



Community of Brother Charles, Britain

September 2016



St. Albans Pilgrimage on 20th June

To celebrate the centenary of Charles' death and to unite his martyrdom with the saints of Britain, a small group of pilgrims travelled to St. Albans Cathedral. The morning was pouring with rain but we dried out in the Cathedral cafe before an excellent tour of this beautiful and unique Cathedral. Ronnie, our guide, gave us a very inspiring tour. At the shrine of St. Alban, we remembered all in the family of Br. Charles.

A Day with Blessed Charles of Jesus on 23rd July

At Our Lady of Victories Church in London, L'S Cathy led a day on the challenges of becoming followers of Jesus today. We learned of Charles' childhood, his loss of faith, his experience of living in the desert and hearing the Muslim call to prayer. Eventually these experiences led to his conversion. Charles' story is always encouraging as his journey demonstrates trust in the love of God and abandonment to His will.

Dates for the Diary, in celebration of Charles' centenary year:

- **27th October, date near the time of Charles' conversion and to celebrate the Six Welsh Martyrs and companions** (feast day on 25th of October) - day trip to Paris with a visit to St. Augustin's Church.
- **November 27th - 1st December, two-for-one-night accommodation at Walsingham gathering - Reflections on Charles' spirituality with celebration of the centenary of Charles' death.**

If you want any further information concerning these events, contact:

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RIP

Cliff Lister who loved Charles and lived the spirituality of abandonment.



Letter to the Lay Fraternities Charles de Foucauld - Deir Al Harf- Lebanon July 2016 Message from the International Team

Gathered in Lebanon,

We embrace you with affection and we share with you the love we have received here by the Fraternity and the people of this beautiful land.

As you know, we met as coordinators of all the continents to think and work together on different subjects. We met in the presence of the Lord and with the help of the Gospel and the writings of Brother Charles and of Pope Francis, we meditated on the mercy of God to renew our lives in the Fraternity.

As International Team, we chose Lebanon for our meeting for several reasons:

1- In this centennial year of Brother Charles, it seemed significant to mark the presence on this land full of life and depth in the history of the Fraternities.

2- Lebanon is a country that has inspired us. It is a country where Christians and Muslims have learned to live together. And as Brother Charles says: "I started studying Islam, then the Bible; and while the grace of God worked, the faith of my childhood was confirmed and renewed."

3- Our challenge is to take on the most difficult realities of the persecuted and oppressed and we believe that in the heart of the desert one can better sense the reverberations that come from different continents of the call to solidarity and to be fraternally close to the life of the people.

We had the joy and the privilege to meet the delegates of the Fraternities from the Arab World (Algeria, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon). They shared with us their testimony of faith and hope, sometimes lived in the difficult conditions which are well known. They deeply moved us and greatly encouraged us to continue persevering in our testimony of the Gospel following the example of Brother Charles.

With Pope Francis we share the urgency that truth, justice and peace are the pillars of our contemplation and of our struggles.

Through the country reports presented by the representatives of the different continents, we shared on the suffering brought about by wars, the plight of refugees, the situation of migrants, children who are abandoned or subjected to hard work, the unemployment of youths, farmers who are threatened, indigenous peoples who are oppressed, workers denied of their rights, homeless families, parents who lose their children to drugs or sexual exploitation, the daily victims of violence of any kind. We also tried to give voice to the silent cry for meaning and life of those who live in societies where people have everything but feel empty.

"Because 'we have seen and heard' not a cold statistic but the pain of a suffering humanity, our own pain, our own flesh. This is something quite different than abstract theorizing or eloquent indignation. It moves us; it makes us attentive to others in an effort to move forward together."

Pope Francis- Bolivia 2015.

We know that this suffering will never end and cannot be ignored. For this we join the cry of the excluded of the earth and call the Fraternities to prepare for the next General Assembly on the theme:

"Let us walk in hope ...

Renouncing, Denouncing and Announcing "

We reaffirm our support to all the Fraternities exhorting all brothers and sisters to persevere in the pursuit of holiness so dear to Blessed Charles of Jesus.

Fraternally

The International Team : Claudio and Sylvana Chiaruttini (Europe), Joseph Yessi (Africa), Adriana and Luis Torres (the Americas), Rania Chaiban (the Arab World), Fr. Jimmy Bonnici, accompanying priest.

