

LA SORGENTE

Bollettino del Teologata Internazionale Marista Marzo 2022

Bulletin of the Marist International Theologate, March 2022



Casa di Maria community January 2022

Back: Clinton, Long, Sebastien, Tony, Larry, Sefo

Front: Joseph, Christian, Hemi, Charles, Godlove, Jaime, Clovis. (Yves was away at that time)

We welcomed seven new Marists to the Theologate during the summer of 2021. Hemi was the first to arrive from New Zealand. Then Joseph, Sebastien, Clovis and Godlove came to us from Cameroon after their profession in June 2021. Charles, who is from Vanuatu, arrived from the Philippines where he had been since his profession in January 2021. Covid! We also welcomed Long to the community from the District of Asia. Long is currently studying Spirituality at the Angelicum.

At the end of the summer we spent some time together reflecting on the many summer experiences before celebrating the perpetual profession in October and then diaconate in November.

The pandemic continues to impact our lives with various restrictions limiting some of our activities. However we are all well and have been very fortunate as a community. We were delighted to welcome some of those coming to the novitiate when they first arrived in Italy. It was good to spend some time with them while they were here in Rome before the novitiate commenced in January.

Sadly the father of Yves, one of our deacons, Michel Wasseu, died suddenly just before Christmas. Fortunately Yves was able to travel to Cameroon to be with his family at that time.

Thank you to all those who continue to support us in so many different ways. We are very grateful. Thank you to Charles and the team who have prepared this bulletin.

Tony Kennedy sm Superior

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Year One with the Superior
Sebastien, Hemi, Clovis, Tony, Charles, Godlove, Joseph

WELCOME BY THE EDITOR (*Charles Sangul, SM*)

On behalf of my brothers at Casa di Maria, Marist International Theologate Community in Rome, we want to convey our gratitude always to God for the graces and blessings in our community. We also extend our thanks to all our Marist confreres out there in the mission and our Benefactors for the prayers and many ways of support. We are 14 members in the community. We had gone through some ups and downs which we took as a learning point. However, we are so glad to present to you a glimpse of how things are going so far. It is our honour and pleasure to present to you from near and far some happenings in our daily lives since last year until now. We hope you can find at least a little of how we live our Marist spirituality and formation in the International Marist Theologate in Rome. Lastly, we acknowledge the experiences we gained from our time of living together.

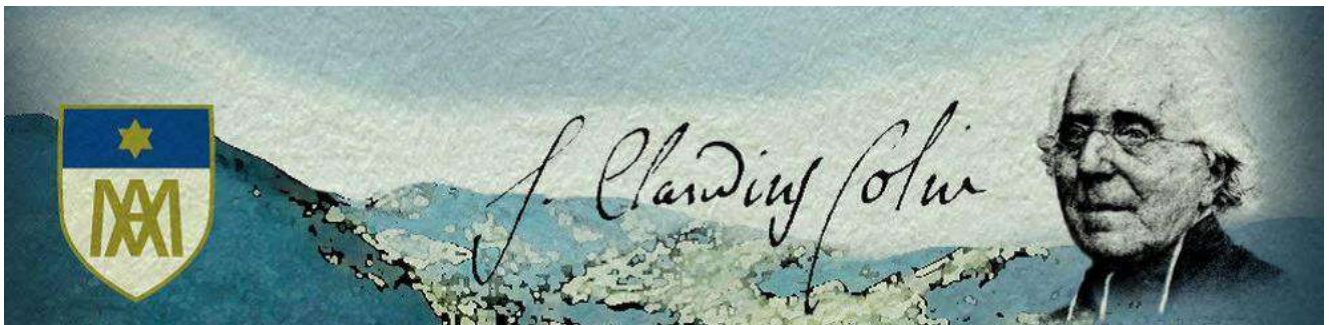


Happy Reading!!!

FOUNDER'S THOUGHTS

Growth and development, human, spiritual, and professional, must continue through all stages of Marist life: a – in daily life: by sharing the situation and tasks of each Marist and of the community, in prayer and in action, in study and in apostolic reflection, and in brotherly challenge as well as recreation these are the everyday conditions of formation; b – during special periods set aside for spiritual growth and conversion, and for updating and developing skills demanded by the apostolate. Such periods are necessary at regular intervals and superiors are to see that all Marists are given the opportunity to avail themselves of them.

Const. No. 84



Godlove



Clinton and Jaime

COMMUNITY PRAYER LIFE

The student in formation paradoxically needs roots and wings in a prayer life. A few brief comments. The students at Casa di Maria have all been in earlier formation for some years and have completed the novitiate, so a good understanding and practice of prayer can be assumed.

Perhaps three short points can be made.

- (1) There is a daily routine of community and personal prayer which focuses on the Eucharist, morning prayer and vespers, and an hour's meditation. This is for the whole community.
- (2) Weekends are looser in structure to give a chance for wider experience and in addition to help with a deeper internalization of the practice of prayer. This is central to formation, as without this personal interiorization, which makes real the value of prayer, we can be left with a superficial conformity, which is rather valueless and does not last long after leaving the formation house.
- (3) Some teaching on prayer is given from time to time to deepen the knowledge already given in the novitiate and to keep some pace with the growing experience of the students, who are also getting some guidance in spiritual direction.



Clovis, Jaime and Godlove leading the singing.

Larry Duffy, SM



Thanksgiving mass for Michel Wasseu, father of Yves.



Dani Fernandez sm from Sahagun with Sefo



IN THE STEPS OF FATHER COLIN (*Godlove Ngwese Ndema, SM*)

On arrival in Rome, on the 4th of July, we had to spend a few days in quarantine before being able to go out around Rome. Unfortunately for some of us, it was not possible to start Italian language classes. As a result, our formators had to come up with some activities that will keep us busy while contributing to our formation. With the help of Fr Larry, we were asked to walk on the steps of Fr Colin. How were we to do that and what was it all about?

Let us remember that the day after their ordination in 1816, Father Colin and companions, at the Shrine of our Lady of Fourvière, made a promise to endure hardships and difficulties so that the project of the creation of the Society of Mary should be a reality. Sometime later, most of them were dispersed in various dioceses and the realization of the project was almost abandoned by many due to the various difficulties encountered except for a few like Fr Colin who kept believing it was the project of the blessed virgin Mary. He even took a vow in 1819 to do everything possible for the establishment of the Society of Mary. While working hard for this project, he had to write some outlines on the Society of Mary that he had to present to the Holy See in Rome. It was therefore for this reason that he arrived in Rome in 1833. When he arrived in Rome, he visited several places. Walking therefore in the steps of our founder in Rome was an activity that consisted of going to some of the places where Fr Colin went to visit and to pray.

To do this, we used the book *Jean Claude Colin in Rome: A Superior General at Work* by Craig Larkin. We used the 3rd option of making this small pilgrimage to Rome found in the book. This was a wonderful experience as we were happy to go to the places where our founder prayed and went to. Here are some of the places we visited.



The Church of the Holy Apostles





The Church of the Immaculate Conception



SOCCER GAME AT THE IRISH COLLEGE ON 20th NOV. 2021

(Clovis Gwencho Nformenteng, SM)

Casa Di Maria was invited to participate in the Fr. Ragheed Ganni memorial 5-a-side football tournament at the Pontifical Irish College on 20th November 2021. Fr Ragheed Ganni was a student at the Irish College for 8 years. After his priestly ordination in 2001, he continued his studies at the same College, and later gained a Licentiate in Ecumenical Theology from the Pontifical University of St Thomas: the Angelicum. In 2003 he elected to return to his home country of Iraq. On June 3rd, 2007, after celebrating Mass, he was murdered along with his three companions, who were subdeacons, one of whom was his cousin. The Congregation for the Causes of Saints just opened the cause of sainthood for he and his three companions.

Ten religious colleges took part in this game. After the elimination phase, we met with the Lombardo at the semi-final and were defeated by one goal to nothing. The Lombardo clashed with the Augustinians in the final and later took the cup. The weather (very cold) served as a stimulus and energy for a good and healthy play.



Ready for the semi final
Back: Clovis, Yves, Clinton, Joseph

We had a good fraternal time not only among ourselves outside the community premises, but also with the different priests and religious who were present. It all ended with a hearty meal of "Irish stew". We returned home very happy and satisfied with no major problems and now, are anxiously waiting for next year's invitation.



Anxious supporters



VISITA ALLA CUPOLA VATICANA

(CHRISTIAN NGOURA, SM)

Quest'anno abbiamo avuto l'opportunità di visitare la Cupola Vaticana. Uno dei nostri fratelli della comunità è stato così gentile da accompagnarci per poter vedere da vicino questo gioiello architettonico. Questo ci ha permesso di andare sulle alture del Vaticano per avere questa vista ineguagliabile, sia dall'interno che dall'esterno.

Abbiamo salito i gradini per scoprire le meraviglie che vediamo qui in foto. Questa visita ci ha anche permesso di stabilire legami di fratellanza e conoscenza reciproca.



Christian, Sefo, Charles and Hemi



Christian, Joseph, Sefo, Clovis and Long



The view from the top by Christian!



Sefo and Long

RENEWAL OF VOWS (Charles Sangul, SM)

I made my First Profession with brother Peter Carde Matakawawa in the Philippines on January 9, 2021. This year marks another journey of living my vow in following Christ Jesus through the humble spirit of our founder, Jean Claude Colin and the blessed Mary our First and Perpetual Superior. I am very grateful to God for this precious gift that He has chosen me to belong to the Marist family. Yet, it is not enough just to belong to the family but to live out the charism of the Marist Spirituality.

At the beginning of this year, on January 5, 2022 I had an opportunity to renew my vows with brother Hemi Waerengaahika Ropata at Casa di Maria community. It was a big privilege to have Father Superior General with us on that day. He gave us the talk in the morning and at 12 noon he celebrated the mass and called us to renew our vows. After the mass we shared the meal together.

We are Marist, for this reason, I take this occasion to thank all of you, my dear brothers for your prayers, supports, wisdoms and encouragements in this spiritual journey.

I pray that God will continue to inspire each one of us to love and embrace Him more faithfully in our various commitment. May God fill us all with his gracious blessings, for His greater glory and the honour of Mary our Blessed Mother.



Hemi



Charles



Deacon Sefo witnessing the signing of the profession forms by Fr John Larsen sm



The chefs for Christmas

CHRISTMAS IN CASA DI MARIA

Anyone who lived in Italy and in Casa di Maria, in particular, will testify that there was a big difference between the way Christmas 2020 and Christmas 2021 were celebrated. In 2020 there were strict restrictions on the number of family and the number of visitors who could gather. In 2021, there was much more freedom and a lot more was possible. The possibility to gather with friends and family made Christmas 2021 so nice at Casa di Maria for so many reasons.

The first reason is that we were able to welcome as many guests as we could possibly have. The second reason is that we celebrated together with the novices elect, and their formators. We also

welcomed two family members of the confreres of Casa di Maria who joined us from Germany.

To give an idea of how many we were in all, we were twenty-nine of us. An international team was set up to cook, and their chief chef was the Very Rev. Fr Lionel (Long for Short). Their results were so marvellous that during the meals, there were emotions expressed through singing, shouting, laughing, crying, and the grinding of teeth. Later that day, when the novitiate community left, the Casa di Maria community with their two guests gathered for the exchanges of Kris Kringle. It was a moment of doubt, discovery, and in the end joy. All who were present received a present. To know more about Christmas at Casa di Maria, enjoy the photos and start preparing yourself to join us next year for yet another edition of Christmas at *Casa di Maria*.

Clinton Asunkwain Kube, SM



A full house for Christmas lunch

Pastoral Encounter

*A Marist should be able to turn to his confrères for help and counsel, especially in times of difficulty and when he feels the need to **evaluate** the quality of his Marist life and his apostolic work. (Constitutions SM n°139.)*

To prepare us to face more effectively the mission of Christ entrusted to his Church through the Society of Mary, the opportunity is given to us during this time of formation, to experience the beauty and richness of Christ's service through a variety of pastoral ministries (parish pastoral ministry, communion with our brothers and sisters, the poor, the homeless and the sick, in the Streets or in foster homes) always oriented towards the Marist mission as a whole.



Godlove, Clovis, Sebastien and Charles preparing to go to Termini.

The perspective of communion and mutual aid, to which N. 139 of our Constitutions opens us, is the touchstone on which the value of our life together rest.

Pastoral encounter is one of the privileged moments of our formative journey at the Marist International Theologate Casa di Maria. It is an opportunity for us to share, in the spirit of

openness and charity, the joys and sorrows of our various pastoral ministries, successes and difficulties, consolations and desolations, promises and gains; all this helps us to remember that we are not alone and that the mission to which we are called is a community mission, to be fulfilled together.

Joel Sébastien Eyango Ebonto, SM





Joseph entering Centro Linguistico Italiano Dante Alighieril at Piazza Bologna.

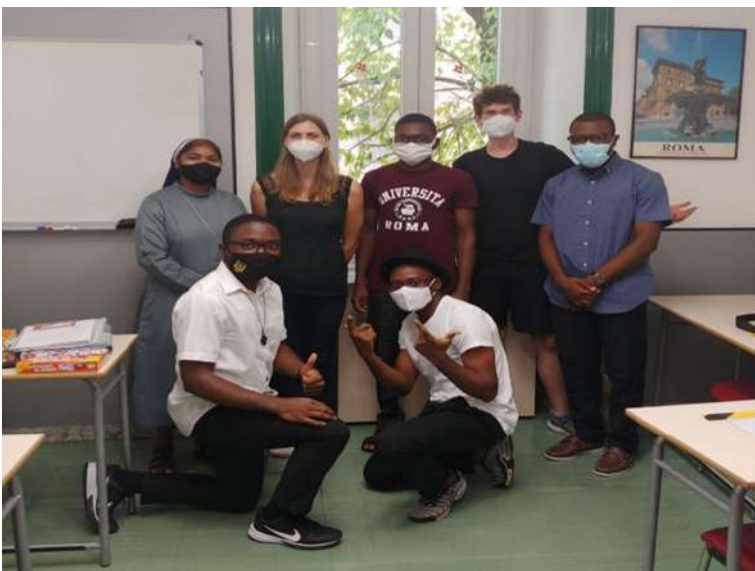
IMPARARE LA LINGUA ITALIANA

Imparare una lingua è inevitabilmente impregnarsi di culture diverse l'apprendimento di una nuova lingua implica non solo l'acquisizione di elementi linguistici, ma anche l'integrazione di nuovi modi di pensare e nuovi comportamenti. Infatti, il teologato marista casa di Maria dà a tutti i suoi nuovi studenti religiosi la possibilità di familiarizzare con la lingua italiana iscrivendoli a corsi di lingua presso gli istituti qualificati in tal senso.

Questi corsi sono importanti per le ulteriori attività dei giovani religiosi e per i loro studi teologici, se scelgono di farli in italiano. Questo apprendimento è anche importante nella misura in cui siamo chiamati ad andare nel lavoro pastorale e quindi è indispensabile parlare l'italiano, così come annunciare il Vangelo nella parrocchia come diacono. Così l'apprendimento nel corso intensivo si fa in due o tre mesi per avere un livello accettabile che ci permetterà di studiare

all'università, ma anche questo apprendimento continua durante la formazione attraverso le nostre ricerche e i nostri sforzi per capire meglio la lingua.

Koffy Joseph Adkokpa, SM



Compagno di Scuola



L'inizio Della Lezione





Perpetual Profession October 2021: Jaime, Sefo, John Larsen, Yves, Cameron



Diaconate Ordination November 2021



Jaime, Iosefo and Yves



Deacons Sefo, Jaime, and Yves with Bishop Guerino di Tora and formators: Larry, Tony and Long.