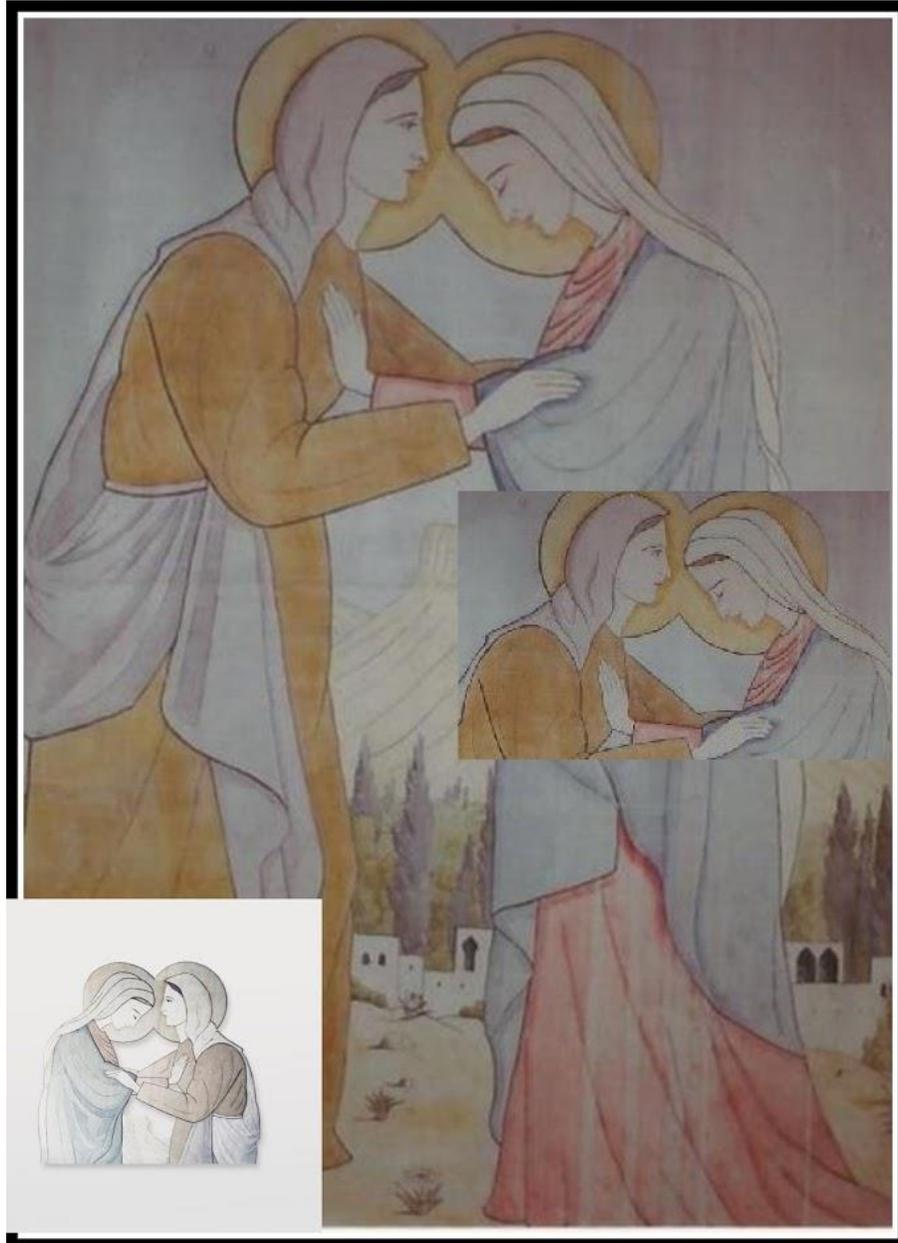


**Followers of Charles de Foucauld know well that the Visitation is one of the important pillars of his spirituality. They also know that Jesus of Nazareth was revealed to St Charles as the Universal Brother whom we must imitate if we are to become, with him, a universal brother and sister in miniature.”**



Painting by Charles de Foucauld

"Sanctify souls by silently carrying me among them . . . . Walk in the world as my mother did, wordlessly, silently . . . . Carry me among them by setting up an altar among them, a tabernacle, carrying the gospel to them not by word of mouth but by the persuasive force of example, not by speaking, but by living; sanctify the world, carry me into the world . . . as Mary carried me to John." Mediation, St Charles de Foucauld

### ***Meditate on the Gospel of visitation \_***

#### ***Meditation of Saint Charles de Foucauld on the tongue of Jesus:***

*"What if I was incarnated, until I asked my mother to carry me to the house where John will be born, to sanctify him before his birth...*

*I have made my self reincarnation to the world for his salvation...*

*And even before I was born, I worked on this mission e.e. sanctifying people... And I paid my mom to work with me in it...*

*It is not she alone that I am driven to work with Me, to sanctify others, to possess Me: it is all the other souls that I have given Myself.*

*One day, I will tell my messenger: 'Preach the good news', and I will give them their message and draw rules for them.*

*Here, I say to the other souls, the souls that possess Me and live in secret, and have not received the message to evangelize, I say to them to work sanctifying souls by silently carrying them;*

*And to the silent souls, a hidden life, living in solitude, away from the world, I say:*

*'All of you, work to sanctify the world, as my mother did, without words and in silence; go and set your private rooms among those who do not know me; carry me among them by residing there an altar and a house of sacrifice, and carry the gospel to them by preaching it by example, not by words, by living it and not by announcing it: sanctify the world; carry me to the world, you pious souls And light, as Mary carried me to John... ". ✨*

*(Saint Charles de Foucauld - Spirit of Nazareth 1963)*

**MAY 31, FEAST OF THE Visitation** The unique feast day celebrated in common that unites all the spiritual family of Blessed Charles. From Pope Francis +

***“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 Mysteries’, he did not dwell on Mary’s readiness to help her elderly cousin Elizabeth. In his eyes it was not so much a visit from a 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...”<sup>8</sup>***

***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. About 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”<sup>9</sup>***

## ***Universal brotherhood***

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