

MARIST INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGATE

JULY 2018

CASA DI MARIA NEWSLETTER



Members of the community June 2018 from left to the right:

Br. Njong Akua Kenneth (Cameroon), Fr. Patrick Worja (Solomon Islands), Br. Ben D'Souza (New Zealand), Fr. Larry Duffy (Ireland), Br. Iosefo Amuri (Fiji), Fr. Tony Kennedy (Australia), Br. Gabriel Mukong (Cameroon), Br. Etienne Mansaly (Senegal), Br. Youssouph Stev Youm (Senegal), Br. Leandro Martins (Brazil), Br. Ricardo Navarrete (Mexico), Br. Cameron Mota (Bougainville), Fr. Albert Kabala (Congo), Br. Floyd Gatana (Papua New Guinea), Br. Samuela Tukidia (Fiji), Br. Guy Roger Assogoma (Cameroon), Br. Charles Mbara Apekè (Cameroon)



Welcome to our community



Santa Francesca Cabrini Parrocchia

Our neighbours

As we come to the end of the 2017-18 academic year we have been reflecting on a year of change for Casa di Maria. Last week, when the exams had concluded, we spent some time evaluating our year together.

We have welcomed four new seminarians to the community in recent months. They will begin academic studies in October after some further Italian language classes. Iosefo Amuri (Fiji) and Cameron Mota (PNG) arrived from Suva at Easter and have just completed three months of Italian classes. Jaime Perez Martinez (Mexico) and Yves Beranger Tuma (Cameroon) arrived very recently.

We said goodbye to Soane Hehea in April when he decided to leave Marist formation and return to Tonga. We thanked him for his generosity and service to the community and wish him well in his future. We will shortly say goodbye to two members of the formation team: Fr Albert Kabala and Fr Patrick Worla.

They have both completed their License in Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University and are returning to their own units. Albert has been appointed as the District Superior of Africa and Patrick will be joining the formation staff at Marist College in Suva. We thank them for their personal witness, generosity and dedication. We will miss them.



Patrick's thesis is titled: **Configuration to Christ: The Influence of Symbolization on the 3 Dimensions.**

In his thesis he tried to put into writing a basic theoretical guide (Christian anthropological vision) to formation.

It presents the challenges of the situation of the world, the situation which Evangelii Gaudium, Amoris Laetitia, Laudato si', and the new Ratio Fundamental Institutionis Sacerdotalis (RFIS) sought to address. He says in his introduction: "I believe that a closer study of the process of symbolization can help formators understand themselves, the candidates, and the world, in order to deepen their relationship of communion. A thorough comprehension of the unifying character of the symbolic processes is vital for international formation today."

Albert's thesis is titled: **Initial and Ongoing Formation as a Preventive Instrument against Sexual Abuse in the Church.** (*La formation initiale et permanente comme instrument efficace de prévention contre les abus sexuels dans l'Eglise*).



There is much to do in formation to build a safeguarding culture to protect minors and the vulnerable against sexual abuse in the Church. We must do better.

For the Church in general, and of Africa in particular, in addition to child sexual abuse, there is also the issue of child trafficking, child labour, child soldiers, female genital mutilation and other massive violations of the rights of children and vulnerable adults. Stay awake for the Church in Africa means that everyone: priests, religious men and women and lay people must continue to seek and discern new ways to secure

and protect children. We cannot afford to be complacent.

During the year I asked the seminarians what they found lifegiving about formation here in Rome. Some of the points they mentioned were:

- The multicultural community: the diversity, more of a worldview.
- Becoming more aware of the universal church.
- Being in Rome itself as the place where Christianity took root, where many saints and pilgrims have walked before us.
- The trust shown by the formators and the sense that I am responsible for my formation.
- The education system.
- The pastoral opportunities.
- Being in a larger formation community.

I also asked them what they found challenging or draining about formation in Rome. Some comments were:

- Living in a community of many cultures is a challenge. Working through cultural differences.
- The Eurocentric nature of philosophy and theology – little of Africa and Oceania.
- No opportunity to build bonds with Italian families as we did at novitiate. No one knows you / talks to you.
- Italian language and culture. The assumptions some Italian people made about us.
- Struggling with the language affects the level of pastoral involvement. Talking and listening are crucial. It took a while before I could engage in a conversation.
- Wary of forgetting your roots and losing your identity. Losing contact with home and all that means re-experience of God in culture, family, confreres, the Church and culture.

We begin each day with an hours meditation. Each week the seminarians attend class at the Gregorian or the Angelicum Pontifical Universities. They undertake some form of pastoral ministry as well as their various duties and responsibilities within the community. Saturday morning is a time set aside for formation input, guest presenters, recollection days and community meetings. Sunday evening the community gathers for prayer and a festive meal as the rhythm of the week begins again.

We are a diverse community with people having many interests and coming from many different cultures. It is a privilege and a blessing to journey with these young Marists.

Thank you for all the support we receive in so many different ways. We are grateful for the interest in our community and your prayers.



Fr. Tony Kennedy, sm.

La vie communautaire à Casa di Maria, Rome

Le chapitre III de nos Constitutions est intitulé *Pour Une Communion En Vue De La Mission*. En effet, c'est un chapitre qui contient presque toute la réglementation pour la vie communautaire mariste. C'est dire donc que la vie de communauté est intimement liée à la communion.

C'est ce que le programme communautaire du théologat Mariste à Rome cherche à réaliser à travers ses activités de tous les jours. L'apostolat fondamentale de la communauté est la formation intellectuelle (études théologiques) de ses membres afin de les préparer au sacerdoce. Toutefois, cela n'exclut pas l'intégration de l'aspect humain, l'aspect spirituel, émotionnel, affective, relationnel et pastoral.

Cette communion trouve son fondement dans la charité et est expression de la vie de l'Eglise.



Pour ce, nous avons des activités assez diverses et diversifiées comme la pastorale en week-end, le contact avec la couche marginalisée (les migrants, la prison), le contact avec les communautés locales, la paroisse Santa Francesca Cabrini, le sport, les moments de travail manuel et de récréation, les réunions communautaires et les temps de récréation, la prière communautaire et le temps de méditation et de partage de la parole de Dieu. C'est donc des activités qui nous permettent de former une communauté-communion de charité afin d'être des instruments efficaces de miséricorde pour la mission de Marie.

Br. Youssouph Stev Youm



Retiro en Spoleto

La prima semana de Pascua pasada los estudiantes de la comunidad *Casa di Maria*, tuvimos la grandiosa oportunidad de vivir nuestro retiro anual en la casa de los Padres Barnabitas en Spoleto. La semana estuvo marcada de muchas dinámicas que contribuyeron a que tuviéramos un tiempo de recogimiento espiritual.

Todos veníamos de nuestras misiones de semana santa que tuvimos en las diferentes comunidades de los padres maristas italianos. El hecho que los escolásticos nos encontráramos de nuevo en la casa de retiros me hizo pensar en el evangelio de Marcos cuando Jesús dice a sus discípulos *Venid aparte a un lugar desierto, y descansad un poco.* (6, 30-32). El retiro nos permitió descansar en el Señor y recuperar las fuerzas espirituales y físicas.

Fuimos agradecidos también con la dirección de P. Ben Mc Kenna que, con su experiencia como misionero en Oceanía y de vida espiritual marista, compartió con nosotros cómo podemos hacer morada en Dios y Él en nosotros para que después también abramos nuestra morada a la comunidad y a las personas que servimos. El testimonio de vida de P. Mc Kenna no quedó fuera de lugar, los ejemplos y experiencias que nos compartió, dieron más vida y realidad a lo que decía al punto que más de uno de nosotros terminó con el deseo ardiente de renovar de nuevo nuestro compromiso con María.

El retiro nos permitió descansar en el Señor y recuperar las fuerza espirituales y físicas.

Quedamos agradecidos con la comunidad de los Barnabitas por el servicio que nos brindaron, en especial con el mesero de la casa que, a pesar de que el retiro fue en silencio, nos supo sacar una grande sonrisa con su alegre espontaneidad.

Al final de los ejercicios, pudimos regresar a casa el domingo de la misericordia. Todos cargados con nuevas energías para seguir adelante con nuestros estudios y los compromisos de la comunidad.

Br. Ricardo N. Gutierrez



The annual retreat was led by Fr. Ben McKenna, assistant general of the Society. The retreat took place in the Easter Octave at the Barnabite community in Spoleto, Italy.

Esperienza in una comunità Marista

in Italia durante la Settimana Santa

Quest'anno, la Settimana Santa per noi studenti della *Casa di Maria* è stata un momento da riflettere sulla passione di Gesù, un momento di esperienza profonda della cultura italiana, e addirittura due settimane meravigliose di interruzione degli studi accademici.

All'inizio della Settimana Santa, siamo partiti da Roma alle diverse comunità mariste italiane dove abbiamo partecipato del loro programma pastorale e liturgico. Quattro di noi, incluso io, siamo andati alla comunità di Marconia che si trova nel sud d'Italia, cioè nell'arco del Tallone. Inoltre, siamo stati a Tinchì, un piccolo paese vicino in cui siamo stati accolti da un popolo molto generoso e devoto.

Mi sono piaciute molto le opportunità di visitare le famiglie, di assaggiare diversi tipi di pasta, di degustare un delizioso vino fatto a mano, di cantare alcuni canti

Nonostante l'ostacolo della lingua, ci siamo sentiti come una famiglia unica di maristi.

italiani e imparare un po' del loro dialetto. Con la guida di un seminarista locale abbiamo visitato anche i paesini di Pisticci e di Matera. Il mio posto preferito è stato Matera, il luogo in cui sono stato per la messa Pasquale. È un villaggio che mi fascina, soprattutto perché mi ricordare di un momento molto divertente. Durante l'omelia del Vescovo, il suo messaggio principale è stato: "Dobbiamo correre verso la tomba vuota come le donne" però ho sentito "dobbiamo correre verso le donne!". Il modo come ho capito ha fatto ridere gli altri seminaristi italiani che erano seduti accanto a me.

Il Venerdì Santo, abbiamo partecipato nella processione all'intorno del palazzo di Marconia, un grande



avvenimento per tutti. Infatti, alcuni di noi abbiamo recitato il rosario davanti migliaia di persone lì presenti! Abbiamo pranzato con la comunità marista sulla giornata di Pasqua, e nonostante l'ostacolo della lingua, ci siamo sentiti come una famiglia unica di maristi. Alla fine, sono stato molto contento con quest'esperienza, ma sarei più contento se avessimo l'opportunità di andarci di nuovo. Speriamo.

Br. Hayden Powick



Academic Studies

When I was first told that I would be going to Rome to study theology, it was one of those moments when I regretted taking the vow of obedience. The thought of studying in another country in another language and in an international community was something that was just too farfetched for me. Away from my family, friends and outside my country I knew I would be lonely and bored. But I was wrong.

After almost two years here I can say that I am happy. The beautiful churches, the great weather and the international character of the eternal city have all grown on me. The greatest fear of studying in Rome is now something that I look forward to.

I study at the Angelicum University run by Dominican priests and nuns from all over the world and an even more diverse group of students.

The friendly environment as well as the positive attitudes of the staff and the students makes it feel more like a medium sized college in New Zealand especially since I study in English. With intense studies, a busy

The greatest fear of studying in Rome is now something that I look forward to.

formation community and my pastoral I can honestly say I have not been bored.

I also picked up a new hobby, rooftop gardening! As exciting as that may sound, it is something that helps me relax and keeps me grounded while living on the third floor. And best of all during the breaks between semesters, I go on mini pilgrimages to various nearby towns to visit the tombs and cities of the saints and learn a bit more about the history of Italy. Is it hard and challenging living in Rome so far from family and



friends? Yes! But at the same time it is a happy and deeply spiritual place that I can call a home away from home.

Br. Ben D'Souza



Pastoral carcerária

Todos nós formandos aqui em Roma temos a oportunidade de desenvolver diversos trabalhos pastorais. Trabalhamos com os refugiados em situações vulneráveis, com os doentes alojados em diversos centros de recuperação, com animação litúrgica em paróquias, e com os encarcerados. São atividades pastorais que nos ajudam a crescer espiritual e humanamente e a viver com fidelidade a espiritualidade de Maria. Acreditamos que elas contribuem para o crescimento da “cultura do encontro”. Uma cultura que vai ao encontro da outra, que consegue dialogar e meter em prática os valores evangélicos, é uma cultura onde reina a esperança, a paz e o amor.

Na pastoral carcerária cada Marista é chamado a viver como Maria, aquela que leva Cristo consigo, e vai ao encontro de Isabel levá-la a alegria que brotou do encontro pessoal com Deus.

Vejo muito bem essa realidade na minha atividade pastoral em uma das penitenciárias aqui em Roma, lá sou desafiado a sair da minha zona de conforto e a viver os valores evangélicos no encontro daqueles que estão privados de liberdade física.



Acredito que também na pastoral carcerária cada Marista é chamado a viver como Maria, aquela que leva Cristo consigo, e vai ao encontro de Isabel levá-la a alegria que brotou do encontro pessoal com Deus. No nosso dia-a-dia, sobretudo nas nossas pastorais, somos chamados a representar Maria nesse encontro com Isabel levando uma alegria que não nasce somente das nossas relações interpessoais, mas sobretudo, da relação pessoal com a pessoa de Cristo.

Na pastoral carcerária aprendi que a relação profunda e íntima com Cristo traz alegria, paz interior, sentimento de liberdade, e capacidade de enxergar as necessidades do próximo. Aprendi também que enxergar a necessidade do outro ajuda a reconhecer as minhas próprias necessidades e deixar ser transformado pela pessoa de Cristo.



Br. Leandro Martins

Ogni firma, una storia da custodire e da condividere

La vita, la storia di molti religiosi Maristi che hanno servito il Signore e la Chiesa nella società di Maria, sono state e sono una testimonianza viva ed efficace per molti giovani che hanno accolto e desiderano dare la loro vita al Signore nella Società, con fedeltà e in un modo unico seguendo la chiamata della Madonna in questa grande missione.

Ci sono di esempio i pionieri Maristi che, fermi nella loro vocazione sono partiti per Terre lontane convinti di poter dare a tutti in compagnia di Maria l'annuncio della salvezza. Ne danno testimonianza i racconti delle loro vite, raccolte con passione ed amore da Padre Carlo Schianchi, in un meraviglioso e curato archivio alla Casa Generalizia situato in Roma via Alessandro Poerio, 63. Ho avuto modo di leggere con ammirazione le grandi opere compiute dai nostri padri all'inizio della Congregazione. Vite donate agli altri perché permeate e trasformati dalla forza del Vangelo. La loro testimonianza rimane viva e stimolante per noi oggi e per le generazioni future.

Br. Njong Akua Kenneth



The community had the privilege to visit the archives of the Society and to listen to Fr. Carlo Maria sm, the archivist of the Society. We were all impressed by his deep knowledge of the history of the Society and for his zeal in doing his job.



The Feast Day of St Peter Chanel

Every year on 28th April, the Society of Mary joins with the whole Church to celebrate the feast of St. Peter Chanel. It is an important occasion especially for the Society of Mary where this feast brings together the different branches of the whole Marist family.

This year once again brought a new episode of the gathering at the Marist Fathers General House starting with the Eucharistic celebration followed by a festive meal. Present during the feast day celebration were the Marist Brothers, the SMSM sisters, the SM sisters and

St Peter Chanel is the model of faith that teaches us how to live our Marist Religious life. (...) The feast of St Peter Chanel teaches us a lot about who we are as Marists and what we are called to do.

some of our benefactors and friends. The Eucharistic celebration was celebrated by the Superior General of the Marist Fathers, John Larsen, with the singing led by the community of Casa di Maria.

The feast of St Peter Chanel reminds every Marist about their mission and religious life. St Peter Chanel is the model of faith that teaches us how to live our Marist Religious life. As Marists we are called to look to St Peter Chanel as our model.

The church recognized St Peter Chanel for his love of the gospel preached to the people of Oceania. A man that gave up his life to preach the gospel to the unknown world. Our Marist charism and mission is to be with the people who are in need and to share with them in their joys and struggles. St Peter Chanel is the example of what the Society is asking each individual to do.

The feast of Peter Chanel encourages us to open our doors and our hearts to those people we meet on the streets and peripheries. He teaches us to reach out to those who are in need. Peter Chanel left his place to go out to the unknown world to share God's love to the people he did not know.

His attitude towards preaching the gospel of God to the unknown world should inspire every individual Marist to do the same by reaching out to the unknown areas of our day.

Br Floyd Gatana



The students from Casa di Maria animated the Mass. Members of the four branches of the Marist family were present.



The Jean Coste Prize (Il Premio Jean Coste) was developed by the journalist and writer Rita Pomponio.

It is dedicated to our confrere Fr Jean Coste sm and acknowledges his contribution to the archaeological researches in Rome. School children throughout Rome enter the competition. Rita joined the community one Saturday morning to tell us about the prize and some of her memories of Jean Coste.

Snow in Rome

Neve em Roma.



Guy, Leandro and Kenneth going to university under heavy snow.



Br. Soane decided to leave the Society and return to Tonga in April.



Franco Messori sm (Santa Francesca Cabrini Parrocchia—Parish Priest and Superior of the local Italian Marist community) and Albert.

We go to the parish for Mass each Monday. Franco joined us one Saturday morning to talk about the parish and his journey as a Marist.



A new doctor in the Society

Fr. Donato Kivi sm defended his doctoral thesis: *"Towards a Marian Ecological Spirituality for the Formation and Re-evangelization of the 'Vanua': the People and the Land of Fiji"*.

The examiners remarked on the originality of Donato's work which was based on his experience at the Tutu Training Centre, and the inspiration of Fr Mick McVerry sm.

Present in the photo are Fr. John Larsen, Fr. Donato Kivi and his examiners.



Ogni anno durante la Settimana Santa abbiamo l'opportunità di visitare diverse comunità mariste in Italia. In questa foto siamo nella comunità di Marconia. Grazie ai nostri confratelli italiani per la bellissima accoglienza.



Our Superior General, Fr John Larsen sm, preaching the homily at the Mass for the Installation of Lectors and Acolytes on 29th June 2018.

“Going on mission for the Summer”



Abbiamo ricevuto la visita delle suore missionarie marista dall'Oceania. Abbiamo celebrato l'Eucaristia insieme, alla fine ci raduniamo intorno all'altare per una bela.



Fr Patrick with some of the SMSM sisters who came to Rome for a renewal program. Sr Theresa on his left is from PNG and is working in the Philippines.



We had a visit from Fr Mark Walls sm and some of the Young Marist collaborators from New Zealand.

Each shared something about what they do for the Society of Mary and young people in New Zealand and Australia.

World Cup Fever / Copeonato Mundial de Futebol



Ricardo, Jaime and Albert cheering for Mexico in the World Cup.



Ben, Albert, Floyd, Leandro, Ricardo, Patrick, Samu, Stev



Stev and Charles both supporting Senegal.
The feeling is of unhappiness.

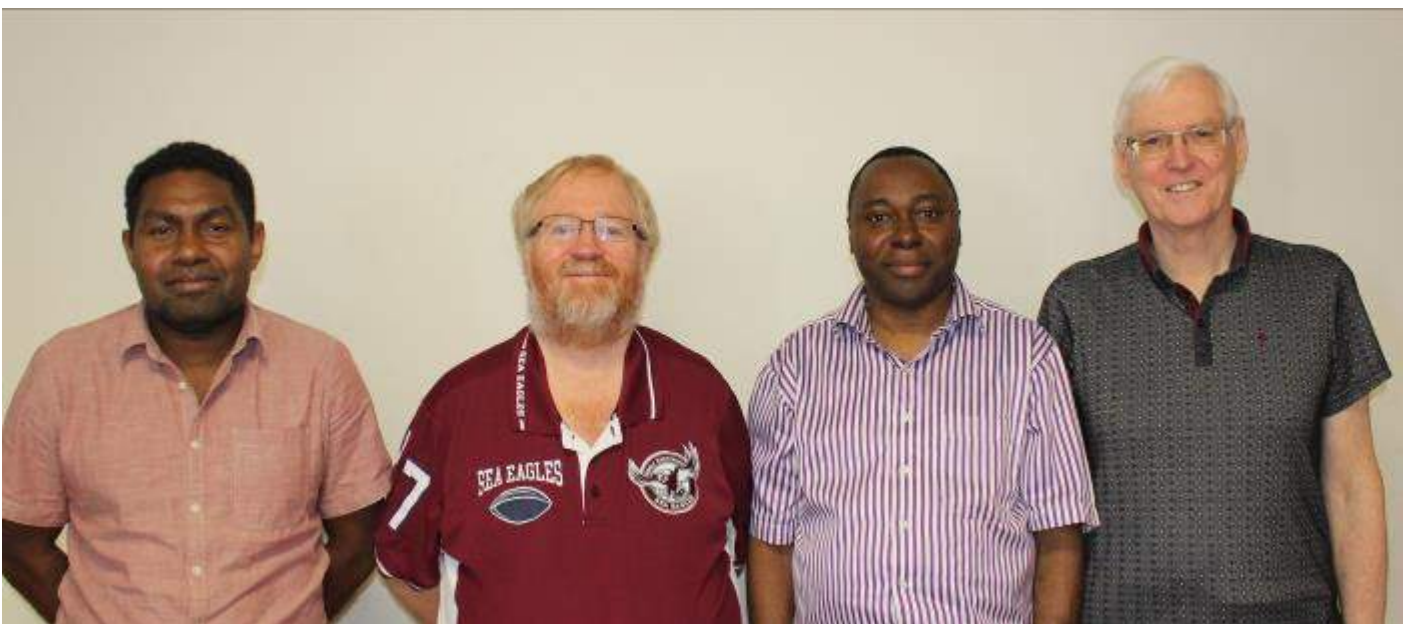




3rd Year Theology Kenneth

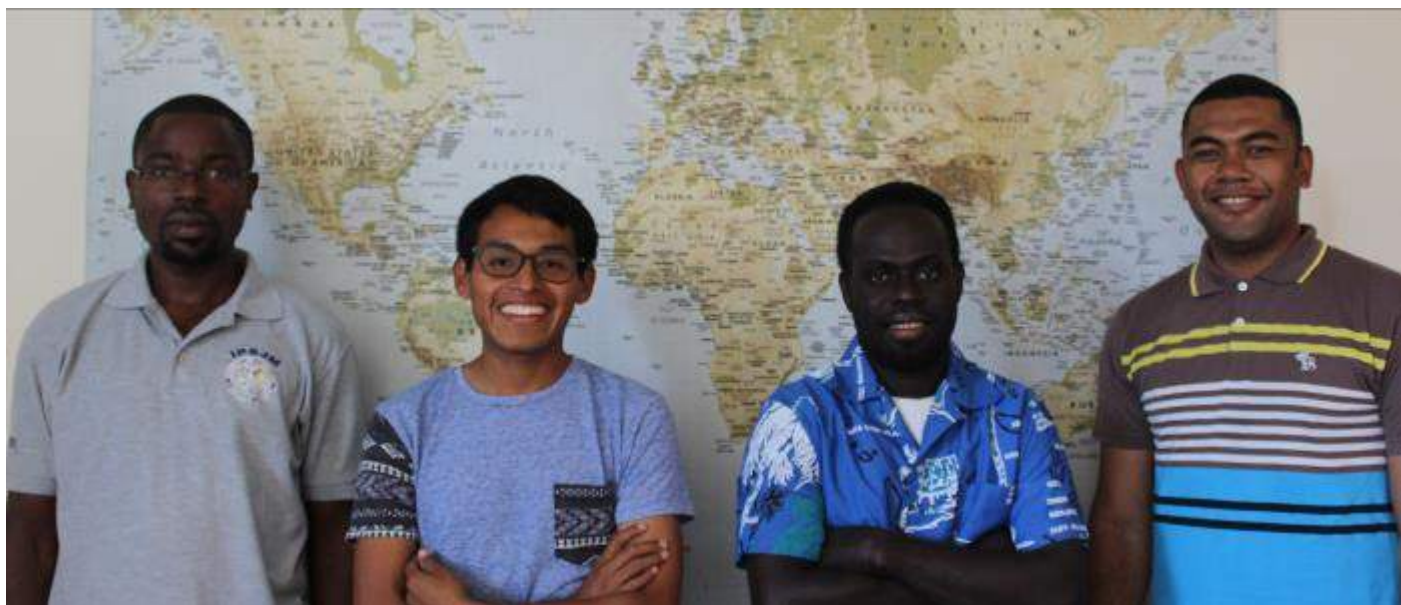


**1st Year Theology
Gabriel, Etienne, Charles, Hayden**



The Formation Team

Fr. Patrick Worja Bursar (Solomon Islands), Fr. Tony Kennedy Superior (Australia), Fr. Albert Kabala Vice-Superior (Congo), Fr. Larry Duffy Dean of Studies (Ireland).



New members of our community

Left to right: Yves Beranger (Cameroon), Jaime Perez Martinez (Mexico), Cameron Mota (Bougainville), Iosefo Amuri (Fiji).



2nd Year Theology

Guy, Leandro, Stev, Ricardo, Ben, Floyd and Samu



Daniela, Larry e Mena



Josephine e Mena

**Institution of the ministry of acolyte and lector.
Instituição do ministério do acolitado e do leitorado.**



Br. Ben being instituted as an Acolyte



Br. Etienne being instituted as a lector.

**Br. Yves, recently arrived from Cameroon, was
the Mass server.**



Gabriel becoming a lector



Gathering for a photo with the new acolytes and lectors. Fr. John Larsen was the main celebrant.



Thank you



Graffiti on a Roman street

