

## Membership

The Lay Fraternity brings together women and men of all ethnic origins, of all social classes and from different states of life who, following the example of Charles de Foucauld, wish to help each other to follow Jesus and to live the Gospel.

Some members participate in small local groups. Others are 'lone' members. The fraternity is aware of and feels a duty to those who, because of their particular circumstances, are unable to attend regular meetings. We all wish to follow the way of life and spirituality of Brother Charles' family.




Hospitality is an important part of our life. When we gather as a group we often meet one another through sharing food. We pray silently together and reflect upon Gospel passages or other themes, seeking the help of the Holy Spirit to enable Jesus' Gospel to enlighten our everyday lives.

Membership is open to all who are drawn by the message of Brother Charles.

## Prayer of Abandon

Father,  
I abandon myself into Your hands.  
Do with me what You will.  
Whatever You may do,  
I thank You.  
I am ready for all,  
I accept all.  
Let only Your will be done in me  
and in all Your creatures.  
I wish no more than this, O Lord.  
Into Your hands I commend my soul.  
I offer it to You  
with all the love of my heart.  
For, I love you, Lord,  
and so need to give myself,  
to surrender myself into Your  
hands without reserve  
and with boundless confidence.  
For You are my Father.

 *For further information*

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See also the websites:

[www.jesuscharitas.info](http://www.jesuscharitas.info)

[www.charlesdefoucauld.org](http://www.charlesdefoucauld.org)



## A WAY OF UNITY



with the  
Lay Fraternities  
of  
Charles de Foucauld



# SPIRIT OF THE LAY FRATERNITIES

Faithful to the inspiration of Brother Charles, members are called to live the hidden life of Nazareth which for them is:

- ✠ The constant search and welcome of the incarnate Son of God who became the “carpenter’s son” (Matt. 13: 55);
- ✠ “To cry the gospel with their life”;
- ✠ Solidarity with the poor, the living presence of Christ in the midst of the world;
- ✠ The search for communion and universal friendship with all the churches, religions and people of the world.



Members wish to model their lives on the example of Jesus Christ:

- ✠ In adoring him and receiving him in the Eucharist, the real presence of God amongst us;
- ✠ In welcoming him in his Word, especially in the Gospel;
- ✠ In searching for him in personal prayer, in retreat, in desert days and in self-abandonment;
- ✠ In meeting him, in loving him and serving him in all people.



In solidarity with the poor, fraternity members try to:

- ✠ Live a simple life, which is an alternative to the consumer society;
- ✠ Share their sorrows, their hopes and their conflicts in the search for true freedom;
- ✠ Recognise in all people, particularly our neighbours, a brother and a sister to love, and especially the most abandoned who are in need of material, spiritual or moral support.

“I think that there is no passage of the Gospel that has made a deeper impression on me or changed my life more than this one: ‘Whatever you do to one of these little ones, you do it to me.’ If we think of it, that these are the words of Uncreated Truth, words from the mouth that said, ‘This is my body... this is my blood...’ then how forcefully we are impelled to seek Jesus and love him in the ‘little ones’.”

– Charles de Foucauld

By their life together members are called to:

- ✠ Have mutual understanding and affection for each other and to be aware of the others’ need whatever it may be;
- ✠ A true conversion of heart, particularly through the review of life where they are called to scrutinise their personal and public lives in accordance with the demands of the Gospel;
- ✠ A true sharing pre-supposing renunciation of privileges in order to seek a more communal management of material goods.

We try not to be “dumb dogs nor sleeping sentinels” when human rights are threatened by any form of oppression

- ✠ responding to Brother Charles’ insight: “It is Jesus in this situation.”
- ✠ We hope to respect the freedom of others and not try to impose on them an obligation to concur with or act on our position.

Brother Charles must always be a source of renewal for us



✠ Knowledge of his life, his writings, his spirituality are means through which members can remain faithful to their vocation and today’s demands of the Gospel in their lives.