

The Visitation:

The feast of the Visitation is the primary feast that unites of all the groups of Blessed Charles.

“The new element in Charles de Foucauld’s teaching on the mystery of Nazareth was that the hidden life in Nazareth was not only a stage in Jesus’ training for his mission as Savior, however long it may have been, but was also salvation itself that was already beginning to work through him.

The best illustration of Bro. Charles’ insight is his meditation on the Visitation of the Virgin to her cousin Elizabeth. Inspired by Bossuet’s ‘Elevations sur les Mystères’, he did not dwell on Mary’s readiness to help her elderly cousin Elizabeth. In his eyes it was not so much a visit of practical charity to assist her cousin in the last months of her pregnancy and at the birth, although Mary goes to her and this is important.

But something else was far more important: “Mary set out to sanctify St. John, to proclaim the Good News, to evangelize him and to sanctify him, not with words but by bringing Jesus to him in his home, in silence...”. This point deserves further development: “John the Baptist was sanctified, and with him, the whole of Zechariah’s family, not through words or an invitation to conversion that would in any case have been impossible, but simply through the presence of the Son of God within her. From before his birth, therefore, Jesus is Savior with his presence alone. Continuing along the lines of Bossuet, Bro. Charles extends this form of sanctification to all souls.

“Just as Mary sanctified John by going to his home and bringing Jesus himself, the living Gospel, within her, a soul that is filled with Jesus can bring salvation. With regard to the Visitation, Bossuet notes that as soon as she is filled with the Holy Spirit she is full of love, and that this is what happens to every soul: it possesses love to the extent that it lives on Jesus”.⁹

Universal brotherhood

Followers of Charles de Foucauld know well that the Visitation is one of the important pillars of his spirituality. They also know that Jesus o imitate if we are to become, with him, a universal brother in miniature f Nazareth was revealed to om we must imitate if we are to become, with him, a universal brother in miniature. Bro. Charles as the Universal Brother we must imitate.”



Our Lady of Perpetual Help

This is the painting of Our Lady of Perpetual Help drawn by CHARLES DE FOUCAULD, from the original. He prayed often to Her under this title and put his first fraternity under her care as the Mother of Perpetual Help. Next to the tomb of St. Peter in Rome, Br. Charles prayed most often in front of this picture in the Church of St. Alphonsus. He wrote the following prayer in 1896. (The original picture by Br. Charles is kept in the little museum of the Poor Clare Nuns in Nazareth.)



My good Mother, Mother of Perpetual Help, to whom I confide and consecrate myself to you now as I did some years ago, you have helped me so much by faithfully guarding and leading me. My dearest Mother, keep me always close to you in the presence of Jesus and Joseph. Grant me the constant help of your all-powerful assistance and the grace to ask of it unceasingly...

I give myself, I dedicate myself, I consecrate myself to you; I entrust myself to your care as a helpless little child; make me do whatever pleases you; I abandon myself to you like a baby in your arms; the only thing I ask of you is that I may do the will of your Son at every moment of my life so as to console His Heart as much as possible every moment of my life.

Guard me, guard my heart, and grant that night, day, and always, both myself and those whom Jesus has entrusted to us here, may be with you and Joseph in your little house of Nazareth, consoling the Heart of Jesus as much as possible; and sharing His life and yours as His true little brothers, and little sisters sharing unceasingly your love, your contemplation, your adoration in our Lord, by Him and for all.

Br Charles de Foucauld

Prayer to obtain a favor through the intercession of

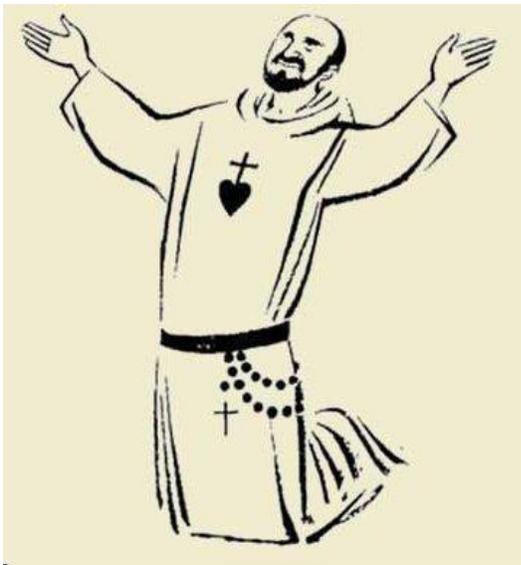
Blessed Charles de Foucauld

God Our Father, you called your servant Charles de Foucauld to discover the infinite greatness of your love by contemplating the life of Jesus of Nazareth, your Son, who became flesh, who humbled himself to the point of death, who was raised to life, and who sent the Holy Spirit as his first gift to those who believe.

May we find, as we lovingly read the Gospel, and as we adore the Eucharist, a fountain of inexhaustible life in Christ, and a missionary courage and energy which will bind us in a spirit of universal fraternity. Thus we can work together to bring about your plan for the salvation of all people. We ask you in particular to grant, by the intercession of your servant Charles de Foucauld, if this is in conformity with your will, this grace.... for whom we commend to your fatherly heart.

We ask you this through Jesus, your beloved Son, Our Lord.

Imprimatur: Viviers, 1 May 1995 + Jean BONFILS s.m.a. Bishop of Viviers



ACT OF CONFIDENCE IN
THE SACRED HEART

As bad as I am, as great a sinner as I may be, I must hope that I'll go to Heaven. You forbid me to despair. . .

You forbid me to ever be discouraged, in front of my misery—You won't let me tell myself: 'I can't go any farther — the road to Heaven is too steep — I'm going to give up and slide back down to the bottom.' Faced with my continually renewed faults, for which I ask Your pardon each day, and which I repeatedly fall into, You forbid me to tell myself: 'I can never correct myself — holiness is not for me. What have I in common with Heaven? I am not worthy to enter there.' In light of the infinite graces You've heaped upon me, and the unworthiness of my present life, You forbid me to say to myself: 'I have abused so many graces—I should be a saint and I am a sinner; I can't correct myself; it's too difficult; after all that God has done for me I'm full of vices and pride; there is nothing good in me; I'll never go to Heaven.' You tell me to hope in spite of everything. I must believe that I will have enough grace to be converted and one day be with You in glory. What is there in common between the perfection of Heaven and my miserable self?

This is Your Heart, LORD JESUS — Your HEART is the link between these two things which are so unlike one another.

Br. Charles of Jesus

CLARIFICATION on the ISSUE OF FIRST CLASS RELICS OF BLESSED CHARLES DE FOUCAULD.

Many people ask for relics of Blessed Charles de Foucauld.

NO first class relics were issued by the Postulation Cause of the Beatification, for general distribution. By The diocese of Vivier was the diocese of which Blessed Charles was incardinated.

Blessed Charles was a diocesan priest of the diocese of Vivier with permission of the bishop to be attached to the White Fathers of Africa. The diocese of Vivier chose NOT to issue any relics.

The tomb of Blessed Charles is almost inaccessible. The tomb It is now in the central desert of Sahara of Algeria , in the tiny Moslem town of El Golea. The tomb is a massive piece of granite, that could only be opened by destroying the tomb.

The new directive from the Holy See is that the **Church will only issue first class relics to bishops for public veneration. First class relics are forbidden now to be issued to private individuals.** The same with Second class relics. **None were issued.** If you see Second Class relics for sale on eBay, they were not issued by the Diocese of Vivier and thus are probably not authentic.

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Roman Catholic Diocese of Viviers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Diocese_of_Viviers)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman Catholic Diocese of Laghouat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Diocese_of_Laghouat)

[http://www.thewhitefathers.org.uk/](http://www.thewhitefathers.org.uk) Congregation of priests responsible for territory of which Bl Charles lived.