



CASA DI MARIA NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2024



“ONE HEART AND ONE SOUL” (ACTS 4:32)



«THINK, JUDGE, FEEL AND ACT LIKE MARY»



We are now a community of 23 professed Marists: 3 priests and 20 seminarians. We come from 12 different nations united in our commitment to the Society of Mary.

We are grateful for the support that helps us in so many different ways. Thank you for the prayers and encouragement wherever you may be.
Fr Tony Kennedy sm



On January 5, 2024, Lewis, Robert, Jean Paul, Leonard, Lesley, Charles, Joseph Arnaud and Hemi renewed their vows.

This ceremony was preceded by a silent prayer day. It was a time for personal evaluation, a time of silence to listen to God speak to us, a time to taste God, a time to stop after the great excitement of the Christmas and New Year celebrations. The mass was celebrated by the superior of the community who received the vows.

STUDIES

The tradition of singing Christmas melodies from the various continents in the quadrangle of the Gregorian University in the breaks between classes dates back to 1954. It has always been a much-awaited moment and a strong opportunity to grow as a community, as many alumni remember so many years later.

Fr Larry and of Sr Marie Joseph (of the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary of Yaoundé-Cameroon), added to our voices as well as some of the student priests. We expressed the cultural diversity of our countries of origin, in the unique spirit of Mary who unites us.



Blessing of the Christmas crib at the Pontifical Gregorian University



A MARIST AND COMMUNITY LIFE AT CASA DI MARIA

In this academic year 2023-2024, the Casa di Maria formation community has twenty-three members, of whom three are formators and twenty are students. IT IS the largest and most diverse Marist community in the world. We come from twelve different countries: Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Cameroon, Senegal, Togo, Ireland, Brazil and Mexico. Now, what awaits everyone in such a community rich in cultural diversity?

First of all, we must say that diversity also passes through the singularity that we are. Each one of us has his or her own way of being and living, and that finds in the common Marist vocation an impetus to go beyond one's self and discover the beauty of a journey made at the same time alone and with others.

There is another aspect of diversity, less known to us, but not less important. It is the diversity of Marist ways of being. Within our congregation, there are so many different ways to live the same spirit, the spirit of Mary. It is the way in which the Marist charism has sought to enculturate in Africa, the Americas, Oceania, Asia and Europe. It is equally the legacy of the early Marist missionaries who sought to create a Marist way of living according to the culture that is being evangelized. We are a house with open doors and windows, not only in the sense of welcoming those who arrive, as a true house of Mary must be, but also in the sense of the freedom of self-formation

according to the action of the Holy Spirit.

Just like in every human endeavour, there are difficulties. What for us is a challenge of growth through solitude and sharing in the community, can also become a detachment from our family and cultural roots. There is at a given point, a part of each one of us that seeks out our mother's cooking, the silent company of our father, the quarrels and frank conversations with our blood brothers, the time with our childhood friends.

We all have roots that tell us who we really are, and that is beautiful. Like the fruit tree, the greatest challenge for the members of such an international community is to find the right balance between the conservation of their origins which take the necessary nutrients from the earth and the multiplication of the ever-new and different fruits, which makes the Marist community a beautiful and healthy garden.

Fr Lauro, SM



DIVERSIFIED PASTORAL EXPÉRIENCES

During his audience with the Roman Pontifical Universities and Institutions on 25 February 2023, attended by students, lecturers and employees of the institutions involved, Pope Francis mentioned the need for students, and especially seminarians, to be involved in pastoral ministry, making good use of the variety of pastoral experiences offered by the Church in Rome.

That is exactly what the seminarians at the International Marist Theologate. There are a variety of expérences being undertaken, from prison ministry to visiting the sick and the homeless, from caring for the elderly to catechetical education for young people.

We experience the needs of the people of God whom we are called to serve, with Mary as our model.

Joël EYANGO, SM



Pastoral care with migrants at Centro Astalli



Pastoral in Termini with refugees



THE SPIRITUAL LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY

Spiritual life is the core and the centre of our daily lives as a religious community. It is often centred on the private and community prayers, like meditations and other forms of spiritual practices. It is about creating an environment where all community members come together to worship, learn and support each other to grow together in faith. In a religious community the main purpose is to grow together in faith.

For me this is the thing I like about community life because it helps me to see beyond my own spiritual struggles and to learn and get support from others. I wouldn't grow by myself because I would be stuck on my own. But, it is through others that I am growing in my spiritual life, bit by bit.

In conclusion, spiritual life in the community is a way of living that emphasizes the importance of connecting, meaning, and purpose. It is about finding a sense of belonging and the support we need to grow in our faith.

Hansford Mane, SM



FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT AT IRISH COLLEGE

We took part in the annual Fr. Ragheed Ganni Memorial 5 a side football tournament against other seminarians at the Irish College in early December. Servant of God Fr Ragheed Ganni was a Chaldean Catholic priest from the Diocese of Mosul in Iraq. When he was studying in Rome he was a resident of the Irish College. He and three subdeacons were martyred in Mosul after celebrating mass in June 2007.

The Casa de Maria team was well prepared physically and spiritually. The 9 competing teams were divided into 3 pools. We played two games: winning one and losing the other. We were then in another pool of the 3 second placed teams to determine the 4th semifinalist. We won one game and drew the other but that was not enough to qualify for the semifinals.

So we ended up 5th on the day. Jean Paul was the referee for the final. Our lunch was the traditional Irish stew. We really enjoyed the day and hopefully we will come back stronger and better next year.

Manuele Botabua, SM



PERPETUAL VOWS

On September 30th, 2023, the perpetual profession of our senior student, Clinton Kube took place at the General House. Members of the different branches of the Marist family were present, along with classmates and friends from many different nations.

The Mass was celebrated by the Superior General who received the vows of Clinton Kube. The official witnesses were Ron Nissen sm from Australia and Faustino Ferrari sm from Italy.



PERPETUAL VOWS



Some of the musicians from Casa di Maria



Clinton with Albert, the major superior of Africa



Josephine



Mena and Daniele

DIACONATE ORDINATION



On Sunday October 22, 2023, at Santa Francesca Cabrini parish in Rome, next door to Casa di Maria, the diaconate ordination of Clinton took place. Archbishop Paul Martin sm, bishop of Wellington in New Zealand, was the celebrant. Archbishop Paul was in Rome at that time for the Synod on Synodality.

The Superior General and other members of the Monteverde community were present. As well some of Clinton's family were able to be with us for the celebration. Many classmates and friends were present including some from the Cameroonian Priest and Religious group who are living and studying in Rome.

After the liturgy the celebration continued in the parish hall.

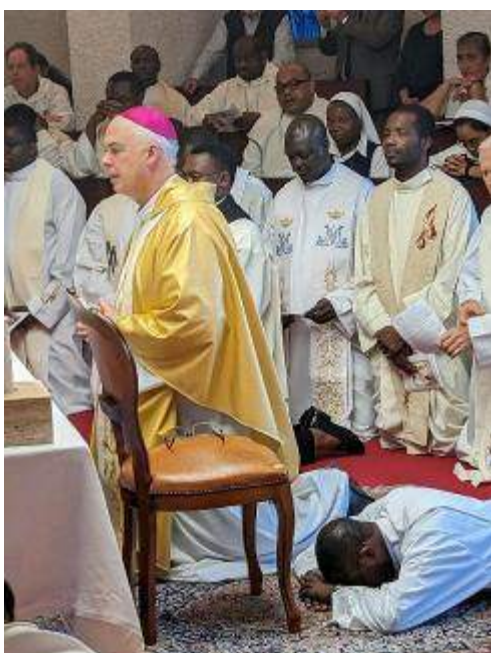
Clinton is currently in the first year of a license in Church History at the Gregorian University.



Some of Clinton's Family



Clinton's aunt reading at the ordination mass



MY SUMMER EXPERIENCE IN IRELAND

As it is customary, after the first year of theology, we are sent to different countries for the summer experience. This year, Robert and I had the grace of having our experience in Ireland.

My time in Ireland was a remarkable and very enriching experience. First, we must note the warm welcome of the community of Coolock Village. A community that made a great impression in my life because we experienced fraternal love, joy, affection, and attention. This stay permitted me to see that the confreres need people to support the mission. Among other things, I was very impressed by the dedication of the confreres to the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday during which they pray for vocations.

Apart from this, we must also note that, the great cold and the rain disturbed us a lot. During our stay, we had one month of English classes at Delphin Center School, two weeks of pastoral care at Capuchin Center Day, a center where we took care of the needy. We also had some travel moments: we visited Killarney, a mountain area, and Knock where once was an apparition.

Dieme Jean Paul Dominique, SM



In Killarney



In the mountains at Killarney



Maria Pia from Spain, a class mate at Delphin's English school



Helping at Capuchin Day Center



Celebration of the Holy Name of Mary

SUMMER PASTORAL IN SAHAGUN, SPAIN

I was in Sahagun for my summer pastoral along with Anatole. The community is made up of four energetic and enthusiastic members: Fr Antonio Fernàndez, Fr Daniel Fernàndez and Fr Cormac McNamara and Brother John McAllister.

I was really fortunate to be part of this team in the ministry of welcoming the pilgrims and in some extra activities for the pilgrims, for example serving at Mass, leading session of sharing experiences of the commino, in addition preparing dinner for the pilgrims.

The ministry they are involved in, is receiving pilgrims to the Albergue on the Camino di Santiago. The main purpose of us being in this ministry is to be the presence of the Church with the spirit of Mary in the Camino. The hospitality provided here is humble and family-like. And like St Benedict said *"All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say; I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Mt 25:35).*

Leonard W. Amora, SM



Having dinner with the pilgrims



The Community of Sahagun

Antonio, John, Anatole, Leonard, Cormac, Dani

SUMMER PASTORAL IN LONDON, ENGLAND

Joe and Lewis from Casa di Maria joined the Marist community in Notre Dame de France in London for a two month pastoral experience. It was a moment for them to participate in the life of the community and also in the pastoral care in Notre Dame de France.

This included working in the Notre Dame refugee center and the Saturday weekly sandwich service to the homeless. They also went with Father Pascal Boudin, we accompanied the young people from Notre Dame through the camino in Spain and the World Youth Day in Portugal.

Over the summer a number of parish pastoral activities close down as people are away but we were fortunate to be present for the launching of the new academic and pastoral year.

Mvo Lewis Kum, SM



Camino in Spain

SUMMER PASTORAL AT HOME (CAMEROUN)

Clovis and Godlove had their holidays in Cameroun and their pastoral experience was at our Marist parish of St Anne's Obili in Yaoundé.

They served in turns in the parish secretariat, and also assisted at many parish events.

They were present for some marriages, baptisms, confirmations, teachings, Father Yves Tuma's birthday and most especially the ordination of Christian NGOURA by the Auxiliary Bishop of Ottawa-Cornwall, Yvan Mathieu, SM.

Godlove and Clovis, each preached a retreat to different parish groups: Godlove with the French speaking lectors's group and Clovis with the lay Marists. The Pastoral experience was a very intense and enriching one for them.

After this, they had some time for holidays to spend with family and friends. They spent valuable time with those they could meet. They were happy and are very grateful to the Society of Mary.

Ngwese Ndema Godlove, SM



Clovis on the retreat with young lay marists of Yaoundé



Clovis and the mass servants of Obili (Cameroun)



Godlove in recollection with the English-speaking readers of Obili at Saint Pierre Chanel-Cameroun



PASTORAL EXPERIENCE WITH DIFFERENT CONGREGATIONS

Presence is something very important in our Marist spirituality. Sometimes it is difficult to understand what 'presence' means. However, only through experience can we grow in this difficult yet wonderful way of being 'Marist'.

This summer, we learned how to develop a little bit more on how Mary acts, feels, thinks and judges. Even though we were part of places, where Marist are working, we were still part of them and it was there where we learned how to be present. Above all, how to do the Work of Mary by our presence.

Finally during summer, we were so blessed to receive different Marist guests from around the world. Each of them gave us great support and encouragement to continue our journey and enrich our vocation. We are grateful to all of them.

Eduardo Limón Gutiérrez, SM



MONTH OF DEAD: VISIT TO THE CEMETERY

During November we went to the nearby cemetery to pray for the eternal rest of the confreres who preceded us on the path along which we will all pass. We began with the Eucharistic celebration in honour of the deceased confreres, and particularly those who were buried in this cemetery not far from the Basilica of St Lorenzo.

The mass was presided over by Father Lauro. Some of the confrères from the General House joined us for the occasion. Then we went to visit and pray at the graves. It was there again, a moment to be together as Marists.



Mass in the chapel of the cemetery



Praying at the graves



Departure towards the graves of deceased confreres



A little sharing about the lives of deceased colleagues known by confreres

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT CASA DI MARIA

Our community was responsible for the celebration of Midnight Mass in the Ursuline Chapel. Fr Lauro was the main celebrant. We provided the music and lead the singing as well as serving at the altar. After the mass we joined the sisters for some panetone and spumante.

On Christmas Day after a community mass we gathered for a festive lunch. During the meal there was some entertainment including singing and a reading of a poem by St John of the Cross on the Incarnation.

In the evening we gathered in the community room for the exchange of gifts and some entertainment.

We started with a mini concert of music with instruments, followed by games about the Christmas story, and the living Santa Claus, where each of the

groups in the organizahad to choose a member to serve as Santa Claus, and the members of the group had to decorate him.

It was a lot of fun, an emotional moment. These activities permitted us to create lasting memories and strengthen bonds with each other within our community.

We had a joyous Christmas and enjoyed these moments of conviviality with each other. Happy New Year 2024 to all!

Through the intercession of our Mother and Perpetual Superior, may your past be purified, your present be saved, and your future be blessed.

Badjeck Etene Robert, SM



CHRISTMAS PARTY AT CASA DI MARIA



La Neylière group



CHRISTMAS PARTY AT CASA DI MARIA



Fourvière group



Cerdon group



Belley group



Joy



CHRISTMAS GIFT



OCEANIA

Leonard, Peter, Charles, Manu, Zulu, Lesley, Hansford



AFRICA

Back: Joseph, Joe, Lewis, Jean Paul
Front: Clovis, Clinton, Joel, Robert, Godlove



Joseph, Hemi—NEW ZEALAND



David, Eduardo—MEXICO



Tony - AUSTRALIA



Larry—IRELAND



Lauro—BRAZIL



Même arbre, même branche, même pluie et même soleil, mais chacun à sa particularité... Ainsi est la vie ; On ne mûri qu'en son temps, travaille, prie et patiente, ton temps viendra certainement. Si tu réussis à comprendre cette image, tu as compris la vie.



Formation team with the Superior General



THIRD YEAR OF THEOLOGY

Godlove, Hemi, Charles, Joseph, Clovis, Joel



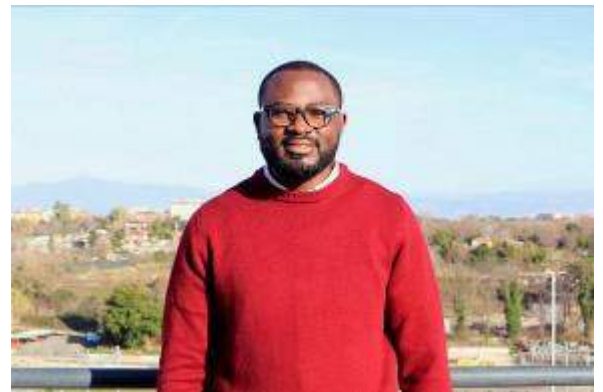
FORMATION TEAM

Lauro, Tony, Larry



SECOND YEAR OF THEOLOGY

Robert, Joseph, Leonard, Lesley, Lewis, Peter, Jean



FOURTH YEAR OF THEOLOGY

Clinton



FIRST YEAR OF THEOLOGY

David, Manu, Hansford, Joseph, Eduardo, Zulu

Pretheologians

Marc, Pascal, Alban

