

Teologato Internazionale Marista, Roma

Casa Di Maria

LA SORGENTE

Bullettino

Giugno 2022



Casa di Maria June 2022

Back: Godlove, Iosefo, Anatole, Lesley, Peter and Jean Paul;

Middle: Yves, Clovis, Sébastien, Larry, Leonard, Clinton and Hemi;

Front: Long, Lewis, Tony, Charles, Robert, Joseph Koffi, Christian, Jaime and Joseph Ondoua.

Founder's thought

When they make profession, Marists declare before the Church and one another their intention to live out their baptism more fully. They choose to follow Christ more closely by a radical commitment to the spirit of the Beatitudes in a community that has one heart and one mind. They consecrate all that they are and have to the service of the Gospel wherever they may be sent in the name of the mission entrusted to the Society.

Const. No. 93

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EDITORIAL

It is always a great thing to render gratitude to God Almighty for his sustaining grace and providence. This academic year has finally come to an end at Casa Di Maria. We thank you all for the rich diverse support you give us, which made the accademic year a fruitful one. A big thanks to those confreres who despite their busy schedule in Marist missions don't forget us. To our benefactors, we can't thank you enough for your generosity.

We are ending this academic year with fraternal love, joy and happiness no matter our differences.

You will find in this edition of our community newsletter, a glimpse of some community events which took place during the second segment of the academic year. It is our own little way of sharing our daily Marist identity. Thanks so much for sacrificing your time to read. God bless you all! Mary be with you! Jean Claude Colin pray for you!

Clovís Gwenchó, SM



2021/2022 ACADEMIC YEAR HAS COME TO AN END

The university exams are finished. The heat of summer has already arrived. We have come to the end of another year at Casa di Maria.

We began the year as a community of fifteen: three priests and twelve seminarians. Carlos left us soon after. Then we expanded in February and March with the arrival of eight new seminarians: three from Oceania and five from the district of Africa: Anatole, Jean-Paul, Joe, Lesley, Leonard, Peter, Robert and Lewis. In our community it pays to be on time for meals – there are plenty of healthy appetites.

For the summer we head in different directions for community and pastoral experiences, language studies and holidays. For the first time in a couple of years we are able travel relatively freely after the restrictions of the last two years. There will be Marists at Sahagún in Spain, Ranong in Thailand, London, Lyon, Dublin, Mexico, Cameroon and Australia, as well as different parts of Italy. Thank you to those Marist communities who are welcoming us.

We say goodbye to our three deacons. We thank them for their service and leadership in the community over the last four years. We wish them well for their future ministry. Sefo and Yves are returning to their units, while Jaime is continuing with his studies for another year here in Rome.

We thank Long for his gentle presence in the community and contribution to the work of formation. He will be living at Monteverde as he continues his Spirituality studies next year.

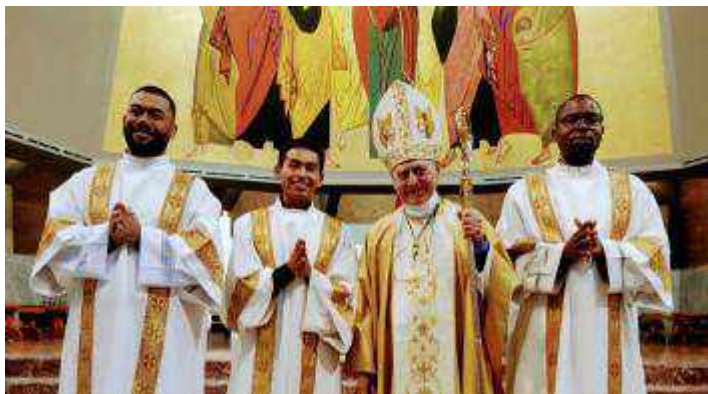


Thank you once again to all those who support our formation community in so many different ways. The prayers and practical support are gratefully received.

Tony KENNEDY, SM

PAROLE DE SAGE: SE TOURNER VERS DE NOUVEL HORIZON

Action de Grâce au Seigneur pour ses bienfaits. En effet, en ce jour pour moi se complète les quatre années de théologie à Rome. Ce fut une belle expérience qui m'a permis de grandir dans la foi. C'est grâce au support avec des frères dans la communauté, des rencontres dans notre environnement que les peurs ont été remplacé par le courage, la détermination et la force de parvenir



à ceux pourquoi nous sommes ici, pour faire. Aujourd'hui je me tourne vers de nouvel horizon, pour affronter les défis pastoraux afin de mieux mettre en pratique à la manière de Marie ce que nous avons appris pendant ses années. Que le



Seigneur nous donne la grâce d'être un bon témoin de son amour parmi les peuples et spécialement les plus démunis.

Yves Tuma, SM



ARRIVAL OF PRE-THEOLOGIAN

In January 2022 we were 14 in Casa di Maria - 11 theologians (three deacons included) and three priests fitting nicely and comfortably in the refectory and community room, with good room for visitors. Then in February the new group of 8 students from Cameroon, Senegal, Fiji, and Papua New Guinea began to arrive.

A flurry of activity preceded their arrival, getting rooms ready, thinking through what it would mean to have an such an increase in members of the community, how to organize a good introductory programme for them, getting more office books etc. Unfortunately, they were not all able to arrive the same day or week, so we had to be flexible in showing them the functioning of the house, finding their way around Rome, introducing them to the first elements of language and culture.

They all felt the cold and the strangeness of so many things, but amazingly they coped very well and thankfully took to the food rather easily. These days they are attending quite demanding classes in the Italian language. It is great to have them here.



The house is a lot livelier, the singing has greater volume, musical talents are on great display. It is so encouraging to have the house full (thanks too to the Italian Marists who have given four rooms of their section of the building.) We are left with only one small visitor's room. It is delightful to see so many from different places and cultures blending so easily very conscious of the Marist spirit and the International mission of the Society.

Larry Duffy, SM

LA RETRAITE A NEMI

Du 18 au 23 Avril 2022, les scolastiques de la maison de formation Mariste Casa Di Maria ont eu leur retraite annuelle au **Centro Ad Gentes** de Nemi.



Ce sont les étudiants de la première à la quatrième année qui ont pris part à cette retraite vu que, nos frères scolastiques nouvellement arrivé devait commencer leur cours d'italien. Je dirais que dans l'ensemble, la retraite

c'est bien déroulé vu que c'est ensemble que nous avons décidé de notre programme de retraite avec Monica qui était là pour nous conduire.

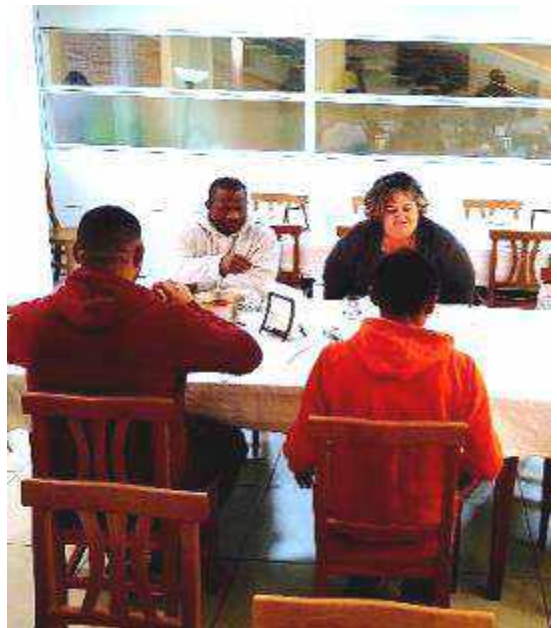


Ainsi, chacun avait son temps de prière personnelle le matin, puis le petit déjeuner, suivit de l'enseignement du jour. Le reste du temps était réservé au silence, la méditation, la réflexion personnelle pour comprendre le projet de Dieu dans notre vie de foi et notre cheminement vocationnel. Les enseignements de Monica nous ont vraiment édifié sur l'aspect de la vie communautaire, celle missionnaire et apostolique à la lumière des Actes des Apôtres qui, sont une partie de sa thèse de doctorat qu'elle a eu l'amabilité de partager avec nous.



La messe clôturait notre journée bien pleine en ressourcement, ce qui nous aidait ainsi à rendre grâce à Dieu pour ses nombreux bienfaits dans nos vies respectives.

Les repas étaient assez satisfaisants pour chacun et on pouvait lire la joie sur les visages des uns et des autres. Cette retraite a aussi été un temps de repos pour les uns et les autres et aussi de pouvoir recharger les énergies pour mieux repartir.



CHRISTIAN NGOURA, SM

COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE DURING EASTER BREAK



Torino: Corso Francia

Per la Settimana Santa e la Pasqua, ero con Joel Sebastien a Torino, alla comunità di Corso Francia e del Santuario N.S di Lourdes. Abbiamo aiutato nelle liturgie pasquali, e abbiamo visto i luoghi e i posti religiosi della città: la Sindone di Torino presso la Cattedrale di San Giovanni Battista, il corpo di Don Giovanni Bosco presso il Santuario di Maria Ausiliatrice, e altri.

È stato un periodo bellissimo e ringraziamo i nostri confratelli e la comunità dei fedeli di Corso Francia per loro ospitalità e il loro sostegno.



Hemí Ropata, SM



Castiglione Fiorentino

This is a very beautiful small town located about three hours away from Rome by train. In this town is found one of our Marist communities with the Superior of the community being Padre Franco. I was privileged to live in this community for a week with my brother Charles. In the community of Castiglione Fiorentino, in addition to Padre Franco, are Antonio, Sergio, Piero, Emmanuele, and Ludovico.



This community is very close to the main Parish called Madonna delle Grazie, which has as Parish Priest

possible way.

The days spent at Castiglione Fiorentino were wonderful. Our experience in this place was very



Father Emmanuele.

On our arrival, we were taken by Ludovico for a walk in the hills. It was a beautiful moment and the view from the top of the hills was fantastic.

The vast extension of olive and grape plantations could easily be noticed. It was a long but enjoyable walk.

While at Castiglione Fiorentino, there were three main activities we participated in. The very first one was the stations of the cross with the children in the hills around the parish. It was an amazing experience. While doing the stations of the cross with the children, it was an opportunity for us to reflect on the child-like spirit which the gospel talks about.

Secondly, we were happy to assist Padre Emmanuelle in the blessing of houses and the easter eggs. This practice is the tradition in this locality. It was a very simple thing to do but at the same time very heavy because there were so many houses to visit and to bless.

Lastly, the peak of all the activities was the Paschal Triduum. During this period, we were mostly with Padre Antonio. Being with him too was a beautiful moment. We saw how important it is to have pastoral strategies that take into consideration the fragility of the Christians or which are adapted to realities on the field. As a pastor one should be able to be very close to the sheep, to understand and help them in the best



positive. The environment was very friendly, and we loved spending some time at the veranda found on the terrace of the community building. There, we could observe in silence the beautiful sky, the birds and listen to their beautiful music while feeling the nice gentle breeze that blew time and again, particularly in the mornings.

GODLOVE NGWESE NDEMA, SM

Pratola Peligna is a municipality and a town in the Province of L'Aquila in the Abruzzo region of Italy. The Marist Fathers have been ministering there since 1924, which means that in two years' time they will celebrate the first centenary of their active presence in the parish which has a particular devotion to "Maria Santissima Della Libera".



It was in this community that Clovis and I spent the Holy Week. There are five Italian Marist confreres in the community. It was a privilege for us to live with them; three of them were in the same novitiate many years ago. The dynamics of the community have inspired me to appreciate my Marist vocation in a different way.

Despite the busy schedule of the parish, the community remains a very prayerful community. Three times a day we gathered for the morning, noon and evening prayers. Morning and evening prayers are held in the parish church with the Christians and especially the lay Marists. There is an active group of lay Marists in the parish, and we had the opportunity to share a cup of coffee and get to know each other during our stay.



Being in Rome where there is almost never snow, it was in Pratola Peligna that I had my first contact with snow thanks to Father Renato who took us up into the mountains at about 1500 metres above sea level just to show us the snow. Clovis and I threw handfuls of snow at each other.

During our stay, we took part in the Good Friday procession late in the evening, which lasted about two hours. On Easter Sunday there was a shorter procession to mark the meeting between Mary and the risen Lord. Both processions were so

beautiful and there were so many Christians taking part. We were told that it was nothing compared to the great procession of the Madonna Della Libera. Unfortunately, we left a few days before the famous celebration and procession. Hopefully, we will return one day to experience this beautiful devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary by the people of Pratola.

In summary, our stay in Pratola was a time not only to discover the work that Marists do among the people but also to allow ourselves to be challenged by the witness of our senior Marist confreres.



Clinton ASUNKWAIN KUBE, SM



Torino: Moncalieri

La Settimana Santa, un periodo importante nella Chiesa per la celebrazione del mistero pasquale, è stato un momento in cui abbiamo trascorso del tempo con le diverse comunità mariste italiane per familiarizzare con i sacerdoti maristi italiani e anche per aiutarli nel loro lavoro pastorale durante questo periodo molto spesso impegnativo per loro.



Christian e Joseph

Ho trascorso questo periodo a Moncalieri, a Torino, con un mio confratello. Abbiamo partecipato alle attività della comunità in occasione delle celebrazioni pasquali. È stato anche il momento in cui i padri ne hanno approfittato per raccontare un po' della storia della creazione delle comunità mariste italiane, del



viaggio del venerabile padre Jean-Claude Colin e dei suoi compagni in italiano e per farci visitare tutti gli angoli della città e rinnovare il nostro contatto con la lingua italiana.

È stata una bella esperienza, soprattutto nella conoscenza del luogo che ci ha accolto, con passeggiate e piccoli giri in auto e anche la visita di alcuni edifici ecclesiastici. Il momento ideale è stato quello della condivisione tra le due comunità dei Padri Maristi di Torino e da questo ci hanno trasmesso il calore della vita marista.

Joseph Koffi ADJOKPA, SM



COMMUNITY AMBIENCE

We are very grateful for each one of us as a gift to the society and the church. In the formation program at Casa di Maria we learn to study, pray and live together as brothers from different nations, cultures, languages and experiences. In the formation program we learn to be more responsible and mature in our faith and love of God, and in our relations with each other in the community.



Our formators are here to guide us along the path to be a good religious Marist and to become good future priests by the grace and help of God. Yes, only God knows our future and he knows our strengths and weaknesses. But if we put our trust in him, he will lead us always in the path of truth and life. Therefore these pictures highlight our lifestyle in the formation community at Casa di Maria.

Charles SANGUL, SM

We are always making an effort to build ourselves in the different aspects of life. These include community life, spiritual, academic, human and pastoral.

LEARNING ITALIAN LANGUAGE

Over the years of formation, we've seen how important language is for us, especially as hopeful missionaries, looking to share "the Good News" to the ends of the earth. Approaching Pentecost, one can only wish to be granted the 'gift of tongues' instantly, without having to go about the struggles of learning a language foreign to our own. Yet, experience tells us 'In your dreams' and that we have to carry a bit of the Cross so as to be able to do so.

With humility and with the hope of becoming bearers of 'the Word', 8 of us 'pre-theologians' (as our brothers like to call us) were given the opportunity to learn this foreign yet 'Bellissima lingua'. It should take us 3 months and as I put this article to paper, 2 months have passed and we are already looking forward to our one-week break.

We have the privilege of having Ms. Silvia as our language teacher who has had the experience of

working with some of our confreres since the beginning of the international theologate. As an English speaker it felt like trying to without any prior lessons but with her vast experience, she slowly helped us adventure into this foreign language.

Thanks to our Italian confreres as well, we have

the privilege of studying just steps away from Casa di Maria without having to worry about walking up the small hill to Piazza Bologna for classes. This also gives us the opportunity to enjoy our short breaks in the comfort of our

own refectory. As of now, though little, we can slowly start interacting with locals and we can only hope to get better as the years go by.



Peter MATAKARAWA, SM

HOSPITALITY: A MARIST WAY

In this way, liberated from undue self-concern, they will be useful to others and do great things for God.

Constitutions SM.

Generosity of heart, fraternal charity in Jesus, sociability and preferential option for the little ones, hospitality in the image of Christ and the Virgin Mary : these are the motives that enable the Marists to always open their doors to welcome everyone, foreign or not.



Our International Marist Theologate community bears

so well its name : Casa di Maria. The House of Mary is a benevolent and generous home. We are always happy to welcome our brothers and sisters who joyfully manifest the desire to visit us. The house of Mary will always remain open to manifest to all men and women the benevolent love of Christ in the way of Mary our Perpetual Superior.

JOËL SÉBASTIEN, SM

FIRST HOLY WEEK IN ROME

During Holy Week, the senior students went to Marist communities in other parts of Italy and the pre theology students remained in the house because they were still taking Italian lessons. They were asked to help animate the mass at the Saint Francesca Cabrini parish, which is looked after by our Marist confreres, and also we were asked by the Ursuline sisters to sing and serve at the liturgies in their chapel during the Triduum. Deacon Yves and two others served at the Saint Francesca Cabrini parish.

This was the first Holy week for us in Rome given that we had just arrived. It's a new experience as we hailed from different parts of the world namely Oceania and African



Proclamation of the Passion on Good Friday

countries, whereby churches are always crowded and you can and could feel the spirit of the Holy week since every events are usually dramatized by the parishioners. However it was a very different experience here where

you find only a few people in church, and the mass was really calm and simple. We felt that this was a reflective atmosphere whereby it allowed us to reflect on our spiritual journey and our journey of faith from the forty days of Lenten season.

**CHRIST HAS TRULY RISEN,
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA.**

Jean Paul DIEME, SM

Leonard AMORA, SM



PASTORAL EXPERIENCE AT ROMA TERMINI

Termini is a place in the centre of Rome which contains a train station, a large bus station, shops and boutiques. It is a place where a lot of commercial activities take place and the starting point of a lot of transport and tourism activities. It can be considered as the centre of Rome. It is in this place, this crossroads of busy people, often hastily vacant to their multiple occupations, that there is a destitute people, a vulnerable minority of homeless people.

They are men and women on the margins of society who live outside, around the strong and shiny walls of the buildings of Termini. It is towards this people, made up of several races and religions: whites, blacks, Indians, Arabs, Christians, Muslims and of several nationalities from Africa, Europe and Asia, that some Marist scholastics of Casa di Maria for their pastoral work. Note that this pastoral was initiated by a Marist Father, Albert Kabala, a student in Rome a few years ago. Since then, the idea crosses the ages and becomes one of the priority pastoral activities of the Marist scholasticate.

We bring our brothers and sisters from Termini, some food, coffee, tea and sometimes some clothes to protect themselves from the cold when they ask and when it is possible. Alongside this material support, we also provide them with spiritual, psychological and moral support. We do not claim to solve their problems because there are competent authorities responsible for this, but we provide them with a little support as far as possible by listening to them, paying attention to them, by offering them part of our time. They are proud to share their difficulties, their daily lives and their travels. We listen, sympathize and encourage them. It may happen that one day a person does not want to open up, discuss or receive what we offer them. Mood swings are something to be expected from experience. They are lost in their thoughts, gnawed by pain, and sometimes,



in a psychological state that remains to be desired. This is what we experience from time to time when we are on the street. In these cases, we cannot force, we simply continue our journey. Some can be very aggressive, but we understand that it is their frustration that they release and feel happy in the minutes that follow.

This pastoral care allows us to grow more in humanity and to have a more open mind, to see what the Marist mission can look like today and the challenges that await us in the field of the mission as Marist missionaries. It allows us to find ourselves in the heat of the action and to have a little experience of it, to touch with our finger a part of the mission of the Society of Mary. May Mary make us missionaries according to the heart of God.

Robert Bdjeck Etene , SM

Anatole Colbert Kanform, SM



INTEGRATING AND DISCOVERING ROME

Integration is a key element in our formation process. It is the way for us to benefit from the experience of the elders. We are eight newly professed Marists who joined the international theologate this year: namely: Leonard, Lesley, Peter, Joseph, Lewis, Jean Paul, Robert and Anatole. We found the house prepared for us and our confreres wanted to make us feel at home. *Casa Di Maria is a Nazareth*, the place where we are actually learning new skills and developing the old ones in order to fulfil the will of God in mission.

For our studies



Some useful tools to keep the brains awaken



Italian classes

Our formators made it possible for us to follow the footsteps of our venerable founder when he came to Rome

Our Nazareth

It was a Friday morning when we received the list of the places that we had to visit and we were told to use the google map application to find those places.

The first challenge that we encountered that morning was the cold weather because it was still winter. Google maps led us to the different places without great difficulties. One of the most touching moments was the visit to the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. From Fr. Mayet's memories, Fr. Colin was visiting this church on Assumption day then he received the blessings of the Holy Father with those who were there with him. We were amazed by the arts, statues and drawings in the church which some of them are portraying the scriptures. It was a spiritual revitalisation.



Our home is also open to guests

We find our joy in the richness of our differences and the experience of everyone make us more humble and receptive !

*Joseph Ondoua, sm
Lesley Kinani sm*

VISIT TO ORVIETO

Some of the students of Casa di Maria on the 1st of May took a trip to Orvieto. This trip to Orvieto was a moment of relaxation as well as a moment of reflection which help those who were there to grow in their faith. Since it was a Sunday, we started with mass and after, we were able to visit the chapel where the sacred corporal containing the blood of a bleeding Host is kept.

The story behind this is that there was once a priest who doubted the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. One day, while celebrating mass, during the consecration, when he lifted up the Host, it started bleeding. The corporal was conserved and transferred to the cathedral of Orvieto where it has been kept since then.



Apart from being a moment of reflexion where we continue to grow in our faith, it was also a moment of tourism. We visited some churches and some important structures and monuments in Orvieto. It was a great moment and we return with a clear mind and fill with much joy.

LEWIS KUM, SM

Sebastien, Leonard, Joe, Lesley, Godlove (front)

PHOTO ALBUM



Palm Sunday at the Vatican with Joel from Canada



The new lectors



Clinton: our new Acolyte



Godloue, Joseph Koffi, Sébastien, and Clouis renewed their vows.



Pre-Theologians with Superior General



Hemi's birthday celebration



Jaime and Christian with Fr Andrea after Mass at San Leone Magno



Visitation by Christian Abongbung



Seminarians at Casa di Maria

Back: Hemi, Lesley, Clovis, Robert, Anatole, Joseph Koffi, Peter, Yves and Jaime

Middle: Sébastien, Godlove, Clinton, Lewis and Jean Paul

Front: Christian, Leonard, Joseph Ondoua, Charles and Iosefo

Friendly football match against some youth from Santa Francesca Cabrini Parish.



God bless you, Dio vi benedica, Que Dieu vous bénisse, Que Dios te bendiga

God bless you, Dio vi benedica, Que Dieu vous bénisse, Que Dios te bendiga