



SOCIETAS MARIAE



TEOLOGATO INTERNAZIONALE MARISTA



CASA DI MARIA

Newsletter June 2024

As I write this the departures for the summer have begun. There is a lot of excitement in the house. The exams have been completed and everyone is looking forward to the coming few months. All of the Year 1 and 2 seminarians are going home for a holiday and short pastoral experience. There will be much to share when they meet up with confreres and family and friends. It has been a few years for some since they were last in their homeland.

The Year 3 seminarians are off to Spain and France as part of their preparation for perpetual profession which is planned to take place on 28th September and then diaconate ordination a few weeks later with Archbishop Paul Martin sm from New Zealand. They are about to begin the Ignatian exercises: some in Manresa in Spain in English, the others in French at Les Coteaux near Toulouse. They will also have a month at La Neyliere to reflect on our SM Constitutions and charism, visit the Marist places and reflect on various dimensions of religious life.

Thank you for the many good wishes and prayers and support in so many different ways. They are most appreciated.

Tony Kennedy sm



Community life

Casa di Maria is an international multicultural community made up of 27 members from 14 countries and having different languages and cultures. It is a wonderful opportunity to live in such a rich intercultural environment.

We enjoy our Friday evenings which are generally an incredible opportunity for us to know more about each member's place of origin, his culture, food, and his people. Moreover, we also have other opportunities to spend time together through activities like football, having a walk, going to the restaurant, and even pilgrimages and retreats.

Though there are a few challenges in living in such a multicultural community, we are most happy living together as sons of the blessed Virgin Mary for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

Godlove N Ngwese SM

Learning the Italian Language

From March to May, we were given the opportunity to attend Italian language school. This school, which is quite close to our house, welcomes people from across the world who desire to be fluent in Italian.

In fact, the people come to enrol themselves for either one month or two month, three months, etc...it does really depend on the program or period the person wants to learn.



Marc, Lachie, Alban and Pascal

However, for us we had a complete three months to go to this school. And we can honestly confirm that it was a time of richness. Even if learning Italian was challenging to speak in order to settle much better here in Italy, we enjoyed the accompany of the new people we met at school. Despite that we were different from many of them in terms of culture, nationality and belief, that did not matter. We were all enthusiastically open to share with one another about our history, vocation and even the dreams we carry in our hearts for the future.

Pre-Theologians



Alban, Pascal and Marc with some classmates and their teacher.



The front of the Duomo in Orvieto.



Joseph, Alban and Marc exploring the streets of Orvieto.

Saint Peter Chanel Feast day

Like always, the feast of our first Marist martyr, was celebrated at the General House with all the Marist branches present to show our fraternal communion and mission as envisioned by our founders. Present among us as well were some friends and visitors, some of whom came from as far as New Zealand. The mass was celebrated by our Vicar General, Fr John Harhager sm and the homily was preached by the deacon at Casa di Maria, Rev Clinton Kube sm. Our community provided the music and led the singing. We then proceeded on to some nice food and drinks to finish off the day which we really enjoyed.



David and Lesley



The long queue to enter St Peter's Basilica



6 metres of pizza—a hungry community!

Each year on 2nd February we try to go to the Mass at St Peter's Basilica to celebrate the Presentation of Jesus in the temple. This is celebrated by Pope Francis and many religious are present. Afterwards we normally have a meal out in smaller groups. This year two groups ended up at the same restaurant.

First year in the university

Entering Angelicum university was like entering a new world, with a new place and new style of learning. It is one of the well-known universities, dedicated to the study of theology, philosophy and canon law.

The first and foremost thrilling experience was the stunning location, with its beautiful environment located in the heart of Rome, the eternal city. The campus is vast, with green spaces, and full of history, revealing the beauty and splendour of Italian architecture.

Being introduced to studying theology, I had a new style of learning that is disciplined and profound. The curriculum demands that students read extensively and diligently reflect on what has been learned. The academic staff willingly helped make my transition easier and overall, it was a good starting point.

Difficulties are parts of the journey, and I experienced a few challenges, such as language barriers, learning a new culture and interacting with students from diverse backgrounds. However, it was a great way to develop my interpersonal skills, and I was able to seek help from peers and academic staff. Overall, studying at Angelicum university was exciting and the academic challenges helped me to become more efficient, resilient, and a hard worker.

The advantages that come with studying theology at Angelicum university are numerous and endless. For

me, the university has brilliant scholars and academic staff with great qualification and experience. The teachers are always available, punctual, patient and willing to assist students so learning is efficient. The university also has a vast library with numerous resources with which the students can broaden their knowledge. The university also offers exposure and opportunities to discover the catholic faith in a way that enhance not only my academic development but also my spiritual life.

To conclude, the scenery, academic environment, brilliant academic staff, curriculum, and opportunities available are all incredibly challenging and motivation, and I am grateful for the opportunity to study there. It has been an excellent first year of studies, and I look forwards to learning more in the coming years.

Manuele Botabua SM.



It is good to have some visitors

Every end is a new beginning

Four years have passed very quickly, and it is now time to move on and continue my journey in another capacity. The journey of formation to the priesthood, in general, and the Marist life, in particular, demands trust and openness to God, who calls us, and to the formators chosen to guide seminarians on their journey. Mindful of this always, my goal in formation has been to surrender my will to God and to my formators while learning to know myself better, letting go, and letting God.

I have been blessed to be formed in Rome, the heart of the Roman Catholic Church. As I end this stage of my formation, I look ahead with trust and zeal to integrate into my life and ministry all that I have learned during these years. It is not simply the end of another stage of formation, but the end of a new beginning. The quality of my life afterward will affirm the years I have dedicated to being formed.

This is not a moment to make promises, but a moment of gratitude to all those who have supported me on my journey. It is also a time for me to move ahead and continue my journey gently, trusting in God who has called me to do the work of His Son, Jesus, through the gracious choice of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Clinton Kube sm



Prayer Life

Interiority is incarnated in the spirit of prayer and in 'tasting God.' It clothes the Marist as it were in a garment while he carries out his apostolic activities, and it keeps him in constant union with God." (Franco Gioannetti SM "A Spirituality for Our Time: Jean Claude Colin" pg 214, 1st English Edition 1989)

We don't stop praying after we leave the novitiate. The Marist spirituality prepares us to be interiorly ordered toward the other. It is through this stability and deep union with God, that flows through to the people around us in our community, classrooms and pastoral placements.

Joseph Mijares SM.



Annual Retreat

Faustino Ferrara sm preached the retreat after Easter.

Playing football matches against other colleges

The Casa Di Maria football team have been taking part in various football competitions over the last few months. There is an annual competition at the Irish College towards the end of each year. And, just recently we were invited to take part in another competition at the Beda College. In these competitions we played different colleges with players from different countries.

However, apart from these competitions we also hosted some colleges like the Jesuits, Augustinians and the Charity Fathers for a friendly match at our place. The aim of coming together to play a match is not only about winning or enjoying the football but also about sharing our faith with one another. It also gives us the chance to meet and know other religious seminarians from other religious communities and I believe that so far, we are building a good relationship with other colleges through these football matches.

Lesley Kinani SM.



Jean Paul and Godlove



Manu, Lesley and Peter



With the Missionaries of Charity Fathers

Pastoral, what does it mean for a Marist scholastic?

It is the opportunity to continue configuring our hearts to Christ in the way of Mary. Through participating in them with our given personalities and talents, we discover how our hearts are moving and changing. The experiences vary but thanks to these, we learn the ways in which we can participate in the work of Mary.

Eduardo Limon SM



Eduardo at the hospital

Pastoral Experience at Casa di Maria

Our seminarians have a variety of pastoral experiences during their time at the Theologate. Some of these experiences happen during the summers. Others happen each week during the academic year.

A key aspect of their formation is the opportunity to reflect and share with their peers and a formator about their experiences. This happens each week in smaller groups.

There is a ministry of service to the homeless at Termini, where we take some food and coffee to distribute and converse with the people. Some seminarians assist the Missionaries of Charity at their hostel for men. Others volunteer at Centro Astalli with the Jesuits in the centre of Rome.

We have a close relationship with the Italian Marists in the Santa Francesca Cabrini parish which is next door. We join the parish each Monday evening for mass where we lead the singing. Some are involved with the catechetical program on a Sunday morning and one has been taking communion to the sick. Clinton, our deacon, assisted at Sunday masses each week.

Eduardo was recently involved in chaplaincy at a nearby hospital. Joel and Lewis have been part of the team providing pastoral care and catechesis in the prison at Rebibbia.

Some have been involved with young people at San Leone Magno, a Marist Brothers school nearby. This year David and Godlove helped to prepare the children for the sacraments. As well some taught at Marymount International High School which is in our building. It is a bilingual school and it is possible to teach in Italian and English.



5 open packets of sugar!!



The fish waiting while their home is cleaned.

LENTEN PERIOD

Stations of the cross



Pilgrimage to the General House





**Holy Week
Celebrations at Santa
Francesca Cabrini**





SHARING DIFFERENT EVENTS TOGETHER



Joseph and Zulu
with the Marist
community of
Castiglion Fiorentino



Birthday celebrations



New lectors and acolytes, Superior General, formators and Italian confreres from Santa Francesca Cabrini parish: Andrea and Juliano.



**INSTITUTION OF THE MINISTRIES
OF LECTOR AND ACOLYTE**

28th June 2026

Hansford receiving the Scriptures as lector



Robert receiving the chalice as acolyte

Preparing the food: Joseph and Hemi