

WEEK OF NAZARETH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

CALDERA, February 4-11, 2023

CHRONICLE

ARRIVAL

On Friday and Saturday we began to arrive the organizing team: Donata, Fernando, Jaime and Paolo and the young participants: Ricardo, Patricio, Sebastián, Bryan, Arantza, Francisco, Isol, Javier and Cristóbal (these last two seminarians). Several did not know northern Chile. The Atacama Desert impressed them.

On Saturday afternoon we were all there and we started our week with an original presentation of each one. Prior to the Week, Paolo asked each of us to record a short presentation video. At the end of the screening of the videos, some questions were asked to complete the presentation. Thus began to weave our fraternity.

Paolo made a very good presentation of the theme of fraternity, using new technologies. Finally, two fraternities were formed for daily reflection and domestic services (cleaning, setting the table, washing dishes, etc.). The names the young people chose are significant: "Sunwalkers" and "Little Brothers of Nazareth."

We ended the day with a beautiful evening prayer.

THE VIRGIN OF CANDELARIA.

Sunday was a very special day because we participated in the Feast of the Virgen de la Candelaria, patron saint of miners, in her sanctuary in the city of Copiapó. Thousands of devotees from different parts of Atacama and other parts of Chile gathered to pray and dance to their beloved Mother. We participated in the Eucharist presided over by the diocesan Bishop, Ricardo Morales and in the afternoon, we watched the parade of religious dance groups.

The lunch was prepared by Donata's former co-workers who today constitute a venture called "Corporación Canto de Agua". Delicious. We were accompanied by Bishop Ricardo.

In the afternoon/evening we returned to Caldera and Fr. Juan Barraza gave us an introduction to the manual work we started on Monday. He also told us about the places he had found to go to work and we organized the three work teams.

NAZARETH

On Monday and the following days, we started our journey with the Eucharist and after breakfast the teams left for their workplaces: a restaurant, a warehouse and the boathouse. Simple but sacrificial works like Jesus in Nazareth. Horizontal relationships with people and encounter with the Risen Christ in everyday life. A phrase of Saint Teresa of Jesus accompanied us: "*God walks between the pots*".

In the afternoon Jaime helped us to deepen the figure of Jesus of Nazareth, center and inspiration of our Week: the Incarnation, the abasement of the Son of God for love of us. We end with a Community Prayer.

In the evening, we had a Cantata on Caldera beach.

On Tuesday we continued with the experience of manual work and in the afternoon Donata introduced us to the life of St. Charles de Foucauld, passionate seeker of God, faithful disciple of Jesus and devotee of Eucharistic Adoration. Before dinner we had an hour of adoration and after dinner an entertaining game.

Wednesday was the last day of manual work and in the afternoon Fernando helped us to deepen the theme of Nazareth, a geographical place and a way of living like Jesus, in simplicity, closeness to people, learning from each other.

Then we shared the learnings achieved in the three mornings of manual work. For everyone, it was above all a new way of meeting Jesus in the gestures of solidarity of his co-workers. The Gospel is lived in the daily life of the poor more than one thinks, because the Holy Spirit is active in every human heart and many are carried away by his inspirations.

After dinner, Juan Barraza gave us an introduction to the deserted day. At the end, we entered into a greater silence.

DESERT DAY.

On Thursday we had breakfast in silence, each one took his bag with a small snack and we were driven to the desert, specifically to a place called "La quebrada del león". Some walked, others climbed dunes, more than one took refuge in the shade of a rock, waiting for the passage of the Lord. Silence, vocal prayers, observation of nature, everything spoke to us of God who comes to meet us.

On our return we celebrated the Eucharist to thank God for this spiritual experience and



to share what it had meant to each of us. For many it was to discover that in the desert,

apparently infertile, there was much life and God was present there, speaking to our hearts.

After dinner it was time to make an entertaining game and we laughed a lot.

THE LIFE REVIEW

On Friday Fernando taught us the Review of life. It is a method to seek and find God in the facts of our daily lives and to be able to hear His calls. After his explanation we did by fraternity an exercise of Review of Life and prepared the final Eucharist of the Week of Nazareth with this question: looking at the Week of Nazareth, what do we want to celebrate? What do we want to thank the Lord? It was a beautiful celebration.

In the afternoon, the Team sent an online evaluation of all aspects of the Week and in the evening, we had a great party, with a pizza made by Donata and with edible donations and beverages made by all the participants of the experience.



Finally, we cleaned up the Colegio, had lunch and ended the Week of Nazareth. Some took advantage of the afternoon off to go to the beach. Some at night took the bus to return to their homes and others did it on Sunday afternoon, after celebrating the Eucharist with the



Parish Community of Caldera and thanking them for all their support. We thank the brothers of the Priestly Fraternity IESUS CARITAS and the secular Institute IESUS CARITAS for their financial contributions that made possible this week. We have returned full of hope and joy like the disciples of Emmaus after meeting the Risen Christ.

Donata, Jaime, Paolo and Fernando

Organizing Team.

Santiago, Chile, February 17, 2023