

Intergenerational Meeting Overview

The Intergenerational Meeting follows Step 5 in the *Invited by Christ* program and is designed to bring parents and children together to continue their journey towards First Communion. It is an hour-long meeting where parents and children can rotate through three workshops (stations) that are approximately 20 minutes each. The meeting begins and ends with prayer. (Alternatively, the meeting can end with Mass with the parish community.) Each workshop comes with a specific set of materials and instructions. (A catechist/workshop leader should be available to give instructions at each station in order for each workshop to run smoothly.) A brief description of each workshop is provided below:

● **Workshop 1: Speedy Prayer Challenge**

- This station invites teams to quickly put the words of the Lord's Prayer (Our Father) back in order. Teams will also write intentions for the Prayer of the Faithful.

● **Workshop 2: Discovering a Witness to the Faith**

- This station introduces teams to St. Charles de Foucauld, a 20th century French priest with a profound devotion to the Eucharist, who is known for serving poor, nomadic communities in the deserts of Northern Africa. Teams will listen to the adventurous life story of St. Charles de Foucauld and create a visual timeline using picture cards.

● **Workshop 3: The Mass Unscrambled**

- At this station, teams analyze the Order of Mass and work to restore the parts of the Mass to their proper places, matching picture cards to their corresponding descriptions and names.

Begin your meeting with an Opening Prayer, such as the one provided below.

Opening Prayer

Gracious Lord, we thank you for bringing us all together for this special meeting as we continue this journey towards First Communion. We ask that you open our hearts as we listen and learn together. May we make new discoveries today, inspired by the prayers you have taught us, the witnesses of faith you have given us, and the celebration of the Eucharist that you have instituted for us. Give us a healthy spirit of teamwork during this time together. We ask this in your name, Amen.

Workshop Rotations

The leader will then explain the format of the three workshops, through which families will rotate every 20 minutes.

At the end of the three 20-minute workshop rotations, everyone gathers together for a Closing Prayer, such as the one provided below (or celebrate Mass with the parish community).

Closing Prayer

Jesus, we thank you for this time spent together. After studying the words of the Our Father, which you gave us, may we pray the Lord's Prayer more meaningfully each time we say it. May we be inspired to follow God's call, just like St. Charles de Foucauld did during the many twists and turns of his journey of faith. Help us to recognize in the Mass the beautiful ways that we can adore you and praise Our Father in heaven. We ask for you to accompany us as we continue journeying towards the very special day of our First Eucharist. Amen.

Workshop 1: Speedy Prayer Challenge

MATERIALS

- Our Father Prayer Cards, (cut out, mixed up, and placed in an envelope; one set for each team)
- One piece of paper per team
- Pens or pencils

Activity Instructions

- 1 Start the challenge:** When the catechist/leader of the workshop gives the starting signal, each team opens its envelope and places the cards on the table. Then, teams reconstruct the Our Father prayer in the right order, as quickly as possible. The first team to get the correct order wins.
- 2 Praying the Our Father:** When all teams have put the prayer back together in the correct order, participants stand in a circle around the table. After a short silence, everyone says the prayer together.
- 3 Compose a prayer:** Using the prayer starter “Our Father who...”, write down one or more prayer intentions that can be included in the Prayer of the Faithful. (Example: “Our Father who cares for the suffering, please look after all those who are sick or injured.”)

What is the Prayer of the Faithful?

The Prayer of the Faithful (also called the Universal Prayer) is a prayer during the Liturgy of the Eucharist in which we pray for the needs of the world. The intentions are read out by one or more persons, but the whole assembly prays this prayer together. There are usually between four to six intentions, with a prayer for the needs of the life of the Church, for leaders throughout the world and the salvation of the whole world, for people who are suffering or facing difficulties, and for the local community.

OUR FATHER	WHO ART	IN HEAVEN	HALLOWED BE
THY NAME	THY KINGDOM	COME	THY WILL
BE DONE	ON EARTH	AS IT IS	IN HEAVEN
GIVE US	THIS DAY	OUR	DAILY BREAD
AND	FORGIVE US	OUR TRESPASSES	AS WE
FORGIVE THOSE	WHO TRESPASS	AGAINST US	AND LEAD US
NOT	INTO TEMPTATION	BUT	DELIVER US
FROM EVIL	AMEN		

Workshop 2: Discovering a Witness to the Faith

MATERIALS

- St. Charles de Foucauld Picture Cards (cut out; one set for each team)
- Printouts of “The Life of St. Charles de Foucauld” handouts

Activity Instructions

- Form teams of about 6 people. Distribute the St. Charles de Foucauld Picture Cards to each team.
- Have each team place their picture cards in front of them.
- The catechist/leader of the workshop reads the handout of “The Life of St. Charles de Foucauld,” without reading the highlighted numbers. (Each number refers to a single card.) Make sure all participants can clearly hear the story.
- Teams look for the card being described and place it near the left side of their table. Teams should lay down the cards one after the other (in a timeline format) to retell the life story of St. Charles de Foucauld.
- Correct order of the cards, as noted on the handout: 22, 17, 15, 20, 21, 7, 13, 2, 1, 24, 10, 8, 25, 27, 18, 4, 16, 11, 12, 5, 26, 19, 3, 23, 6, 9, 14.

Review

Discuss the question: How did St. Charles de Foucauld talk about the Mass? What did he say about the Eucharist?

1

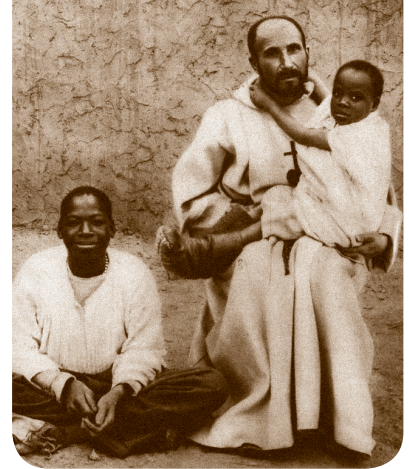


2



3

Gentle, patient,
and kind



4

My cabin while
working with the Poor
Clares in Nazareth



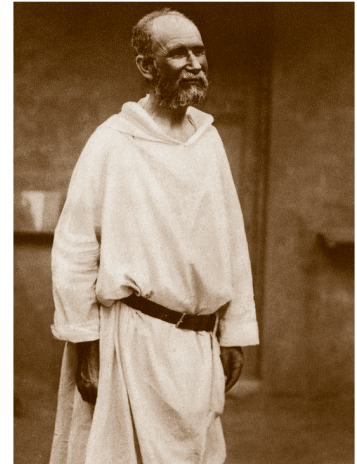
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Nomad priest in
the Sahara Desert



6

“I shall not see the
fruit that I sow.”



7

I miss desert life...



8

Seeker of God



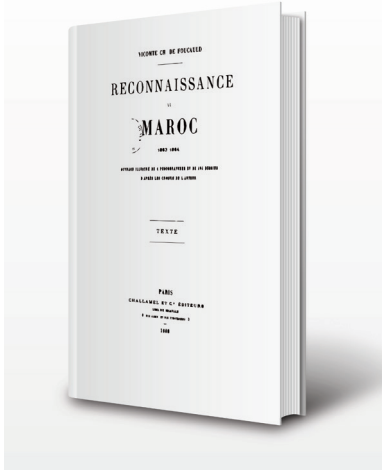
9



“Unless a grain of wheat
falls to the ground and
dies, it remains just a grain
of wheat; but if it dies, it
produces much fruit.”



10



11

I spend hours praying at the foot of the tabernacle.



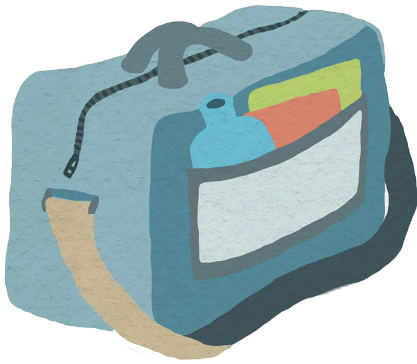
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Slaves, soldiers, travelers...



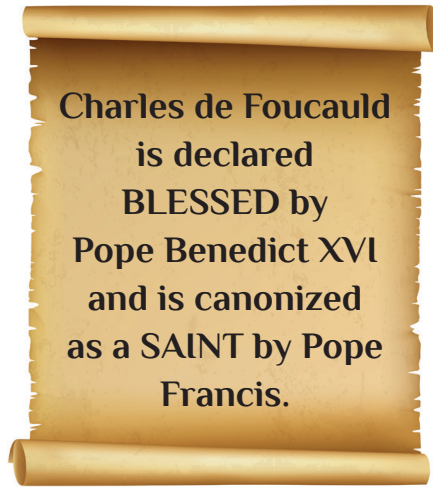
13

Traveler



14

Charles de Foucauld is declared BLESSED by Pope Benedict XVI and is canonized as a SAINT by Pope Francis.



15

Officer in Saumur



16

The Fraternity



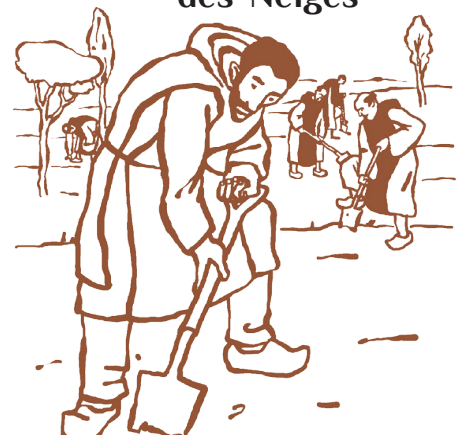
17

First Communion at age 14



18

Monk at the Abbey of Notre-Dame-des-Neiges



19

I translate the Gospel to the Tuareg language



20

I enjoy parties



21



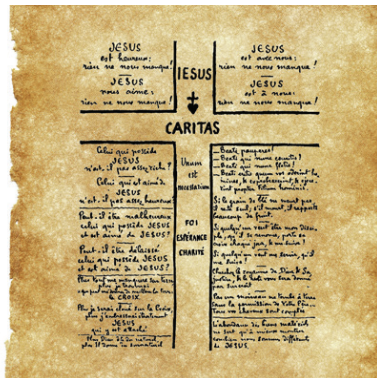
22

Here I am on the left, age 10



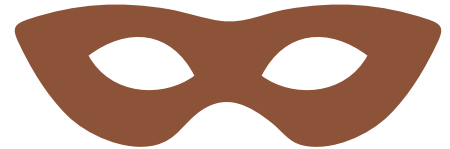
23

Rules of living for the Union of the Brothers and Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



24

I disguise myself as a Moroccan Jewish man...



25

Fr. Huvelin teaches me to love God.



26



27

Bethlehem



Instructions for reader: Read outloud. Pause at each number, and ask groups to find the correlating picture card to create a picture timeline of St. Charles de Foucauld's life.

Hello, my name is Charles. I was born in Strasbourg, France on September 15, 1868. I have just turned 10. **22** I'm going to celebrate my birthday with my grandfather and my little sister Marie. I miss Mom and Dad. It's already been four years since they died. I loved them so much. In the evenings, I keep saying my prayers, just like Mom taught me...

Today, I made my First Communion: I'm 14 years old. **17** I'm a pretty good student, but what I really like is reading. On Sundays, I always go to Mass with my grandfather, but I do it to please him. I don't believe much in God anymore... I've lost my faith. I continue my studies at the military academy in Saumur to become an officer. **15**

Unfortunately, my grandfather has died. Now, at the age of 20, I find myself alone but with an immense fortune. I enjoy life. I like partying, dancing, eating, and drinking. **20** The army sends me to Algeria, a French colony in northern Africa. I'm amazed by this beautiful country that boasts of palm trees and camels. **21** I keep on partying. My superiors aren't happy. I am sent back to France to live in the barracks. The desert is so beautiful; I miss living there. **7** Soon, my regiment is sent back to Africa—this time, to Tunisia. I'm impressed by the prayer of Muslims, who worship nearby several times a day. Again, our regiment is sent back to France. Living in the barracks bores me. I dream of traveling, discovering new landscapes, learning about history and other cultures. The army is definitely not for me.

At age 24, I decide to become a traveler! **13** I'm learning Arabic, a language where all letters are written in cursive. **2** I think about traveling to Morocco, a country that is not well-known. If I go there, I could make myself useful with a compass and draw maps. **1** But here's the thing: it's impossible for a Frenchman to enter Morocco. So I

disguise myself as a Moroccan Jewish man. **24**

Now I am wandering the length and breadth of this country (nearly 2,000 miles!) on foot. I record all my observations discreetly in small notebooks. Several times, my life is in danger and, on two occasions, I am saved by Muslims.

At the age of 28, I return to my family in Paris to rest. My cousin, Marie, welcomes me with great kindness. I don't feel judged, just loved. I publish my travel diary, which I call *Reconnaissance au Maroc*. It's a success! **10**

While in Paris, something compels me to visit churches several times. I stay there for hours. I often pray: "My God, if you exist, let me know you! My God, how good you are! How you covered me under your wings when I didn't even believe in your existence. It was all your doing!" I feel God's love. I become a Seeker of God. **8** With the help of a local priest named Fr. Huvelin, I learn to love God. **25** My faith grows, and I develop a love of prayer. I discover the faith of the Church and who Jesus was. To get to know him better, I make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to see where Jesus lived. Here I am in Bethlehem for Christmas.

27 I visit Jerusalem, too. In Nazareth, I imagine Jesus, whose foster father was a carpenter, walking in the dust of the streets. That's how I want to live, too: poor among the poor.

At 32 years old, I become a Trappist monk at the Abbey of Notre-Dame-des-Neiges in France. **18** I'm happy, but something's missing. I love Jesus, and I want my life to be like his. I want to live by working with my hands and by praying.

At age 39, I leave the monastery and return to Nazareth near the convent of the Poor Clares. I live in a modest cabin, and I like living there.

4 By day, I work as a gardener for the Poor Clares. Mass is at the center of my everyday life. I decide to become a priest to celebrate Mass wherever I'm sent.

I receive permission to go to the Sahara Desert in Algeria, in the midst of my Muslim brothers and sisters—poor and abandoned.

I'd like to start a new religious order, with small groups of brothers living together like a family. I start building a home, which is called The Fraternity. **16** Soldiers build a chapel out of dry bricks and palm trunks. I spend hours praying at the foot of the tabernacle. **11** The Eucharist is Jesus. He's there, present before me. I write: "When you love, you always want to talk to the person you love all the time, or at least look at them all the time: that's what prayer is."

From dawn until dusk, people knock on my door: slaves, soldiers, travelers. I think how Jesus taught us, "Whatever you do to one of these little ones, you do to me." **12** I'm 45 years old, and the bishop of the Sahara is just leaving my house. He tells me about the Tuareg people who live in the middle of the desert. No priests want to go there. Well, I do, and I'm going!

Without water or pasture, the Tuareg people are scattered all over the desert, trying to survive. I become a nomad priest, moving from camp to camp. **5** I wear the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on my habit. I pray that Jesus will radiate his love on the Tuareg people. **26** I translate the Gospel to the Tuareg language. As nomads, the Tuareg people have never seen a book; the New Testament is the first book they encounter. **19** I often wonder: is my presence here useful? I don't know. I'd like to live out Christ's love in everything I do. I contemplate the Blessed Sacrament, the Body of Christ present there. His love extends to these men, women, and children. They are my brothers and sisters. To bear witness to Jesus, I strive to be gentle, patient, and kind. **3** I have time to write. I begin by writing the rules of living for the Union of the Brothers and Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The three essential rules are: to make the Word of God accessible to everyone; to love the Holy Eucharist more each day; and to make

God's love known to everyone. **23** I continue writing, creating a Tuareg-French dictionary and recording Tuareg poems and proverbs. For ten years, I say Mass every day, but no one converts. I don't give up, I pray and work. I think, "I shall not see the fruit that I sow." **6** I abandon myself to God. I pray for the Tuaregs, for peace, and for better living conditions for this nomadic people.

World War I raged throughout Europe and spread to the Sahara Desert. Rebels kidnapped Charles for ransom. He was killed by a frightened young rebel on December 1, 1916.

Fr. Charles' life mirrors what Jesus taught about the grain of wheat: "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." **9** Fr. Charles' order grew, branching out into several religious communities. Throughout the deserts of the world, more than a thousand Little Brothers and Little Sisters of Jesus have lived in silence, prayer, and poverty. In 2005, Charles de Foucauld was declared Blessed by Pope Benedict XVI. A miracle of healing was attributed to him: a young woman was cured of cancer. This was the first step towards declaring him a saint. In 2016, a second miracle—the healing of a 21 year old carpenter who had fallen from a height of more than 50 feet—was attributed to Blessed Charles. In 2022, Pope Francis canonized Charles de Foucauld, declaring him a Saint. **14** May we strive to be authentic witnesses to the faith, like St. Charles de Foucauld, whose life was strengthened by the Most Holy Eucharist.

St. Charles de Foucauld, pray for us!

Continue to the Review section of the Workshop 2 sheet (listed under the Activity Instructions).

Workshop 3: The Mass Unscrambled

MATERIALS

- Order of Mass Cards—one set per team (Cut out cards. Place cards with colored backgrounds in an envelope; all other cards are shuffled to make a deck.)
- A copy of pages 40-41 from the Student Workbook (“Let’s Walk Through the Mass Together!”) for the catechist/workshop leader to check each team’s completed chart

Activity Instructions

- Form small teams of parents and children.
- Have each team spread out the colored cards from the envelope on the table and group them by color.
- For each person’s turn: pick a text or picture card from the deck. Read or describe the image. Find the corresponding colored card, and place the card next to it. (Text cards are placed on the right and picture cards are placed on the left, leaving the colored card in the middle.)
- When a team has finished unscrambling the Order of Mass cards, the team asks the catechist/workshop leader to come check. (If the order is not correct, the catechist/workshop leader points out the cards that need adjusted.)

Review

- Invite each group to share something they learned about the Mass from this activity.

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

We sing an entrance song as the celebrant (the priest or bishop) processes to the altar.



SIGN OF THE CROSS AND GREETING

The celebrant leads the assembly in prayer with a special gesture and welcomes the assembly.



PENITENTIAL ACT

We pray the *Confiteor* or another prayer to ask God for forgiveness of minor sins.



GLORIA

We sing a song together to give glory to God.



COLLECT

This is the prayer the celebrant prays at the end of the Introductory Rites.



READINGS AND PSALM

**We listen to Scripture
and sing a song to
meditate on the
Word of God.**



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION AND GOSPEL READING

**We stand and sing a
song of praise; then,
the priest or deacon
proclaims a reading
from the life and
ministry of Christ.**



HOMILY

**The celebrant preaches
to help us understand
the Gospel and other
Scripture we have
heard.**



PROFESSION OF FAITH

**We stand and pray
the Nicene Creed.**



PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**We pray for the
needs of the Church
and the world.**



**PREPARATION
OF THE ALTAR,
COLLECTION, AND
PROCESSION WITH
GIFTS**

**The bread and wine
(as well as monetary
gifts from the
collection) are carried
up to the altar.**



**PRAYER
OVER THE
OFFERINGS**

**The priest prays
over the gifts of
bread and wine.**



**EUCCHARISTIC
PRAYER**

**The priest prays this prayer
on behalf of the assembly. It
is the high point of the Mass.
During this prayer, the bread
and wine truly become the
Body and Blood of Jesus.**



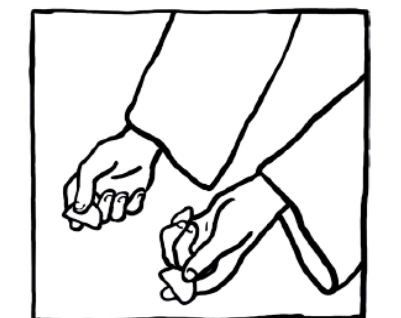
**LORD'S
PRAYER**

**We stand to pray
this prayer that Jesus
taught us, and then
we offer one another
a Sign of Peace.**



**LAMB OF
GOD**

**When the celebrant
breaks the consecrated
bread, we pray or sing
this prayer, asking God
to have mercy on us.**



COMMUNION

**We process up
towards the altar to
receive the Eucharist.**



BLESSING

**We stand for this
final prayer that the
celebrant gives the
assembly.**



DISMISSAL

**We are sent out to
proclaim the Gospel
and share God's love
with others.**

