



COMMUNITY OF
THE BEATITUDES

NEWSLETTER

November 2023

The General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Community of the Beatitudes, which brought together 71 delegates from 5 continents, was celebrated in Nouan-le-Fuzelier (France), October 27th - November 5th.

The General Assembly was an opportunity for delegates to work on issues of importance to the Community. The two main themes on the agenda were the **historical review** of the Community and the deepening of the experience of the Community's structure as an **Ecclesial Family of Consecrated Life**.

In the General Assembly "we try to see if and to what extent we have been faithful to the charism, in what the Spirit drives us to go forward and in what instead he asks us to change. This is one of the most beautiful and most strongly 'ecclesial' experiences we are granted: to come together to listen to the Spirit, presenting him with real situations, issues, problems... We must ask ourselves if the choices we make are oriented towards bearing witness to and announcing the Gospel" (Pope Francis).

This general meeting has been the occasion for all to have a wonderful **experience of synodality** and community discernment in the Spirit. We listened to each other, brainstorming in working groups, in particular using the "conversation in the Spirit" method used in Rome during the recent synodal session.

Each day was punctuated by liturgical offices, adoration and Holy Mass, encouraging us to continually return to the One who brings us together! We had moments to receive personally, but also communally. The chains of continuous adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and fasting set up in our community houses around the world were impressive and truly sustained us.

-Fr. Nilson (Coordinator)

Introducing Fr. Juan Diego de Jesús



I was born in Toluca, a State in Mexico, on the 24th of November 1974. I am 48 years old, the youngest of four brothers and sisters. I lost my father when I was 5 years old but my mother is still alive. I grew up in a Christian family very involved in the Charismatic Renewal. From the age of 10 I've had a strong experience of the love of Jesus. The Boy Scouts taught me to care for others, especially the poorest of the poor. I received the call to the priesthood at the age of 15, during an evangelization retreat. This call was deeply engraved in my heart and never left me.

After my studies, I led a busy professional life, always thinking about the possibility of marriage, but finally I saw reason in the voice that had been calling me to the priesthood for a long time. For years, I had the opportunity to participate and organize evangelization missions in the mountains with the poorest of the poor, and it was during this experience that the Lord came looking for me, awakening in me the first call. A visit to the Community of the Beatitudes seduced me and, very soon, I expressed the desire to join it for vocational discernment. I joined the Community in Puebla, Mexico, in 2014, made my perpetual profession of vows in Blagnac (France) in 2021, where I studied philosophy and theology. I was ordained a deacon on July 1, 2022, and my priestly ordination was on July 15, 2023 in the sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes. Nine long years of formation have passed and the time has come for me to serve my community through the parish, giving myself one hundred percent, always listening to the Holy Spirit, and at the service of the neediest.

-Fr. Juan Diego de Jesús

Jesus Our Hope Retreat House

"Be still and know that I am God"

For more information and reservations: jesus-our-hope.org

The “World Youth Day” in Lisbon

“From death to life”! Oh man is this my testimony, more than anything. Far more than simply a trip, gathering, or pilgrimage, my WYD experience was truly an affair with the Lord. These holy moments and places are crucial parts of the story that is our Love, the song of my heart. I return there often in prayer. By the miraculous grace of God, and thanks be to our sweet Blessed Mother, in Fatima I received a full healing and renewal of heart through the sacrament of confession. In Coimbra I experienced the Joy of the Lord through beautiful times of fellowship and worship. In Lisbon I encountered, as if for the first time, the wondrous presence of Jesus, through the Holy Mass, the sweet words of Pope Francis, and in the faces of each and every person I met. Ending in Rome, where my heart found such rest, I was utterly saturated and embraced by His Peace. What a privilege to return to a place with new eyes to see and a new heart to receive! All glory and praise to God for newness, restoration, and abundant Joy!



-Sophie (Disciple of the Lamb)

World Youth day was a life changing experience and I could not be anymore thankful to God for the amazing adventure. Being almost 2 months in Europe opened my eyes and my heart to the life of Jesus Christ in many ways. One of the ways I had my biggest encounter was when I walked for 6 days straight from Fatima to Coimbra, Portugal. Every day was a physical battle, and most of all, a spiritual battle. I would wake up and walk in the beaming sun for hours not knowing when or where I would arrive. I became very hesitant and was regretting making this decision. I was tired of always being hungry and thirsty. I came to reflect within myself, and those nights I would study my Bible and read something every night before sleeping. While doing so, I came across two Bible verses that impacted me. These verses talk about how God will provide for a crow food and water every day, so, to us, who are his children, he will provide that and much more. This made me realize that no matter the journey or how much I walked he always made sure I ate and I was getting rest and he kept me healthy. One question they asked us to share was, “How has God loved You?”. Well for me I thought about this as a big question and started thinking very deeply, but when talking to people, one person said. “This Juice” as he held the juice he was drinking. This made me realize how I needed to be grateful everyday, see how blessed I am every single day, and live one day at a time in the Lord’s presence. This changed my whole perspective in the way I see life and friends and family. Love others, share joy, and be grateful everyday, for God will always provide for those who ask him.



-Jaime (Disciple of the Lamb)

“Break Time in God”



My name is Armelle! I come from France and I spent 3 months in the USA for a Break Time in God with the Community of the Beatitudes. I visited the Community for my first time at a New Year's Retreat in France. At that time, my faith was only beginning to deepen; I was on the way back to the church and the process had started a year ago. During this retreat, I was touched by a profound peace. I had heard about the opportunity of Break Time in God with the community.

At that time, I didn't notice many little lights that the Lord was putting in my path to help lead me to Him. I was working full time for a job that I didn't like and my daily work routine was at the center of my life. Then,

my year changed. All of a sudden, in my family, 3 members of my family were deeply sick. My work life became very hard. As these difficulties arose, there was a beautiful growing desire in my heart to turn to God and my faith began to grow. I started to pray each morning, and thanks to that, in each hard moment I began to feel that I wasn't alone. During the summer, I realized that I couldn't be happy in the work life and rhythm that I was living. Everything in my personal life crashed. I decided to quit my job and find a place where I could begin anew and refresh myself. I remembered the opportunity to take a time with the Community of the Beatitudes. The idea was at first a challenge for me. But with an open heart, I said yes. I can tell you that at the beginning, I was scared, living with religious sisters! Socially, what I enjoyed with the Community was that it was like a big family with the religious, lay and friends of the community. I realized that the religious members of the community were just normal people like you and me who decided to consecrate their life to the Lord. It was possible to be friends with sisters and brothers of the Community! From all the Catholic persons that I met in the US, I was touched by their strong faith. I really appreciated how naturally they spoke about the Lord and how He is present in their life. As I immersed myself in the rhythm of the community, I can tell you - I realized that praying is a real job! After 2 months, I wanted to get some holiday. My two favorite times during the week were the Shabbat office and Vespers of the Resurrection. I really liked Shabbat because, this office on Friday was a

good way to be all together sitting around the table as a family, praying to the Lord for who He is and for all the beautiful things that He offered to us in our week. I was also all the time touched by the Vespers of the Resurrection, especially when one member of the Community took a text in the Gospel (opened the page with the guidance of the Spirit), read it and then give an explanation. I was really amazed how Lord knows what we need to learn at the right time from the Gospel. After these 3 beautiful months, I've learned to trust the Lord; He knows what we need to be happy in our life. Also I lived in from this experience the words of Luke 6:38: "Give, and it will be given to you. (...) For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Now I've come back to my life peacefully and I know that I have the Rock (the Lord), that I can stand on. He will never give me up. Even in the face of the storm, He is Present! I would like to thank all the persons that I met during these 3 months! I was touched by their generosity and their testimony of that they shared. I also would like to thank the Community and especially the sisters who welcome me in the Denver house. God bless you! **-Armelle**

"Rose Petals" evening prayer

The Saint Thérèse of Liseux rose petal evening was celebrated at Saint Catherine of Siena church. It is always such a joy to spend an evening with our beloved Sister Thérèse. The beauty of the altar, the gorgeous singing, the tender teaching by Samantha Maticka, and the touching testimonies of those who've had their prayers answered from Saint Thérèse all are so wonderful. One such story that moved me greatly was a small girl of only about nine years old. She explained how her grandmother had struggled with so much pain. She asked Thérèse to help her grandmother by removing her pain.

She was overjoyed to explain that God took her grandmother home to heaven in order to remove the pain. This and so many other stories brought such peace and happiness to the heart, to make this one of our favorite evenings with the Community of the Beatitudes here in Denver. We can't wait for next year!



-Deacon Josh ("lay" member)

Disciples of the Lamb



Do you know the Disciples of the Lamb? They try to follow the Lamb of God wherever He goes, and to respond to the Good Shepherd's voice when He calls them by their name. Their pasture is their daily life. Their Sheepfold is the Church and a Community in Denver where they find rest and food for their soul...

You should get to know them: their desire to know better their Master may refresh your soul! Let's talk more concretely now! The Disciples of the Lamb are a part of the Beatitudes Family. It's an associated reality of the Community for young adults who feel called to live their Christian life through the charism of the Community.

They gather at the convent each month for a meeting and teaching, and share our missions when they can. They commit themselves for one year, and renew if they desire. So the community is happy to see a little flock of 11 disciples growing in his faith, and try to take care of him with love and through teaching and prayers. We entrust them to your prayers!

-Sr. Sarah of the Annunciation

"Friends of the Lamb" (adults) and **"Disciples of the Lamb"** (18-30 yo) are associated with the Community of the Beatitudes, and share its spirituality and apostolates.



Jubilee of Young People

Rome July 28 – August 03, 2025

A pilgrimage as massive as that of a **Jubilee Year** in Rome! This transformative event takes place only once every 25 years, and will be a tremendously wonderful spiritual and fraternal experience to renew and ignite more profoundly your faith! Contact us!

New Candidates



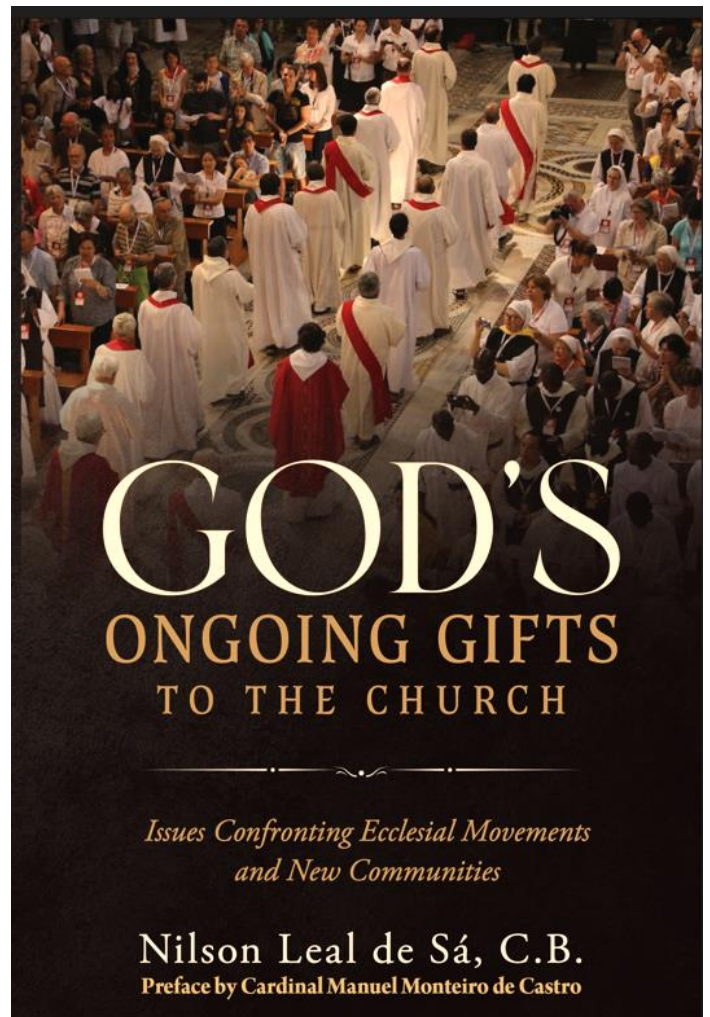
At Byzantine Vespers on September 16, the Community rejoiced to welcome Maria Gonzales and Alex and Marianne Frank to take the step of candidacy. Candidacy is a year of discernment and the first step towards full integration into the Community. Alex and Marianne are a young couple expecting their first child. Although candidates have not yet entered a branch, it's a safe bet that the Frank family is heading toward the lay branch! Maria Gonzales lived in the convent as a Beatitudes Missions intern all last year. Candidates don't live in the house, but Maria will live nearby with Sophie, who happens to be a Beatitudes Disciple of the Lamb. How glad we are that the Lord has called her to remain with us for another year or more. **-Rachel** (lay member)


New Book

The ecclesial movements and new communities that emerge are providential gifts of the Spirit of God and signs of His fruitfulness, affirmed by the recent documents of the popes.

In these encouraging pages, you will see the harmony between vocations and the numerous blessings that flow from these movements in the Church, including the strengthening of marriages and the faith formation of young people. You will also discover how to discern and navigate the challenges that sometimes arise in living out the charisms of these communities in union with the local and universal Church.

Regardless of your state in life, this book will benefit and assist you in fostering charisms and communion in the Church. And it will inspire you to share the gifts of the Holy Spirit with renewed enthusiasm.







COMMUNITY OF THE BEATITUDES

March 5-9, 2024

Young Adult Silent Retreat

Discerne for Religious Life

Come spend a week in the mountains of Colorado with those who have heard God's voice and want to help you do the same!

beatitudes.usa@yahoo.com <https://denver.beatitudes.org>

Cost: Suggested donation of 40\$ per day (200\$ total). Scholarships available.

BEATITUDES WEEKEND  COMMUNITY OF THE BEATITUDES



May 17-19, 2024

*Anointed by the Holy Spirit:
Healed and Transformed by His Love*

Contact : beatitudes.usa@yahoo.com
<https://denver.beatitudes.org>



Talks, prayer, adoration, fraternal life, in the spirituality of the Community of the Beatitudes.

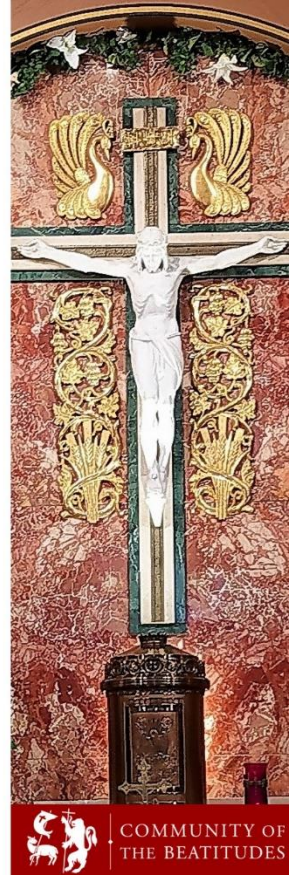
Suggested donation of 80\$. Scholarships available

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YOUNG ADULT
Easter
TRIDUUM



March 27-31, 2024

From the Seder Meal to Easter Sunday

Beauty of the Liturgy,
Jewish Tradition,
Byzantine Tradition

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