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**Casa di Maria newsletter
June 2023.**



EDITORIAL

Another academic year has come to a close. Summer has finally arrived here in Rome. The preparations for the summer have begun. Thank you to those Marist communities who will welcome seminarians over the summer break. This summer there will be Marists at Sahagún in Spain, Ranong in Thailand, Notre Dame de France in London, Dublin, Vanuatu, Cameroon, Senegal, New Zealand and Australia. We are grateful to those communities in Italy who welcomed our pretheologians recently. As many young people gather in Lisbon for World Youth Day so too will some of our seminarians. When they return in September we look forward to hearing about the different experiences. We say goodbye to Christian, our deacon, as he returns to Cameroon to take up full time ministry. Thank you for your presence and example in our community over the last four years. We thank Thilo as well as he departs for a new mission as a formator in the District of Africa. Thank you to all those who continue to support us through your prayers and interest. We continue to remember our benefactors in our prayers.

Grazie.



Tony Kennedy

COMMUNITY LIFE

The community of Casa Di Maria is a living testimony of community life as other Marist communities in the world. The Eucharist, community meetings, mutual consultation and help, social time, meals, hospitality, sport, cultural richness, talents, etc. make life worth leaving. Our joy of living together is expressed in our daily lives. We wouldn't survive if not for everyone's diverse aid. Thank you all sincerely for your constant and continuous help toward us all.





**Like the apostles,
moved by the Spirit
and supported by
Mary, they discover
together in faith the
meaning of their
mission.”
*Const. 126.***



HOSPITALITY AT CASA DI MARIA.

As Christians, we know being hospitable is welcoming Christ and not the person whom we see. At Casa di Maria here in Rome, we are very conscious of that as our superior Father Tony constantly reminds us not to leave strangers alone but to surround them with our simple presence and interest in them.



STUDIES

Another year of academic studies has gone by fast, just like the fast trains that we watch day in and day out from our house at Casa di Maria. Some of us just settling in, some on full stride and one on the last lap to finish the 4-year theological studies program, which is our priority here. It has been and continues to be a privilege to be exposed to the vast knowledge and ideas we encounter in the respective universities we attend despite the difficulties that come along side it. We have met and made new friends and slowly Rome is becoming a home for us.



The Society of Mary desires to bring salvation to all. It cannot achieve its mission unless its members are thoroughly equipped, intellectually as well as spiritually. They must apply themselves diligently to the acquisition of learning and the skills required for the work of Mary.

Const. 26.



PASTORAL EXPERIENCE

Apart from studies we do pastoral work in places where we have been assigned to. The Pastoral work helps us to integrate into our life and put into practice what we learn from the classroom. It also makes us aware and connect to the society that we are part of. More importantly this pastoral work prepares us with experience and lessons for the future ministry. “Our presence matters in the society”. The photos below show some of the pastoral work we involved this semester.





ITALIAN CLASSES



For three months, we attended Italian language classes. It was an amazing experience! We tried to learn, understand but especially enjoy our time there. We discovered a new way of communicating, this time in another language. The language was a big challenge. It's a language with plenty of exceptions. Yet, it was beautiful to have the opportunity to meet people from other countries. People from around the world who have come from different religions, cultures and ways of living. This time of learning was an opportunity to live our religious life in a unique environment.

By Pre-theologians.



HOLY WEEK CELEBRATION



CORSO FRANCIA (TORINO)

Holy week was again celebrated in a special way in Casa di Maria. Students of Casa di Maria join the other Italian communities and confrères to celebrate the Holy Week. This moment allows the students to experience mission work in apostolic communities in Italy. The celebration was good with full engagement of the seminarians in, Pratola, Torino, Castiglione Fiorentino and Rome. Below are photos of some of the activities.



PRATOLA



MONCALIERI (TORINO)

RETREAT AT NEMI

The retreat at Nemi was a moment we needed to refresh our inner connection with God after a semester of studies. Each one of us, after the excitement of the trip and the amazement of the environment, on our own, we started focussing on what was really important for us in those silent days: Jesus Christ, the heart of our faith. The preachers and nature were in harmony to help that renewal of the communion with Jesus. The retreat was preached by our confreres, Fr Guy Roger and Fr Paul Molbwet.



JESUITS VS MARISTS (FRIENDLY ENCOUNTER)

On 30 April 2023, a friendly match was played between the Jesuit International College and the Marist International Theologate at the Saint Frances Cabrini Parish (Marist Parish) in Rome. The Marist Theologate was in the lead in the first half of the match, but the tide turned in favour of the Jesuits in the second half after they had dominated their opponents in the first half. The game ended with a 5-2 victory for Jesuit.

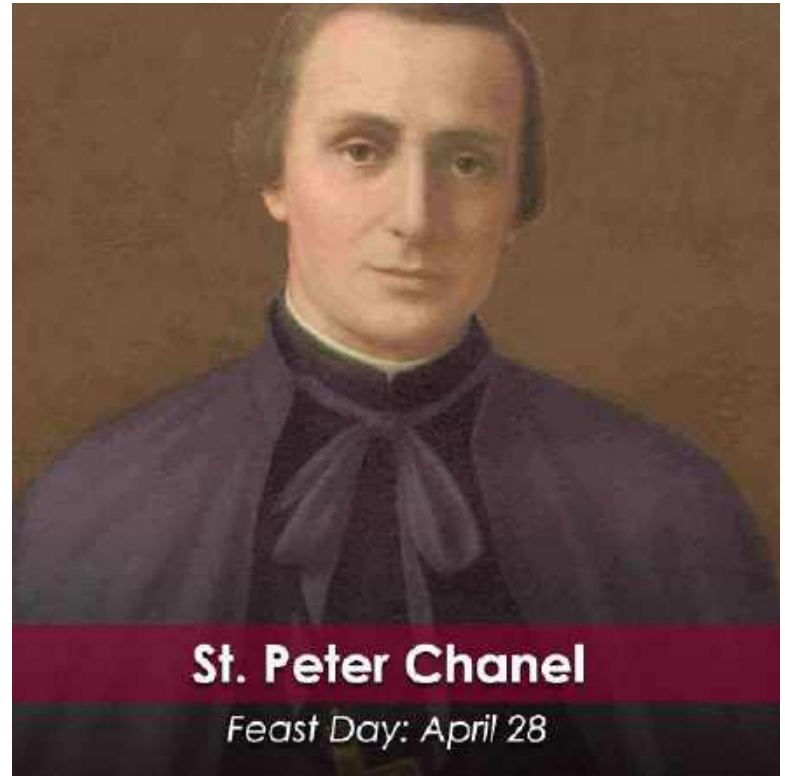
After the game, we all gathered in the dining room of Casa di Maria where we had a festive meal to celebrate both the victory and the fraternity. The Jesuits were accompanied by one of their formators and all the formators at Casa di Maria were present. Father Tony Kennedy, Rector of the International Marist Theologate, warmly welcomed the guests and was himself involved in preparing the meal, which was joyfully shared at the end. As the Marists are good hosts, there has already been a request for more games with the Jesuits, not because they are sure to win again, but because Mary treated Jesus well after the game.

I want to say that Mary (Marists) wanted Jesus (Jesuits) to go home happy. The pictures speak for themselves. We thank the Jesuits for coming, which preserves the spirit and admiration of our Founder, Venerable Jean Claude Colin, towards the Society of Jesus.



CELEBRATION OF ST PETER CHANEL FEAST DAY

It was with great joy that the Marists of Rome gathered around the Superior General on June 29 to celebrate the feast of Saint Peter Chanel. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Father Setefano Mataile and animated by the seminarians of Casa di Maria, in the presence of several guests among whom, the Marist Brothers and Sisters, the Ambassador of New Zealand in Italy, and several friends of the Marists.



JEAN COSTE PRIZE

The ninth annual Coste Prize in honour of Jean Coste sm organized by Rita Pomponio, a great admirer of Jean Coste since her youth, was held at the University of Rome, Tor Vergata on 25 May. Hundreds of children and youth, mainly from the peripheral areas of Rome who had done projects on their area were present and received prizes. This year also university students and professors were involved.

The Minister of Culture was present along with the President of the university. Through the work of Rita a significant number of school children know about Fr. Coste and the Marist Fathers. It was interesting to discover that Fr. Coste's work on Roman archaeology is still used in universities here and he is a recognized figure in that world.



FOUR YEARS EXPERIENCE AT CASA DI MARIA

How time flies... I remember when I arrived in Rome in June 28, 2019. It was Father Paul Walsh who picked me up at the airport, because the confreres were taking the ministries that day. This was just after finishing the philosophical studies in Cameroon. Now I have completed four years of Theology here in Rome: three years at the Gregorian University to complete a baccalaureate in Theology and now I have finished the first year of a license in formation of formators and vocation animation at the Salesianum University. I would like to encourage others to consider some of the specializations that the Salesianum offers, since in essence, we are educators.

These four years have allowed me to live a new Marist community experience each year by passing through the COVID health crisis. In the wake of this, I discovered Italy and some of the missions there and many more Marist missions in Spain and France in the footsteps of our origins and foundation.

As for my formation journey, I received the minor orders (lectorate and acolyte), the perpetual vows in October and the diaconate last January.

These four years, spent in Rome, have been very beneficial and intense for me in the sense of self-knowledge, community life, my prayer and spiritual life, my pastoral life in Termini with the migrants and in San Leone Magno at the school run by the Marist Brothers. I could not leave this little reflection without saying that the preparation for the mission was effective during this time of formation here in Rome. Also, it is for me the occasion to say thank you to the formators who have always been there to help us become responsible in all circumstances.

BY CHRISTIAN



FEAST OF STS PETER AND PAUL AT THE VATICAN



DEACON CHRISTIAN CARRYING THE PALLIUMS



ACOLYTES AND LECTORS AT CASA DI MARIA



FR TONY CELEBRATING



FR LARRY PREACHING



READINGS



JOE RECEIVING THE
MINISTRY OF LECTOR



CHARLES RECEIVING THE
MINISTRY OF ACOLYTES



LECTORS



ACOLYTES



SOME GUESTS AND MARISTS
CONFRERES

RECEPTION

