

Córdoba, April 5, 1996
 Holy Friday

My Dear Friend Anne,

The day is almost over in Argentina and maybe it is not the best day to write to you because I feel that I am also buried with the Lord in the tomb. There is this deep silence in my heart, with the glow of the coming resurrection. Today I have shared with my Lord His infinite inner loneliness. I chose to be in this way.

But I am so worried, as usual, for this proposal for the video on Charles de Foucauld (now called video "The Universal Brother" -between the two of us) that I can not go on another day without writing some ideas.

Before going into that, let me tell you that yesterday I spoke about our video on a local TV show, program that was repeated today. Some segments were shown (Lanciano, the Chapel Bus and La Mansion). Everything came so quickly that the lesson received was: "The Lord is in command of our work!". I just mentioned to a friend that I regretted that no channel in Cordoba was showing it. She called a friend who is a producer, ... and that's it! The lady saw the video yesterday morning and she called me immediately to go to the studio. I mentioned you and etc. etc. I had around 7-10' the most. It was fun. It was raining a lot but any way I could make it on time. God takes care of our work.

My friend, it is hard to approach this "proposal". As we were mentioning it in our last conversation, we work so much in faith and so many aspects still have to be cleared up that we have to be very "general" at this point.

Title: *Charles de Foucauld, the "Universal Brother"*

Sub-Title : *The Little Brothers and Sisters of the Gospel and of Jesus, fruits of the desert*

(I already have in mind the jacket design; you know that we change titles up to the last moment, and this depends on the Little Brothers)

Objective of the Video: To present the prophetic aspects of Charles de Foucauld's spirituality and life that speak to society, to religious life, to the Church and to the regular man/woman of today who thirst for an authentic life. What God wanted to say through his life? (we can mention some: the imitation of Jesus in His hidden and ordinary life in Nazareth, choosing always the last place and being close to those that are in the last place; to "preach" God's love through his own life; his ecumenical approach, years before the Church spoke about ecumenism: he respected the people's faith with whom he shared his life; to have a contemplative life outside the walls of a monastery; for the priesthood his message was to give more importance to prayer life than to activism; his radical conversion from a man of pleasures and success to a man of prayer and austerity). He was a man always faithful to the call that God was making to him, not being fully understood by his fellowmen. He died alone as a martyr.

How: These prophetic messages have been incarnated through the religious communities and fraternities founded by Rene Voillaume and Little Sister Magdeleine, both French who wanted to follow closely the rules and spirituality of *Brother Charles*... Jean Vanier says of Sister Magdeleine: *"Little Sister Magdeleine was clearly raised up by God for our times to bring the good news of love to people in those places of pain, rejection, isolation and misery where God (and the Church) appears to be conspicuously absent."*

Stories on these communities (histories, activities, prayer and community life, service, etc) will be shown. Each segment will express one aspect of the novelty presented by Charles de Foucauld.

Also will be interviewed or reported lay men and women, priests and religious who have grown spiritually from the fraternities like: Jean Vanier (*L'Arche*), Jacques Maritain, Jean-Francoise Six, Mike Minterm... (Charles de Foucauld wrote his rules addressing them to every man or woman, religious, single or married...!)

Audience: Catholic adults that want to deepen their spiritual life and non-believers who are searching for the transcendental.

Length: 45 to 50 minutes

Budget: Approximately \$30,000. (It all depends on the final stories chosen).

The preliminary segments are in: La Paz, Bolivia; Lima, Peru; Spello, Italy, Baransi, India; Assekrem, Argelia; Le Tre Fontane, Rome; New York. Interviews to Rene Voillaume (New York), Jean Vanier (France), Jean-Francoise Six (France), the General Abbot of the Trappists: Bernardo Oliveira, Rome (?).

Anne, for my salary I have figured out that I can receive \$360.00 a week while I am working full time in the project. During the other weeks that I just read and make contacts for the shootings and write reports I will add the hours invested and figure out the total amount of hours at the end of the project. I told Brother Joe that this money will come out from Agnus Dei. What we can do is to make an arrangement that the money given by Agnus Dei either for my salary or for other expenses (if they don't have the money) will be discounted from the sale of the videos that Agnus Dei will do. The other possibility is to propose them to share the Copyrights, 50/50? And that Agnus Dei will be in charged of the distribution. They don't have problems for this last one. It is terrible to be speaking of money for this kind of work!

Mike wants to read the proposal before you send it to the Little Brothers. I think that two proposals have to be written one for them and another one for the Foundations. With the Little Brothers we have to talk on the financial arrangements and the commitments of Agnus Dei in the project like Anne Mc Glone re-writing the script, Fiorella De Ferrari shooting some stories, putting all the strings together (how do you call that?), editing, etc., etc. Agnus Dei distributing the video, including the supervision of the duplication and the elaboration of the jacket. If Joe's brother in law offers post-production facilities I think that it will be cheaper than the approximate budget. I trust on your brilliant mind and beautiful heart to figure out this maze.

How is your father?

You are in my prayers
Love
John