



Community of Brother Charles, Britain January 2011



December 1st Celebration, 2010 in London

Some of the Community gathered to remember Charles by having adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a shared lunch, reflection and prayer. In preparation for the European delegates' meeting which will be in July, 2011 we considered the following questions. Our responses are given below. What are your answers to these important considerations?

Do you have any ideas for making our spirituality known?

- reaching out to people with 'likeminded' intuitions
- recognising others' experience
- action speaks louder than words – if we live the life of Christ our spirituality would be known
- be vigilant in seeing out potential candidates

Do you have any suggestions on how to create new groups?

- must happen organically – doesn't need to be big
- inviting people to my home for a group meeting
- speaking in my meditation groups about setting up a group
- having a short meeting, say 40 minutes, with young mums who leave their children at Toddler Groups at the Church – using an adjoining room or in the Church, to share a Gospel passage and for quiet meditation and relaxation

For me the Community of Br. Charles is:

- my family – friends among whom I grow in understanding God's call to Bethlehem and Nazareth in the context of where I live...but towards building one human family
- a source of support from common feeling and inspiration
- welcome and friendship across races, ages, and classes
- inclusive, interdependence, ecumenical, open-minded
- an encouragement for my life
- a sign that the ideal of Br. Charles is adapted to our world
- community of love, truth and trust
- an encouragement of fidelity to our vocation
- a multi-cultural group who take Gospel values to be lived authentically in the spirit of Br. Charles' example
- a group of persons who have discovered Br. Charles' message and want to support each other to live according to what they treasure.
- international solidarity, ecumenical, open-hearted, spiritually centred and identifying with the poor
- the inspiration to live the spirituality of Nazareth
- friendship, fidelity over time
- life inspiring – the inspiration to live the spirituality of Nazareth
- where I meet friendly people
- an assurance that our brothers and sisters in Fraternity are always there for support in times of need, whatever that need may be.
- knowing that we are loving Jesus through our service to each other, in the spirituality of Br. Charles.

For me Charles de Foucauld is:

- a beacon for living our gifts and talents to the fullest in our daily life
- the model that brings me back to the life Jesus chose to live
- an image of Christ in words and deeds
- the readiness to lay down one's life for one's friends – the ultimate expression of the Gospel message
- a man who puzzles me but who I am sure lived for God alone
- an ideal I will never be able to live up to – a friend to all people
- a symbol of patient love and suffering and being alongside the poor and rejected – being a true brother or sister in deep, prayerful solidarity
- passionate, seeking, trusting, enduring, laughing
- prophetic, especially in relations to the Muslim world, a link person
- a man chosen by God to live the Gospel in ordinary life and to be true to it
- a friend who leads me to Jesus in answer to a special call
- a man with a so different aspect in his life that he surprised me
- the perfect role model – a red blooded, healthy and wealthy young man who experienced life in all its affluence, who then found Jesus in his life

Dates for the Diary:

- **12th February 2011 – Day of Prayer and Praise at Abbotswick House of Prayer, Navestockside, Brentwood, Essex**

Time – 11:00am to 5:00pm

Cost for the day - £10 Please bring a packed lunch; coffee and tea will be provided.

Transport – Nearest B.R. Station is Brentwood which is on a direct line from Liverpool Street. Taxis are available at Brentwood Station for travel to Abbotswick.

- **19th - 28th July 2011 – European Family Holiday in Hautes Vosges, France “Our Lady of the Mountains”**

Theme – “Roots and Buds” - similarly to a tree, our roots are anchored and our buds open to life...and also to a world full of transformation!

We have to adjust ourselves to this new world in order to understand our fellow beings better...! History cannot be put aside from this meeting:

Charles de Foucauld's childhood and adolescence are present in Strasbourg and Nancy as well as traces of the last world war with the Struthof camp, the only concentration camp in France. The spiritual activities will be the ground giving root to the day's events. The days will be filled with visits, various workshops and plenty of events for everyone. Children and teenagers will have a variety of activities. Contact Louise for booking form and further information.

- **5th -10th August 2011 – Flemish holiday/retreat at “Ter Dennen”, The Trappist Monks of Westmalle (Sint-Pauluslaan 8)**

Theme: Professor Roger Burggraeve will be directing the time, using his latest book: “Driven between Good and Evil – Inspirations for righteous living.” He will read along with us various Biblical stories that, like a troublesome pebble in the shoe, prevents us from stepping forward. In their diverse layers, these promising narratives will be applied to our lives. In short, a surprising and liberating way to read the Bible in a contemporary manner. Silence, prayer, discussion, friendship and a few, quiet excursions.

Cost: around 50euros/day (excluding outings) All the rooms are single and very comfortable. Contact Louise for further information and booking.

During the year, there will be other events scheduled in the UK and you will be notified of them in later newsletters. Do you have a suggestion for a gathering in your area and would you like some support in organising it?

If so please contact: Louise Russell, 80 Rattray Road

London, SW2 1BE

0207 326 0834

(cdf-gb@jesuscaritas.info)

International Newsletter

This includes news and reflection from the lay fraternities around the world and is a good way of keeping connected with the wider communities' spirituality and activities. If you would like to receive the newsletter, please contact Louise.

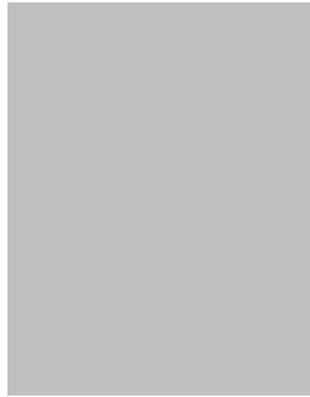
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Book of Remembrance

Two beloved members of the Community died last year.



Phyllis Smith



Sylvia Land

RIP

Our sympathy, thoughts and prayers are with their families.

If you would like to add any names or comments to be included in the Community's Book of Remembrance,
please contact: Sue Balfour 25 Musgrove Crescent
London, SW6 4QE
Email: smbalfour@waitrose.com

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**To see Jesus in every human being,
and to act on that vision:
goodness, respect, love, humility, gentleness.
Live for Him more than for myself.**

- From Charles' meditations