

LETTER TO BROTHERS AROUND THE WORLD FROM GRAZ

“Saint Charles de Foucauld – pray for us!”

Dear Brothers,

We have lived very intense days both in Rome and in Graz (Austria). The canonisation of Brother Charles has been a great joy for us, shared with so many lay men and women, men and women religious, priests and bishops from all over the world. The vigil before the canonisation, the canonisation itself and the thanksgiving mass the following day brought us into contact with the whole Spiritual Family inspired by Charles de Foucauld. Special mention must be made of the meeting that the Family had in Rome and the audience granted to them by Pope Francis. We were represented by our brother Eric Lozada. More than ever, we feel that we are a branch of the same tree whose roots are found in the witness and writings of the new saint.

We have noticed that his figure has awakened much interest in all the People of God, particularly in young diocesan priests, which fills us with hope. We also feel an urgent call from God to be more faithful to the charism of Bro. Charles: his deep attachment to his beloved brother and Lord Jesus, his welcoming of every man and woman as a brother and a sister, his simple and poor lifestyle, his missionary zeal motivated by true inculturation.



As International Team we want to continue to animate the spiritual life of our Fraternities throughout the world, by our Letters on the occasion of the celebration of the great mysteries of the Christian life, by subsidies for ongoing formation in the great pillars of our spirituality and by our presence at important events such as the Continental Assemblies.

We have made an evaluation of our first three years in the service of the IESUS CARITAS Fraternities and we are happy because, even though we are very different, we have integrated well, we have met monthly by zoom and each one has contributed his gifts to the common work. It was very important for us to provide the brothers with materials written by ourselves to help them prepare spiritually for the canonisation of Brother Charles.

We also wanted to keep up to date with the data of our Fraternities: Who are the National Responsible Brothers in each country? How many Fraternities exist in each country? How many Brothers are there in the world? What is our age? How many have done the month of Nazareth? In which peripheries of the world are we present? To do this, we sent a survey to all the National

Responsibles. Not all of them responded, but the results of the survey enlightened us to plan for the next three years. Thanks to the brothers who responded.

We realised that we have problems of communication between the different fraternities, absence of young priests, weaknesses in the organisation of our Fraternity and insufficient practice of the means of spiritual growth proper to our Association. At the same time we gave thanks to God for all the older brothers who have remained faithful for many years to the charism of Brother Charles, who continue to participate with enthusiasm in the meetings of their local fraternities and in the National Encounters, and who keep on giving witness to the Gospel through a simple, poor and joyful life. We were able to see this at the Meeting of the National Responsibles of Europe which took place in Rome on the occasion of the canonisation and to which we were invited.

We also visited Archbishop Andrés Ferrada, Secretary of the Congregation for the Clergy, in Rome to ask him to renew the approval of our Statutes for another six years. Commenting on the present reality of our Fraternities, described above, he advised us to simplify it and to adapt it to the new situation we are living, especially with regard to the Month of Nazareth. During our stay in Graz, in the parish of our brother Matthias, we have started this work, so that we can propose to our next World Assembly a renewed version of our Statutes for discussion and approval. We will then submit it to the Congregation for the Clergy for final approval.

We have seen the convenience of holding our next World Assembly in Burkina Faso, Africa, given the good number of young brothers we have there. It will be an encouragement for them to continue in our Fraternity and to invite other priests and lay people to share our charism. It will take place in January 2025.



Canonisation of Br. Charles



and the International Team

We are grateful for the hospitality that the Society of African Missions (SMA) offered us in Rome and to our brother Matthias for the cordial welcoming he offered us in his parish of the Sacred Heart in Graz, Austria. Here we had the opportunity to share with the lay people of the parish, to visit the Bishop and the Little Sisters of Jesus. We felt at home.

We have lived these days as a small fraternity sharing the Eucharist, adoration, desert day, work and meals in a joyful and hopeful atmosphere. We are infinitely grateful to our Father God in whose hands we place the life and mission of our Priestly Fraternity, "with infinite trust" and immense gratitude.

Eric LOZADA, Fernando TAPIA, Tony LLANES, Honoré SAVADOGO, Matthias KEIL
International Team
Graz, 24. 5 2022