents himself, he will be helped to find another instance of formation, appropriate to his stage of religious development.



STAGES OF THE WEEK OF NAZARETH

1. PREPARATION STAGE

The NW requires a preparation stage that includes the following aspects:

- The formation of the Organizing Team with delegated members of the different branches of the Charles de Foucauld Spiritual Family.
- Study of these Orientations by the members of the Team
 - Search for an appropriate place to carry out the NW that has the following characteristics: that the pastor belongs to the IESUS CARITAS Priestly Fraternity because he knows the spirit of the NW; that it has an ecclesial or civil installation where the youth and the team can lodge; that there are spaces where young people can live the experience of manual work and have contact with workers; that there be some adequate space for the realization of the desert day.
- If there is a priest who does not belong to IESUS CARITAS but is interested in having the NW take place within his jurisdiction, the Organizing Team will talk with him and evaluate the possibility of accepting the request.
- Distribute the roles within the team: general coordination, commissary, liturgical celebrations, person in charge of the manual work.
- Find people who give the themes of reflection both within the Team and special guests.
- Have contact with the local parish priest and, ideally, visit him in advance to see and choose the different spaces that the NW requires.
- Make a budget for the NW, see possible donations and set a fee for each participant. Include payment to a person who makes the meal
- Promotion of the NW through the different members of the Spiritual Family, keeping in mind what is said in this document about the profile of the participant and informing the Organizing Team of the names of possible participants and their WhatsApp or emails.
 - Prepare the list of participants and make personal contact with them to get to know them, even if virtually, and resolve their doubts.
 - Send them a motivating Letter of Invitation to the NW with all the required information (dates, place, participation fee, things to bring, etc.)

2. STAGE OF REALIZATION

DAY 1 (SATURDAY)

OBJECTIVES:

- Fraternally welcome the participants,
- Make personal presentations,
- Publicize the structure and spirit of the week.



DAY 2 (SUNDAY)

OBJECTIVES

1. Initiate among the participants a true Christian fraternity and feel part of a broader fraternity: the local ecclesial community.

For it:



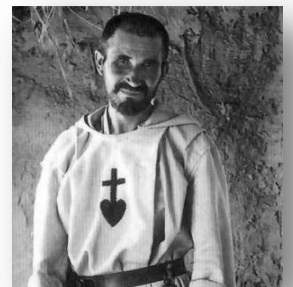
- make the opening prayer around the life of the first Christian communities (Acts 2, 42-47)
- Participate in the Sunday Eucharist of the Local Community, having a dialogue of mutual knowledge at the end of the celebration.
- Expose the theme of Christian fraternity in the footsteps of Brother Carlos, and its consequences in the ecclesial community (People of God) and in society: equality, justice, respect for human rights.
- Form the small fraternities, determine their companions (preferably people from the Organizing Team) and generate the first meeting between their members.



2. Introduce the experience of manual work as an element of the spirituality of Brother Charles.

DAY 3 (MONDAY) OBJECTIVES

1. Deepen in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, center, model and source of Christian fraternity, contemplated in the Gospels.
For it:
 - focus the morning prayer on the mystery of the Incarnation. Inspirational text Bethlehem or Nazareth. Prayer in small fraternities.
 - Begin manual labor, like Jesus in Nazareth who through his work becomes brother to all
 - Present the theme of Jesus of Nazareth
2. Make a first approximation to the life of Brother Carlos, disciple of Jesus of Nazareth.



DAY 4 (TUESDAY) OBJECTIVES

1. Get to know the life of Brother Charles de Foucauld, a disciple of Jesus of Nazareth, whom he called the “Unique Model”. Insist on his conversion.
For it:
 - focus the morning prayer on the CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP: call and response. Prayer in small fraternities.
 - Continue with the experience of manual work
 - Present the theme Charles de Foucauld and the centrality of Eucharistic Adoration in his life, an expression of his intimacy with Jesus and the source of his missionary drive towards the



poorest and most abandoned of his time. Brother Charles was not unaware of the social reality of his time.

2. Have a first experience of Eucharistic Adoration and facilitate this practice throughout the week. The Jesus of Nazareth that we contemplate in the Gospels lives in the Eucharist and we adore him there.
3. Take a first look at our reality today from the perspective of the poor and excluded.



DAY 5 (WEDNESDAY). OBJECTIVES

1. Learn to live the following of Jesus and holiness in the little things of every day, like Jesus in Nazareth: family life, sharing with neighbors and coworkers, recreation, religious practices.

For it:

- focus the morning prayer on the life of the Nazareth family (Lk 2, 41-52, the lost and found child in the temple). Prayer in small fraternities.
- Present the Nazareth theme and delve into our current reality from the perspective of the poor.
- Collect the experience of manual work.

2. Introduce the desert day from the relationship of Jesus with his Father in solitude and silence



DAY 6 (THURSDAY) OBJECTIVES.

1. Promote a personal encounter with God in solitude and silence, Desert Day.

For it:

- Give directions for the day.
- Provide clues for prayer.
- Collect the experience at the celebration of the Eucharist.

2. Promote a free space of friendship and fraternity, after the Eucharistic celebration.



DAY 7 (FRIDAY) OBJECTIVES



1. Learn the method of review of life to make discernment and discover the presence of God in our lives and his calls to collaborate with Him in the construction of his Kingdom.

For it:

- Morning prayer around discernment (Lk 12,54-56). Prayer in small fraternities
- Theme on Review of life.
- Realization of the review of life by fraternities.

2. Celebrate everything lived during the week with a fraternal sharing. It is not a party and alcohol consumption will be minimal. Hopefully nonexistent.



DAY 8 (SATURDAY) OBJECTIVES

1. Discover various ways of following Jesus through the testimony of members of the different branches of the Spiritual Family Charles de Foucauld
2. Collect the lived experience and celebrate it at the closing Eucharist of the Week.
3. Agree on ways to give continuity to the NW



4.CONTINUITY STAGE

OBJECTIVES

1. Give continuity to the NW through the formation of a Youth Fraternity, which has during the year some activities in common with the adult Lay Fraternity and with the other members of the Spiritual Family.
2. Participate in some of the activities to deepen the spirituality of Brother Carlos, which can be organized for those who have lived the NW:

- Three days of desert
- “Labor” missions: live in the homes of families and share with them the manual labor they have undertaken (for example, harvesting flowers). Do not work in large companies. Make some domestic or community celebrations with them: adoration, via crucis, biblical celebrations, etc.
- Missions in hospitals.



CONCLUSION

As members of the different branches of the Charles de Foucauld Spiritual Family, we feel we possess a great treasure that has done us a lot of good and that we want to share with the young Christians of today. We have been impressed by the seriousness with which they have participated in the NW and the brand they have left in their lives. In a society marked by individualism, competition, materialism and secularization, Brother Carlos' message of brotherhood, simplicity, closeness and transcendence has touched youthful hearts and made them grow spiritually. We feel called to continue this experience and to carry out others that complement and deepen it.

Santiago of Chile, March 19, 2020
Saint Joseph of Nazareth Day.