

Be Brothers!

Britain & Ireland

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**Jesus Caritas
Fraternity of
Priests**

New series 31

November 2023

MAISON DU DIOCES



*The Assembly of
European Regional Responsibles
outside their conference centre
in beautiful Annecy, France,
11-17th July 2023.
Reports & more pics on page 3.*

Editorial

Stephen Squires,
British Regional
Responsible

As I write, the tragedy in Gaza and Israel is two weeks old and there is no sign of any way through the immense suffering and its complex causes. But the unavoidable fact is that religion is a powerful and mostly not benign factor.

Some years ago I was on a study tour of the Holy Land with the Council of Christians and Jews and we heard from Poet and Peace Activist Rachel Tzvia Back. As a practising Jew now living in Galilee she had the courage to describe the Palestinians as ‘an oppressed people.’ She believes poetry and discussion can help people dialogue with points of view other than their own and see a way to peaceful means of conflict resolution.

This raises the question: what can we, as members of Jesus Caritas do to promote real peace, the peace that rests on justice for all concerned? Brother Charles is not an unambiguous guide in these matters. Despite his determination to follow Jesus and be a brother to all, he supported the colonial policies of France, even if he criticized the way they were sometimes carried out. He was a strong supporter of France’s military efforts in the First World War, and said some very derogatory things about the Germans. Even so, Pope Francis in ‘Fratelli Tutti’, holds him up as the universal brother, something which he achieved only by identifying with the least... directing his ideal of total surrender to God towards an identification with the poor and most abandoned people. Despite our own limitations, as individuals and as fraternities, in Jesus Caritas we can play a small but significant part to create a more just and peaceful world. +



Steve

Fraternity news

- “***Be Brothers Britain & Ireland***” -is distributed by email as a PDF file to British & Irish brothers via their Responsibles and also to British fraternities as ‘hard copy.’
- ***The British ‘Regional’ Team*** has, since the last issue, met ‘live’ in the morning of 13/9/23, with sundry informal communications at other times. Decisions made appear below or elsewhere in this issue.
- ***The annual British Responsibles meeting*** took place at the Hinsley Room (behind Westminster Cathedral) on Weds. afternoon, 13th September. Details on page 14.
- ***European Assembly:*** Jonathan Cotton for Britain and Fergal Cunnane for Ireland represented us at Annecy over 11-17 July 2023 . See reports opposite.
- ***The Southwark (Greenwich) fraternity*** –has a new Responsible in Paul Kyne, replacing David Standley who continues in the fraternity, though recently moved into residential accommodation. He has donated 9 of the pre- ‘New Series’ “Be Brothers “ to the editor.
- ***We sadly received confirmation that the Liverpool fraternity*** folded several years ago and its brothers dispersed (except one who has joined the lay fraternity there.)
- ***The 2024 British new year mini-retreat*** will be led by Jonathan Cotton over Tues. - Thurs. 16 -18th January at Nymphsfield, Gloucestershire. Form with details from < barnabas.page@gmail.com > 0117 9833939 or any GB Team member (see rear.).
- ***Note that each “Be Brothers” is filed on the international website:*** <http://www.iesuscaritas.org/en> soon after publication.
- ***PRESS DATE for the June 2024 “Be Brothers Britain & Ireland” is 1st April for full articles; snippets accepted till May15th.*** Contributions from British and Irish local fraternities very welcome. +



The European Regional Responsibles' Assembly

Annecy, France, July 11-17th



First, a report by Fergal Cunnane, the Irish representative to the Assembly:

The experience of our days in Annecy will remain with me for a long, long time. I never expected to meet priests from other parts of Europe and of the world, so different in

terms of their culture and local Church situation and yet so similar in the support and encouragement they have found through Jesus Caritas. The brotherhood we share truly transcends borders, language and nationality.

There were many highlights from our days in Annecy. Our beautiful location in the forested hills overlooking the Lake lent itself so well to our desert day. We lost ourselves in this wonderful backdrop and brought back from this solitary time seeds of hope to be now shared. Our daytrip to the Church of Our Lady of All Grace in the foothills of Mont Blanc was very special. Built for the patients and staff at the local sanatorium for people recovering from tuberculosis; its stained glass windows and tableaux painted by some of France's most decorated artists such as Roualt and Chagall were truly awe-inspiring. Most of all, what will remain from our time in Annecy is the close bonds of brotherhood that emerged through our prayer, our sharing and our meals and social time together.

One final detail of our stay which was especially appreciated by the Irish brothers (myself and Joe!) was our parish visits on Sunday. We were sent in pairs to churches around Annecy and myself and Joe Deegan had the good fortune of being sent to a parish that was hosting the Tour de France that particular day! It was a dream come true to see the peloton pass a few meters from the homes our host families where we had dined. If the food hadn't been so good we would have donned our own green jerseys and joined the race!

Thank you for the privilege of representing you in Annecy. What I learned in Annecy was that we are universal brothers in so many different ways; what we share in Jesus Caritas is such a gift and true treasure.

Fergal Cunnane

- There will be a short video in a few weeks to follow with a shared message from those who attended the assembly.

Next, Jonathan Cotton's British report:

Introduction Twenty of us met for the week in Annecy, three of whom were members of the International Team. We stayed in the Diocesan Centre in Annecy and were cared for and fed admirably by the in-house staff. The Centre was situated just below the Basilica where St Francis de Sales and St Frances de Chantal are buried

Adoration every day and Morning Prayer in common, Mass eve-



Continued overleaf

Continued from overleaf

ry day either in the Diocesan Centre, or in the Basilica or out in local parishes. One day, Saturday, was set aside as a Desert Day.

Sunday Mass & Annecy Diocese On the Sunday we were sent out in pairs to the local parish. Myself and Tony, from the Philippines, went to San Maurice's Parish Church, a short walk away, where the assistant priest from India, Fr Samuel Devara, was a member of the Missionaries of St Frances de Sales [MSFS]. The Church is the oldest Church in Annecy and originally Dominican [AD1422]. We concelebrated the Mass and were made very welcome with a friendly address by Fr Samuel at the end of Mass. Parishioners appeared to be very active, arranging the singing and readings in the absence of the usual organisers – they were on holiday. There was a children's liturgy and a young boy being trained as an altar server. Parishioners chatted at the end of Mass [testing my grasp of French!]



Mass in the basilica at Annecy

The Diocese of Annecy has reduced its 300 parishes to 38. A parish can have up to 10 churches in it. Lay people are very involved in the day to day running of the parishes with 50% of Funerals conducted by lay people. In 2020, there were 97 priests in the Diocese.

After Tony & I had an ice-cream in the town, we went for lunch in the Provincial House of the MSFS, which turned out to be directly across the road from the Diocesan Centre. The Provincial was French, the rest of his Team were either from India or Africa. We had a very full lunch and interesting & friendly conversations.

Transformation & Desert Days The first few days were quite intense, with talks and interactive “games” to help us open up and have an experience of the topics under discussion.

The Chair of the European Team, Kuno, led us in the theme “**Transformation**”, and we had a helpful talk by the International Leader, Eric, from the Philippines, on **Desert Days**. One thought that struck me on the Transformation theme is that sometimes we have to learn how to die before transformation can happen: “*unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*” John 12: 24-26.

On **Desert Days**, Eric spoke in terms of four movements, using the image of Jesus in the Desert: 1. It is an **Act of Faith**, a leap of faith, without a plan for the day but letting the Holy Spirit reveal God's Plan. The Desert is a place to listen to the movement in the heart not the head. 2. **Silence**: overcoming the active mind by listening to the Voice of God within. 3. **Encounter**: looking at events in my life with the eyes of God. “Spirit, what do you want me to see?” Put temptations [e.g. Mobiles!] to one side to help us listen & encounter. Encounter transforms us. Nature can help us see the hand of God at work. 4. **Gratitude**: a small ritual can help to express our gratitude for the blessing of the Desert Day. Everything that happens to us on the Desert Day is a gift.



New Directory One of the announcements from the International Team was that they were working on updating the Directory for the Jesus Caritas Fraternity of Priests. More

information in due course.

Reports It took us several days to hear the **Reports** from the different European countries. The Italian Report arrived but not the representative! One Brother had to leave in a hurry because of an illness in his family. I was joined by John Nolan, our Treasurer, who happened to be passing through Annecy for a couple of hours on holiday, and he was invited to address the Conference sharing his story re his experience of the Fraternals, which was very well received.

The Secretary gave us his summary of the Reports covering eight major Topics, with quite a few sub headings. These were: Our experience of **priesthood**, including the encounter & welcome of the mainly young and more traditionally dressed priests; The **Review of Life**; the **Month of Nazareth**; the **Membership** of the Fraternities and sympathisers; different **ways of meeting** together, including with deacons and married priests?; A growing population of **Migrants** in our parishes and the challenge this poses for our theme of being a Universal Brother as well as an opportunity of dialogue with people of other cultures & faiths; Responses to **the 3 Questions** – Have a beginner’s mind, seeking transformation, welcoming new members; and it was noted that there was **no mention** of Desert Days or environment issues in the Reports. Also, working together more with the **Lay Fraternities** of Jesus Caritas was a feature from some countries.



The new European team- Boris [Switzerland]; Fergal [Ireland], Eddy [Belgium]

Media Feedback We discussed what is the best way to report back on our discussions to our respective countries.

It was decided to utilise alternative media for the Report so that it can be widely distributed and used as a recruitment. We all recorded a short video [the challenge was to make it 30 seconds] and these were sent to our brothers from Ireland who knew someone who knew someone who could produce a dynamic presentation of our deliberations including photographs of our stay. There is a longer and a shorter version. Just in time for the presentation of this Report, a copy of the Video arrived on my mobile. It is available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFtENLgcJeo>

This can be used for discussion in our Fraternities, as well as a promotional video when offering Taster Days etc so as to attract new members.

My own feelings about the Conference is that 1. we need to be **Creative**, even experimental, in the way we run our Meetings, so as to appeal to a wider base, and creative in the way we publicise ourselves [hence the video!] 2. **Flexible** in the attend-

Continued on page 6



Well worth watching:

Rather than the usual official report, thoughts and Reflections from participants at the Assembly were collected on YouTube, thus:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFtENLgcJeo>

ance, allowing dipping in & out, or being “friends” of the Fraternal [e.g. just joining for the Holy Hour or for a meal & social] 3. Like Brother Charles, not being afraid to die before new life in the Fraternities can be born.

New Team At the end, we had elections for the European Committee. Boris [Switzerland], Fergal [Ireland] and Eddy [Belgium] were elected (*picture on last page.*)

Finally, Jonathan’s report given from Britain to the Assembly:

In General

18 known Fraternal. Approx 145 individuals. 40% slow to make financial contribution to the National expenses. Only 3 Fraternal responded with input into this Report. Members from the older age bracket with many retired, helping out at weekends with supplying. Except as a result of a recruiting campaign a new Fraternity of newly ordained. We have 2 Retreats a year. Last year there was a Month of Nazareth: core group of 6 with others coming & going, with last week a Retreat with Retreat Master (a Cardinal from Rome) giving everyone Covid! BE BROTHERS magazine, shared with Ireland. Available as a PDF. Potential for more sharing events between our two regional groups. Numbers are declining & members getting old, resulting in some closures. Younger priests in cassocks, birettas etc and celebrating Mass either completely in Latin or in parts, seem to have their own catechetical priest meetings, with speakers etc. A small group & therefore their parishes, remain unengaged with the Synod process. Waiting for Pope Francis to finish. How to engage a growing number of priests from Africa (Nigeria ...) & India, some from the Philippines. How to improve the Review of Life? Some priests feel a lack of energy as they take on more churches & Diocesan responsibilities. The structures of the Diocese/ Parish not changing fast enough. Many lay people been waiting in the wings to take on more responsibilities (but some will need paying – volunteering can only go so far with family/ work responsibilities.) But better to concentrate more on quality of Fraternal which will attract enquiries; have a strong faith, promote/publicise the best activities & the Holy Spirit will do what the Holy Spirit wants. Remember, Brother Charles died before growth happened; no resurrection without first crucifixion.

Question 1. Transformation.

Transformation starts in our own individual hearts - a process of prayer, humble listening, honest & fraternal discussion and well co-ordinated action. New beginnings are seeing our Fraternities with priests from different countries. The process of our meetings is transformational – “the most formative thing in my life”. Zoom meetings showed our continuing care. The Prayer of Abandonment is awesome, aspirational. Clericalism to be a thing of the past. New beginnings can find inspiration in the Pope’s “*Fratelli Tutti.*” With Card. Turkson long to see Jesus’s Mission continue today in the power of the Holy Spirit. He referred to Damian Staynes’ book “*Renew your wonders. Spiritual Gifts for today.*” Therefore, to see the charisms, spiritual gifts in our liturgies. We need to be more pro-active in fostering the lay Fraternities. Pope Francis has brought Brother Charles into the mainstream of the Church .

2. Beginning & Universal Brother.

In order to return to the spirit of Nazareth, need to look to our own personal lifestyle: more simple, frugal, communal. All to follow Pope Francis’ living arrangements from Bishop down to lay. Can never stop at being a beginner of being a Universal brother. Danger of being “competent” & thus becoming complacent . NB – no man is an island. “Happy those who need each other”.

3. Initiatives

Come & See’ recruitment days: Mass, talk, refreshments, a sample Fraternal meeting. One well attended meeting unable to continue through lack of a priest willing to lead . Also new young group already mentioned. Reprints of Booklet by Fr. Anthony Philpot (RIP) – a give-away. One-on-one is best when recruiting new members. We were all encourage to advertise our events, especially Retreats, in Ad Cle-ra from Bishops House. I gave a talk (also zoomed) on Brother Charles at the invitation of the Rosminian Spirituality Centre next to Ratcliffe College. I gave a 2 part article on the canonisation & the life of Brother Charles in our monthly Diocesan Newspaper. We could make more contact with the lay Fraternities.

British Summer Retreat, Nympsfield, Gloucestershire, 3rd-7th July.



Some random notes from Mgr. Pat Kilgarriff's talks, jotted down by Bob Rainbow.

1st talk, Mon. evening:

Jesus who emptied himself -put himself out to serve others. As teacher, he shares the Word of God he has received with joy, teaching what he believes and putting it into practise. Tend to the work of Xt before your own. Bring the faithful together in a unified family; rescue the lost.

Bp. David Oakley- The seminarian is a mystery to himself, moulded by grace and by frailty. The task is to integrate them without excesses; a period of testing. Aches and pains make us what we are! (They go together with your gifts.)

When did God touch you? If your weren't the person you were, you wouldn't have been so effective over the last 3 years,

2nd talk, Tues. morning:

The Philippians hymn (kenosis:)

Christians must have the same mind as Christ.

Does not 'grasp' equality with God.

He does not use who he is to his advantage (as opposed to Adam who stole.)

Vv. 7-8 are re- what he DID do. The cross is seen as the dramatic climax to all this, after being paraded as a criminal (naked thru' the streets?) In John- 'It is consummated!' Vv 9-11: God gives back to Jesus what has been taken away. There is nothing outside his leadership.

Have I planted some seeds? (cf. A priest who gave all for God.) A mother: 'You don't know how selfish you are till you have a baby.' Our parents emptied themselves for us. Be known as a person who empties himself.





3rd talk, Tues. afternoon:

Mgr. Pat gave us a meditation on the life of Christ, while showing a wonderful PowerPoint of 'old master' paintings. The pictures are how many learnt their faith (up to c. the mid-19th century.)

- The Annunciation (Fra Angelico) Adam and Eve shown as the need for the Incarnation.
- The Nativity (Botticelli) The angels dance above the Word newly made flesh.
- The Circumcision: (Bellini) Blood shed for the first time, to bring him within the chosen people.
- The Flight

into Egypty (Giotto) A link with asylum-seeking refugees.

- Our Lady (Antonello de Messina.)
- The Baptism (Pietro della Francesca) 'This is my Son, the Beloved.' We, too, are the baptised.
- The Cure of a Paralytic (Ravenna mosaics).
- 'Take up your bed' (Sant Appollinare Nuovo) Predates Patrick and Augustine.
- "Faith has saved you' (Ravenna.)
- Samaritan woman at the well (Cf. John.)
- Miraculous draft of fish (Ravenna) 'From now on it is men you will catch.'
- Gadarene demoniacs (Ravenna) c. 520ad.
- Feeding of the 5,000 (Armenian manuscript) Bread and fish.
- Raising of Lazarus (Ducassio de Buonserio) C. 1300.)
- The Last Supper (G ilandio) D. 1494. Jesus with us at table. Leads on to the NT.
- Agony in the Garden (Bellini) 'Could you not watch one hour?'
- Judas' kiss (Duccio) (Helps those who couldn't read.)
- Jesus with his tormentors (Hieronimus Bosch.)
- Crucifixion (Andrea Montegna) 'Lord, remember me.' (Lk.)
- Taken down from the Cross (Lorengetti.)
- The dead Christ (Mantegna.)
- The burial of Christ (Caravaggio.)
- The Resurrection of Christ (Pietro della Francesca) Go slow and steady to understand the true meaning of the Cross.



3 of the 33 magnificent paintings Mgr. Pat described in his presentation.

- Resurrection (Andrea Mantegna.)
- Resurrection (St. Xavier in Chora) Constantinople Note all locks, etc. below!
- The glory the cross. An Eastern image,
- Christ in Majesty (Coventry Cathedral, Graham Sutherland.)
- Detail, Saved by the Wounds of the Lamb.



Wednesday was a "Day in the Desert;" which way should I go?!

- Cefula Cathedral mosaic, Sicily. Heaven open above the altar; angels with us at Mass.
- Our Lady at " c. 1220.
- There are psalms for all sorts of emotions. Pantomimic; 'The Light of the world.' Majesty and com-

Prayer of Abandonment: Father, I abandon myself into your hands;



We were greatly honoured that Erik Lozada, the International Responsible, was just able to make a flying visit at our last lunchtime on his way from the European meeting back to the Philippines. Here seen with resident Mother Maria.

- passion. c.13ft. high.
- Christ's right hand " Symbolic.
- Face of the Pantocrator "
- Baptistry window (Patrick Reytiens) Coventry Cathedral (3rd Coventry Cathedral. New one is N-S; old E-W.) Font is a boulder from the Shepherds Field at Bethlehem.

4th talk, Thurs. morning:

The psalms:

They are the prayer of the Church of Christ. They are prayers for the Church & the world, and linked to them. Those who ask our prayers are included in it. 'The wellspring of Christian life.' (From the General Instruction of the breviary.) The psalms are good for repentance (There are 7 penitential psalms.) 'If a priest is a good penitent, he will make a good confessor.' (JPII) There are psalms for all sorts of emotions. Our prayer is subsumed into Christ's.



Not flying, but the view from the Cotswold Escarpment 1/2 m. from the centre, looking into Wales.

5th talk, Thurs. afternoon:

The benedictus:

Written to deepen faith (as were the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis.) If one is lonely in one's priesthood, you have to turn to prayer. "...Go ahead of the Lord..." = Kyrios = Jesus (written in hindsight.) Like "...the loving kindness of our God..." The priest should know the depth of peoples' hearts; respect for all. Genuinely compassionate. Have a balanced judgement. To be responsible for the community one must be a person of communion.

6th talk, Fri. morning:

The Book of Revelation, and perseverance; (Pat has been to this area of Turkey.) The opening of the Book features towns near Ephesus.:

Ephesus: unspoilt remains today. Centre of St. Paul's missionary work. The cult of Diana. Rev: 'You do not love me as you did before.' The promises in the Letters to the Cities... To feast on good things in heaven.

Smyrna: Cult of the divinised emperor. Not to be affected by the Second Death (after the first.) 'They can only kill us.'

Pergamon: A big temple to Zeus. A repeated phrase- 'For those who are victorious..'

Thyatira: Apoc. 5. Christ and the Father. A trade guild providing meat to offer idols. The 2 sides despise each other! (Eat it



With some of the resident community.

do with me what you will. Whatever you do, I thank you. I am ready for all,

or not?)

Christ as the 'Morning Star.'

Sardis: A great and rich city. 'If you acknowledge me, I'll acknowledge you.'

Philadelphia: (Possibly facing expulsion from the synagogue.

Laodicia: 'Neither hot nor cold; so I will spit you out.' Pitifully poor 'I'll come into those who accept me.'

A marvellous book, esp. if one has been through the Holocaust, etc.

Gerard Manley Hopkins. poem on 'Perseverance; 'Windhover,' 'Sheer plod makes plough down sillom (=furrow) shine.' (Perseverance!)

Pat's dad had been a miner, getting free coal. Poking a dead fire into a flash of light. Hence: +

A reflection following the British Retreat, Nympsfield

Provided by Peter Codd (Portsmouth.)

Mgr. Pat Kilgarriff gave some truly inspiring talks for the dozen participants..

Here, I wish only to reflect on Brother Pat's final offering, when, during the talk, he recited and explained the poem by Gerald Manley Hopkins, *The Windhover, To Christ our Lord*. I have never heard the poem recited so meaningfully and its meaning explained so clearly. For what follows, I am entirely indebted to Pat.

Windhover another name for the kestrel, a falcon; *minion* is darling, one held dear. *Dauphin* was the eldest son of the King of France, hence meaning here 'a majestic prince'. *Wimpling* is from the verb to ripple, appropriately describing the bird hovering. The swooping down of the falcon is described so poetically by the image of a skater sweeping down the bend of a steep ski slope.

But the poem is addressed, in praise, to Christ.

The word *Buckle* here serves the purpose of linking the poet's witness and admiration of the kestrel with his sublime meditation on the descent of Christ to earth in order to be, not the hunter, but our Saviour. Moreover, when Christ rises, as does the kestrel, it is not with his slain victim, but with his rescued beloved, restored to life. This image matches an image used by Pat in one of his earlier talks. Pat reflected on the Cantic in Philippians, where St Paul describes Jesus abasing himself so as to become our Saviour and is subsequently raised victorious and in glory, by the Father, in a kind of divine parabolic movement. *Chevalier* of course, is a brave knight and, here, refers to Christ, the most courageous of all.

So how should we interpret the last stanza of the poem? Pat had two amusing anecdotes from his childhood to call upon. Both were amazingly providential in enabling him to see meaning in this stanza. Pat recalled how when visiting his uncle's small farm in Staffordshire, he was fascinated by the rusty plough lying outside. The flakes of rust were added to whenever it rained. One day, Pat's uncle called Pat to join him and he hitched up the plough to the donkey and together they went to plough a field. The uncle let down the plough blades, so they sank below the surface and away they went. At the end of the furrow, his uncle said to Pat, "Look" and as he raised the blades from beneath the ploughed earth, Pat saw how they shone brightly in the sunlight, all rust cleaned away by being buried and drawn through the soil. Look at the words of the poem: *Sillion* is a furrow!

Blue-bleak embers— what about these? Pat's childhood memories include his mother scolding Pat for poking the embers of the fire, disturbing the dying embers, dull but hot, so as to reignite and burst into glowing balls of flame, 'gash gold-vermilion. Pat's after-thought was that he should have explained to his mother that he was researching for information to be used in later life! But see how brilliantly this stanza describes what Christ does for us when he takes us, in baptism, into his own passion, death and burial and raises us up to the bright light of eternal life. Friday Compline con-

I accept all; let only your will be done in me and in all your creatures, I wish no more than this.

cludes: "Give us grace, almighty God, so to unite ourselves in faith with your only Son, who underwent death and lay buried in the tomb that we may rise in newness of life with him, who lives and reigns for ever and ever." It was a wonderful conclusion to a series of inspiring and refreshing talks. Thank you, Pat. And herewith, the Poem:
+



*I caught this morning morning's minion, king-
dom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon,
in his riding
Of the rolling level underneath him steady air, and
striding
High there, how he rung upon the rein of a wimpling wing
In his ecstasy! Then off, off forth on swing,
As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow-bend: the
hurl and gliding
Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding
Stirred for a bird, – the achieve of, the mastery of the thing!*

*Brute beauty and valour and act, oh, air, pride, plume, here
Buckle! AND the fire that breaks from thee then, a billion
Times told lovelier, more dangerous, O my chevalier!*

No wonder of it: shéer plód makes plough down sillion
Shine, and blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,
Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-vermilion. +

***STOP PRESS e.mail from the Irish Responsible;
Pope's message highlights Bro. Charles!***

From: Niall Ahern <responsiblejcireland@gmail.com>
Sent: 19 October 2023 22:39
Subject: Re: Pope speaks about Charles de Foucauld

Please click link below to watch today's Papal Audience with Pope Francis where he speaks about Saint Charles de Foucauld as a model for our present age.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2023-10/pope-francis-general-audience-zeal-charles-foucauld.html>

Niall

Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart. For I

British fraternities' national accounts to date

(as provided by Treasurer John Nolan)

1/1/23—27/8/23

<u>INFLOWS</u>	£
Nympsfield Retreat Jan 2023	170.00
Nympsfield April 2023 Team meeting	-390.00
Nympsfield Summer 2023	-550.00
Subscriptions	1,370.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	600.00
<u>OUTFLOWS</u>	
Postage	-27.47
Printing & publishing	-225.65
Anney retreat expenses	-650.00
Website	170.99
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	1,074.11
<u>OVERALL BALANCE</u>	-474.11

Notes to the budget column on the summary opposite:

1. Imagining no change from August
2. Balance of costs/surplus from both Nympsfield retreats.
3. Delegate to Anney.
4. Doubling costs to date.
5. None to date: guess at Westminster costs.
6. Estimate.

***The British Regional Team are quite concerned** at the failure of subscriptions received to recover since the Pandemic (note 2nd line of figures opposite.) Could local fraternities please give this some thought? Details for paying are at the rear lower of the back page of every edition of "Be Brothers." We would love to be able to keep up the services we offer you, including communication with the worldwide Jesus Caritas network, not least through the significant cost of producing and distributing "Be Brothers Britain & Ireland." If there is ever any reason why the full subscription of £30 per priest is not provided, what ever help can be offered is much appreciated.*

love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands, without re-

Jesus Caritas British Fraternity Accounts											Budget	Notes
2015 to 2023												
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		
Start of												
Year		1,237	1,845	2,298	2,163	2,407	2,789	4,201	5,565	3,722		
Inflows	Subscriptions	1,950	2,580	1,740	1,080	2,440	2,200	2,220	1,350	1,370	1.	
	Retreat Income	0	0	0	0	0	1,530	180	180	-380	2.	
	Donations							500				
	Other Inc							30				
Outflows	Retreat expenses / support	0	0	0	0	0	-2,060	-341	-721	-650	3.	
	Advertising								-240			
	Postage	0	0	0	0	0	-27	-87	-24	-50		
	Printing & Publishing	-388	-652	-437	-505	-738	-231	-952	-780	-500	4	
	LSOJ Magazine								-150			
	Meetings	-445	-465	-913	-331	-1,320	0	0	-176	-500	5	
	Website							-186	-264	-250	6	
	Transfer to International Fund	-509	-1,010	-525	0	0	0	0	-1,000			
	Bank charges, Misc								-18	-30		
Balance		608	453	-135	244	382	1,412	1,364	-1,843	-990		
End of Year		1,845	2,298	2,163	2,407	2,789	4,201	5,565	3,722	2,732		

serve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father. *(Brother Charles.)*

Annual meeting of British Responsibles



This took place at the Hinsley Room, Westminster, on September 13th. It was preceded by a meeting of our Regional Team, photographed outside there as left (apology for stripping in separately the main photographer, Peter Codd!) Barnabas Page was the only absentee (Full Team always listed on rear cover.)

Among items discussed by the Team were:

- A good number at the Summer retreat; publication in Diocesan Ad Clera helped.
- Peter Codd is prepared to lead any diocesan recruiting meeting that local fraternities plan, and is making a letter to send out.
- Jonathan Cotton reported from Annecy (see page 3) that the International Team are working on a new Di-

rectory for Jesus Caritas. There are no minutes of that Assembly; instead each contributor was video'd in an 11-1/2 minute-long YouTube, available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WftENLgcJeo>

- John Nolan presented his accounts (page 13.) Subs received are well down since 2021 (only c. 40 pay!) £100 per issue has been saved by going to an alternative online printer for "Be Brothers."

Sept. 13th 2023 Responsibles Meeting, Hinsley Hall, Westminster.

(Some notes by Bob Rainbow.)

There were 4 **Apologies** for absence.

Fraternity reports:

- Steve Squires (Worcestershire:) Formed anew by joining 2 existing fraternities. Meeting at the House of the Open Door, Worcs.
- Peter Coxe (Plymouth:) 6 active in the fraternity, meeting at Schlerder Abbey.
- Tom Lynch (Southward Rochester:) The new fraternity meets at Rochester, and is going well.
- David Standley (Southwark Greenwich:) Meets 11-4, incl. Reviews of Life. Paul Kyne is their new Responsible. David asked how to induct new members, as there is a risk of breaking the longstanding bonds of existing members.
- Jonathan Cotton (Nottingham:) 5, incl. a deacon. They hope to try for a meeting in Derbyshire, with a vision of establishing one in each of their 4 counties. Meetings have the usual format.
- Bob Rainbow (Wrexham:) 8 brothers currently, 4 having died during our 12 years together. Currently reviewing, short chapter by short chapter, the booklet by Ian Latham on "The Vision of the Gospel that filled Bro. Charles."
- Peter Codd (Portsmouth:) A new fraternity has started after a recruitment meeting with plenty of publicity, incl. e.mailing 100 priests and deacons of the diocese. Paul Lyons is Responsible.

Annecy: Jonathan Cotton presented his report on the European meeting (see page 3.)

AOB:

David Standley reported that lay fraternities are meeting in Lymstone, monthly like us, but ethnically mixed; most being in their '50's or '60's. But a group of 4 young people work very actively, largely through the Little Sisters. A question came up- 'Are we family or just friends?' (Also, which is the Church?)

Jonathan Cotton said that some lay and clergy fraternities meet together.

Some of the participants then finished by sharing an enjoyable local Italian meal before going for their trains home. +



Among e.mails received by the editor

Two messages from the Irish Regional Responsible (& another p. 17:)

From: Niall Ahern <responsablejcireland@gmail.com>
 Date: Fri, Jul 7, 2023
 Subject: Fwd:

Dear brothers,

It was great to meet so many of you at our retreat with Fr. Eric Lozada [International Responsible] in Knock.

You can listen back to the talks by clicking the following link <https://www.churchtv.ie/jesus Caritas/> Click on 'PREVIOUS RECORDINGS' and then click on 'CLICK HERE' on the right hand side of the picture to find the talks for the various days.

We hope that many of you will also join us at our retreat in Mullaghmore from 24-28 September. If you would like to book a place contact me at 087-7973432

Every blessing and good wish,

Niall

From: Niall Ahern <responsablejcireland@gmail.com>
Sent: 26 July Feast of Saint James 25th July 2023
Subject: Re: Retreat

Dear Brothers,

It was a great blessing to have over forty of the Brothers gathered in Knock for the inaugural LISTENING HEART retreat with our JESUS CARITAS World Responsible- ERIC LOZADA - earlier in the month. We had a wonderful time of communion and fraternal care and in an ideal setting. Thank God for such a graced time.

We NOW need to confirm numbers for the annual Irish Fraternity retreat in Mullaghmore. It commences on Sunday afternoon, September 24 until Thursday lunchtime, September 28 2023. E mail me please - fniallahern@gmail.com or phone me at 087 7973432 as soon as possible. Tell other members of the Fraternity of the attached detail and especially invite newcomers and encourage them to join us for these sacred days.

I look forward to hearing from you so please put the date in your diary and join us with a brother priest.

Attached (*on page 3*) find a short report from Fergal Cunnane who represented us at the recent European Meeting in France and we thank him for attending. We are especially appreciative of Joe Deegan's great work at European level and for his leadership over the days in France.

Hope you manage a summer break and come rested and well to MULLAGHMORE and the welcoming sea!!

BEANNACHTAI - NIAL

E.mails continued overleaf



E.mails continued from overleaf

From: Xavier Chevillard <xchevillard@gmail.com>
Sent: 19 June 2023
Subject: Re: "Be Brothers June 2023:"

Thank you Bob for this mailing [*June "Be Brothers"*]; great testimony of Christian life lived in the world..

Personally, I have recently shared in a group what I had read in one of our documents:

"Old age is a great grace from the Lord, because it gradually takes away from us what we would never have had the courage to part with: health, power, energies, memory, efficiency, competence, friendships..."

Let us be grateful for the Life that we receive gratuitously ...

I'll read all that slowly. Best wishes;

Xavier

[Little Brother of Jesus, Belgium.]

From: Moira Potier
Sent: 08 October 2023
Subject: For your diaries : 2nd December - Feast of Br Charles

Dear Friends,

You are warmly invited to our family celebration of Br Charles on **Saturday 2nd December**, to be held at De Mazenod House, Oblate Retreat Centre, Tower Hill London **from 12.00 -16.00**.

Here is a link to the centre <https://www.oblateretreatcentreondon.co.uk>

We will be sending out more information nearer the time, but, the usual 'heads-up', there will be an appeal for food for a sharing lunch as always !! It will also be useful for us to

With all good wishes to everyone.

Moira

From: Moira Potier
Sent: 22 September 2023 09:25
To: Lay Frat of Charles de Foucauld **Cc:** Bob Rainbow <ra-r@hotmail.co.uk>
Subject: Hot off the press !

Dear Friends,

I have just received this link from the US - a fascinating discussion between 3 people some of us know - about Br Charles. And in English!!!

There is an introductory article then a link to the YouTube recording of the discussion.

<https://www.todaysamericancatholic.org/2023/09/to-be-the-face-of-the-church/>

Some really interesting insights, but above all a witness to the increasingly important place of Br Charles' spirituality for the church today. If you fast forward to around 55 minutes Ciro (Piccirillo) gives a really helpful introduction to Lay Fraternities, which the panel go on to discuss.

Enjoy and share widely.

Moira

And another from Niall Ahern, Ireland:

From: Niall Ahern <responsablejcireland@gmail.com>

Sent: 06 October 2023

Subject: Re Mullaghmore Retreat

Greetings to all the brothers and to assure you that we remembered you all during our recent retreat in Mullaghmore. Please find attached group photo.

You can listen back to the talks by clicking <https://www.churchtv.ie/jesusc Caritas/>

and then clicking 'previous recordings' followed by 'click here'.

Remembering all our deceased brothers as we approach the month of November

Every blessing,

Niall





A sketch of our patron, the “Universal Brother,” Charles de Foucauld.



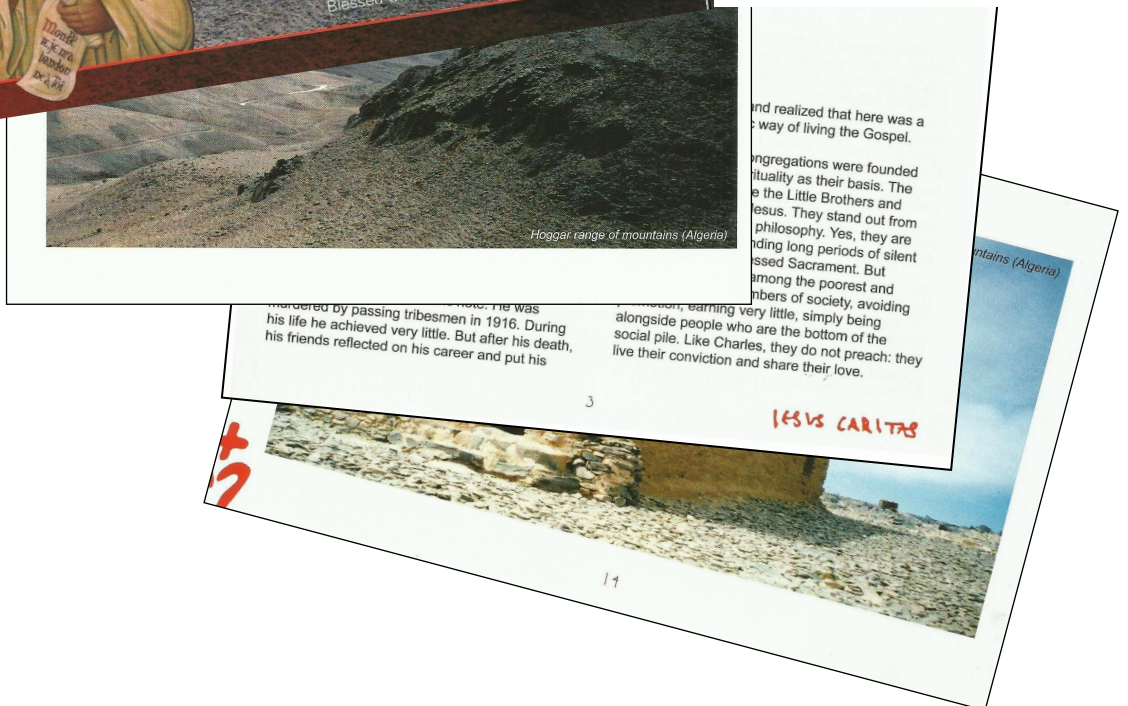
For your recruiting



Reprinted for a second time is the late Fr. Tony Philpot’s excellent description of the origins and ethos of Jesus Caritas.

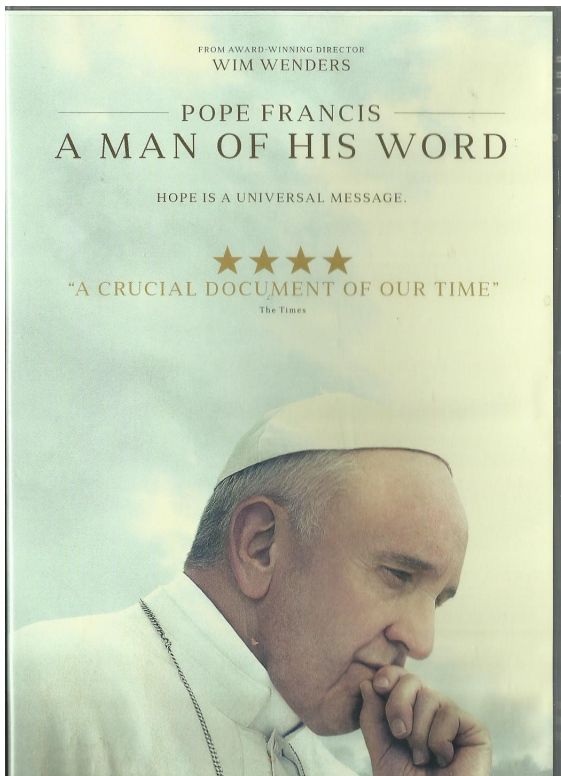
24 pp., full colour, art paper, A5 landscape format.

Copies are available free from both the British and Irish Regional Responsibilities (contact details on the rear cover of every “Be Brothers.”) +

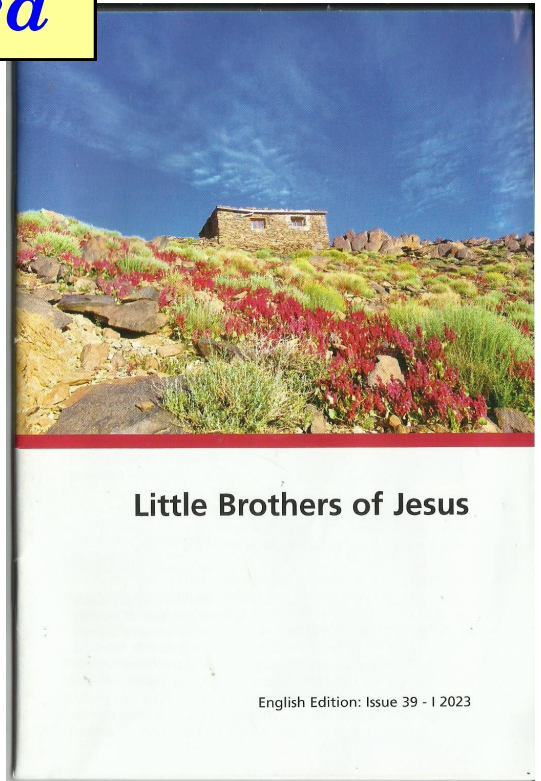


Publications received

The Little Brothers magazine as well as the Little Sisters "News Notes" are now received and passed on electronically to all British fraternities (and any others who ask the "Be Bros." editor.) +



DVD *"Pope Francis, a Man of His Word"* which the editor heartily recommend for parish use, including Francis' reflections on family and parish life. It lasts 1 hour and 20 minutes and should also be findable on YouTube. +



Finally, on viewings:

[The Pope, the Environmental Crisis, and Frontline Leaders:](#)

["The Letter;" Laudato Si film](#)

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote *Laudato Si'* ("The Letter;") an encyclical letter about the environmental crisis to every single person in the world.

"The Letter" tells the story about the Pope's call to care for our planet. To see translated versions and how to take action, visit <https://TheLetterFilm.org> 1hr. 42 mins. It is getting 'rave' reviews! +

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Fr. Bob Rainbow

Tel: 01766 514515.

Email: ra-r@hotmail.co.uk

"Ty'r Efail," Penmorfa,
Porthmadog, Gwynedd.
LL49 9RT. Great Britain.



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British Regional Responsible:**Fr. Stephen Squires** Tel: 074847 19463.Email: frstevesquires@aol.com

65 Lichfield Avenue
Evesham, Worcs. WR11 3EB

Stephen's Team: Peter Stodart,
Peter Codd, Peter Coxe, Barnabas Page, John Nolan, Jonathan Cotton & Bob Rainbow.

**British Regional Treasurer: John Nolan**

Tel: 07400 399000.

Email: johnfpnolan@gmail.com

5 Cheltondale,
Harwood Grove,
Solihull,
West Midlands. B90 4AR.



Reminders

International Responsible:**Fr. Eric Lozada** (Philippines)

Tel: 0063 9167939585

Email: ericlozada@yahoo.com

International Jesus Caritas

documents can be seen

in English on the

International website:

<http://www.iesuscaritas.org/en>**Irish Regional Responsible:****Fr. Niall Ahern**

Tel: 071 91 67147 / 087 7973432.

Email: fniallahern@gmail.com

Saint Patrick's Church
Strandhill, Co. Sligo.
F91 XW64. Ireland.

Niall is assisted by a Team
of Philip Bradley
(treasurer)

Fergal Cunnane (secretary)
& Joe Deegan.

**Irish Regional Treasurer:****Fr. Philip Bradley**

Tel: 00353 87 238 4525.

Email:

frphilipbradley@gmail.com

83 Terenure Road East,
Dublin 6.



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In addition to local needs, these assist international Responsibles' meetings with any substantial surplus going to fraternities in developing countries. The British subs. also covers the printing and distribution of "Be Brothers Britain & Ireland" in Britain (distributed solely by e.mail in Ireland.)

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to the appropriate Treasurer as above; otherwise direct to the relevant bank:

BRITAIN, Nat. West Bank: 60-19-14 a/c: 34455906 BIC: NWBKGB2L

IBAN: GB16NWBK60191434455906. (Tell John whom the credit was made for.)

IRELAND: IBAN: IE16 AIBK 9331 0417 8720 00 (BOC: AIBKIE2D)

+

Website for the GB fraternities: <https://www.jesus Caritaspriests.org.uk>