

WORTH READING

"They Cooperated with the Holy Spirit in Renewing and Updating the Church in Keeping with her Pristine Features"

Homily at the Canonization of Blessed John XXIII and John Paul II – April 27, 2014



At the heart of this Sunday, which concludes the Octave of Easter and which Saint John Paul II wished to dedicate to Divine Mercy, are the glorious wounds of the risen Jesus.

He had already shown those wounds when he first appeared to the Apostles on the very evening of that day following the Sabbath, the day of the

resurrection. But, as we have heard, Thomas was not there that evening, and when the others told him that they had seen the Lord, he replied that unless he himself saw and touched those wounds, he would not believe. A week later, Jesus appeared once more to the disciples gathered in the Upper Room. Thomas was also present; Jesus turned to him and told him to touch his wounds. Whereupon that man, so straightforward and accustomed to testing everything personally, knelt before Jesus with the words: "My Lord and my God!" (Jn 20:28).

To read the complete homily, [click here](#).

"Witnesses who have made Visible the Essential"

The living legacy of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II – April 27, 2014

[Click here](#) to read the article by Fr. Julian Carron in *Avvenire*.



Is a New Beginning Possible?

Notes from Fr. Carron at the presentation of the CL Flyer – Milan, April 9, 2014.

What is at stake? Europe was born around a few great words, like person, work, matter, progress, and freedom.

These words achieved their full and authentic depth through Christianity, acquiring a value that they did not previously have, and this determined a profound process of "humanization" of Europe and its culture. For example, just think about the concept of person: "Two thousand years

ago, the only man who had all human rights was the *civis romanus*? Those in power. One of the greatest Roman jurists, Gaius, defined three levels of tools which the *civis [romanus]*, who had full rights, could possess: tools which do not move and do not speak; those which move and speak, the slaves" (cf. Gaius, *Institutionum Commentarii quattuor*, II, 12-17; L. Giussani, *The Religious Sense*, McGill-Queen's, 1997, p. 90). But today all of these words have become empty, or they are gradually losing their original significance. Why?

In a long and complex process, from which we cannot exempt the mortification of some of these words-like freedom and progress-by the same Christianity that had contributed to generating them, at a certain point in the European trajectory, the attempt took hold to render autonomous those fundamental acquisitions from the experiences that had permitted their full emergence.

For the complete text, [click here](#).

SCHOOL OF COMMUNITY



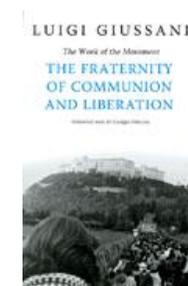
For everyone who has attended the Fraternity Exercises, the work of the School of Community for the Month of May will be on the [introduction](#) from the Exercises.

For those who have not yet attended the Fraternity Exercises, please work on Fr. Carron's School of Community on chapters [eight and nine](#). Please note that every community should do an assembly the first week of June on the introduction from the Exercises and Fr. Carron's School of Community on the introduction.

At the Beginning of June we will be getting the complete translated text of the Fraternity Exercises. At that point we will send around the PDF along with the calendar of readings up until November.

You will again be able to purchase the physical booklet of the Fraternity Exercises as in years past, but this year from Human Adventure Books. More details will follow.

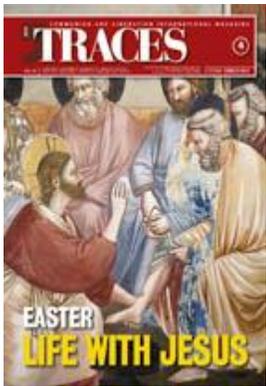
FRATERNITY BOOK



The Work of the Movement: The Fraternity of CL

If you want to read and learn more about the Fraternity of Communion and Liberation, you can read Fr. Giussani's book: *The Work of the Movement: The Fraternity of Communion and Liberation*. It is available for purchase from Human Adventure Books and the National CL Office.

TRACES



You can now download the PDF of issue #4 online. You can find it [here](#). The Traces website will be operational at the end of the month, www.tracesonline.org.

It is our desire that Traces may be the true expression of the life of the Movement in the US. We therefore wish for as many of you as possible to be actively engaged in the production of material. We are looking for:

Writers; articles, testimonies, book/movie/music reviews. One or two articles a year, please highlight your availability and subject matter that you'd be comfortable with.

Translators; we need Italian to English translators comfortable with working on anything from testimonies and presentations of the life of the movement in Italy to original articles from the Italian traces.

Copy Editors; if you have any editing experience we could certainly use your help with both translations and original Traces articles.

Please contact Giacomo Maniscalco, maniscalco@gmail.com if you are interested in helping with any of the above mentioned tasks. Compensation will be available for some of the larger, more time-consuming projects.

FRATERNITY EXERCISES ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership in the Fraternity

Requesting membership in the Fraternity is a simple gesture for recognizing the Movement as the definitive road for your life. You can now join online, please follow [this link](#).

Fraternity Common Fund

During the Spiritual Exercises, Fr. Julián Carrón emphasized that: "Faithfulness to the Common Fund is a sign of the importance one assigns to this gesture for one's life, as gratitude for what one experiences in the Fraternity. The amount is totally free, and the important thing is faithfulness to this gesture, and not the amount."

Payment Methods

For more information about paying with ParishPay or any other method, please contact Joan Russo, jrusso@clhac.com. Donations (common fund) made to the Human Adventure Corp are tax deductible.

ParishPay

Payments by credit card may be made through the [ParishPay website](#).

Automatic Bank Withdrawal

Arrange automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account (on a monthly or bi-monthly basis). The bank will need the following information:

Payee, *Human Adventure Corp, 125 Maiden Lane Suite 15E, New York, NY 10038*.

Note (in the check): "Fraternity Common Fund", followed by your enrollment number, amount, and period you're paying for.

Personal Check

Make check payable to the *Human Adventure Corporation* and mail it to:

Human Adventure Corporation, 125 Maiden Lane, Suite 15E, New York, NY 10038

In the memo of the check please write your enrollment number, monthly pledge, and period you are paying for.

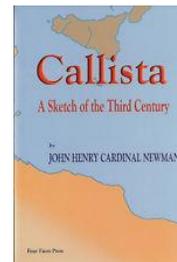
GET EMAILS DIRECTLY

If you would like to receive emails directly from the CL National Office, please follow [this link](#).

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Callista: a Tale of the 3d Century

by John Henry Newman



Callista, one of John Henry Cardinal Newman's two novels, is the story of a young pagan woman in Roman North Africa and her would-be

suitor, a Christian youth, easy-going in his religious practices. Newman paints a fascinating picture of life in the Roman province, with conflicts between imperial and local authority, sometimes gruesome pagan religious practices, and the harried life of the scattered flock of Catholics. As an historical novel it has few rivals, with scenes of riots, witchcraft and the mocking urbanity of the Roman elites. *Callista* is a story of conversion, holiness and martyrdom, with implications even for our time.

"Newman was a prophet. *Callista* gives us some insights about our own time by showing the powerful witness of primitive Christianity in a pagan culture and what it takes to build over time a Christian culture: prayer, the sacraments, and a willingness both to live out the Gospel message fully in the middle of the world, and to be a confessor and martyr for the Faith if need be." Fr. C.J. McCloskey III

[Click here](#) download the PDF. You can also find the EPUB online and buy the book from [Amazon](#) or any other book store.

CL NATIONAL OFFICE

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The Fraternity Website

www.fraternita.comunioneliberazione.org

By going to the site, members can: find news and documents about the life of the Fraternity; update their Common Fund contribution information; and update their personal data.

Many members of the Fraternity have never been to the site; everyone is encourage to visit the site so that personal data can be verified and inquiries about Common Fund status can be checked through the site.

A password is needed to enter the site. Passwords will be sent by email to those who request them through [a form](#) available on the site's homepage. Should you lose or forget your password, you can request a new one in the same way.

PRIEST RETREAT 2014

Experience of Priestly Retreat 2014

By Fr. Carlos Piedrahita – a priest from the Archdiocese of Hartford, CT. He was ordained to the priesthood a year ago.

Since I first encountered the CL movement in Colombia back in 2004, I have had a variety of retreat experiences with different communities, such as Colombia and Texas. Every experience was different, but with a common factor: I knew most of the people. Despite the fact that I didn't know many of the priests attending this retreat, I had a wonderful experience.

My adventure started even before the retreat, because a group of six priests from my Archdiocese decided to attend the Houston retreat together. It was a nice experience to join them in planning the logistics for our trip, and that helped us to bond. I felt almost as if we were heading off on a pilgrimage!

Many different nice things took my attention since I arrived to the retreat – starting with finding a good number of young priests who were participating. But the most beautiful thing was the experience of joining with other priests in living the spirit of Don Guissani, which was truly special. His works and charisms have impacted my life since I first became familiar with the Movement, but the concreteness of this experience with my brother priests was unique. To share our time of silence and prayer, as well as to celebrate the Eucharist together, formed for me a concrete image of the beauty of God present in our vocation and ministry. This profound experience began with the first invitation of our retreat: "To be with Him."

The reflections of our retreat, led by Fr. José Medina, FSCB, were concrete invitations to configure our lives to Christ's, to allow Him to live in us, to experience that encounter in our lives and also in our ministry as priests, because "we are called to be the gates of Christ to other people." But that mission is something that we cannot understand if we don't reflect deeply on "who is Christ to me."



Every lesson of our retreat was packed with deeply provocative messages. It was a beautiful experience to reflect and pray about our call to be one with Christ, and how we were chosen to be His priests, to give ourselves in service to the people, to be fathers with each other and for others.

After completing my first year as a priest, the CL retreat was a great break and a wonderful opportunity to confront how I'm living my life and vocation with and for God. It also made me examine how I am nourishing His gifts to me and growing spiritually through friendship with other priests who find in the spirit of Don Guissani a great tool for their call to holiness and vocation to the priesthood.

I had a great time in Houston. The retreat was full of graces, and full of interesting new friends, living together the brotherhood of the priesthood. It was also a nice opportunity to visit my old friends in the CL community of Houston, who had been a great support during my years there, studying Philosophy at St. Mary's Seminary.

Our "pilgrimage" from Hartford was a great experience, and we emerged from it with fire in our hearts to continue serving God and His people, as well as to build a better friendship among us in the spirit of CL. Thank you, Fr. José for your great talks. Thank you, Jonathan and the CL Community of Houston for your support and leadership!

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

The Image of God: Malick's Tree of Life & Augustine

By Patrick Tomassi – April 18, 2014

While visiting the University of Notre Dame last April, I met up with Dr. John O'Callaghan, a family friend who moved from Portland to teach there. What started as a simple chat turned into a long conversation over beers and cigars, after John told me that he and his wife had been involved in the CLU while working on their PhDs together at Notre Dame. We discussed art and culture, and he mentioned how much he loved Terrence Malick's film *The Tree of Life*, which stars Brad Pitt, Jessica Chastain, and Sean Penn. He told me that it is the best film-representation he has seen of the Confessions of St. Augustine, and remarked, "I'd

love to give a talk on how they relate to each other, but I don't think anyone wants to hear it." I had not seen the film, or paid attention when I read the Confessions, but I was struck by the passion John had for the topic. The next weekend, I gathered a few brave friends together to watch *The Tree of Life*. We were baffled by it, but also moved by the incredible beauty, and over the next few weeks, we re-watched it at least twice. It wasn't until my third time seeing the film that, remembering what John had said, I realized that I wanted to hear his talk.

When I proposed this event to our Diaconia, I was surprised at how willing the other members were to help put it together. Only a couple other people had seen the film, but they were wanted to take the risk because of the response it had provoked in me. In the weeks leading up to the presentation, I started making announcements at School of Community. Our Responsible said how he had been provoked by the way in which I was following my desire for beauty. So this is what it means to follow my desire! I thought. I've been in the movement for several years, but have been slow to learn what it means to apply the method in my daily life. This experience has helped to show me that a desire for beauty is being generated in me. This desire demands a response.

Many of my friends at University of Portland were confused by what I was doing. They asked why I would bother to take this on, in addition to my heavy course load. The only way I could answer was to say "I need to - this movie is beautiful, and I want to understand." I was surprised by the way many people at my university and in our SoC eagerly invited friends and colleagues to take part. Most of them had never seen the film! Because of their enthusiasm in inviting their friends, around 150 people took part in the presentation.

I cannot summarize Dr. O'Callaghan's talk here, but I will try to give an idea of it. Drawing heavily on themes from the soundtrack, he showed how throughout the film, the mother asks God "where were you when my son died?" and is answered not with platitudes, but with an awareness that He suffered alongside her. The viewer is drawn into her immense suffering, the suffering of Mary at the foot of the Cross, and is provoked to ask this question with her.

My parents, who are not in the movement, came to the presentation and the dinner afterwards. The next day, I got a call from my dad, thanking me for the work I had put into the event.



He said, with an enthusiasm that was unmistakable, "I was reminded of why I love beauty." For me, this was incredible, and I continue to be provoked by it.

This is an education in following my desire. I proposed the event out of my desire for beauty - the need to go deeper into the beauty, because staying at the surface level would not have been enough for me. And this same desire was awakened in someone else! My hope is that it can continue to provoke each of us to follow our desire for beauty.

Thank you to Crossroads, the University of Portland, and the local CL community for making this possible!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Finding Her Own Voice: Flannery O'Connor's Prayer Journal



*A conversation with her friend and biographer, William Sessions
May 27, 2014 – Washington DC*

As we approach the 50th anniversary of Flannery O'Connor's death, her unique voice continues to amuse and provoke readers of all stripes who encounter her stories or her published letters. But where did she discover this voice, at the same time hilariously satirical and profound (even mystical)?

We have a fascinating new window into Flannery O'Connor's journey from self-professed "mediocrity" to literary immortality due to the publication of her *Prayer Journal* in November 2013. This manuscript, which O'Connor wrote solely for herself and God while studying in the famous Iowa's Writer Workshop, was unearthed by her friend William A. "Bill" Sessions as he researched her authorized biography. Crossroads is pleased to present an evening with Bill Sessions to discuss the many questions raised by the prayer journal not only for Flannery's life, but for the struggle of every artist to remain true to their own gift and of every believer to face God and oneself without pretense. [Click here](#) for additional information.

Discovering New Filmmakers from all over the World

June 11, 2014 - New York, NY

A screening of the finalists of the Seventh Annual International Short Film Festival. With the participation of Giovanni Morricone, Filmmaker, and Salvatore Petrosino, Director, Film, Video and Animation Department at the School of Visual Arts. [Click here](#) for additional information.