



Missionary Fraternity of Mary **Newsletter**

Summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him.

Mark 3:13



On January 25th of this year, eight members of the Missionary Fraternity of Mary were ordained priests at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Guatemala. The presider at the ordination was the Rt. Reverend Raul Antonio Martínez Paredes, the Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Santiago de Guatemala.

Many Friends and relatives of the ordinands along with Fraternity priests and parishioners from throughout Guatemala and Honduras attended this beautiful celebration. It is always a joyful experience for us because, our focus and the reason for our seminary in Guatemala is to promote and fulfill priestly vocations within the greater Catholic Church. Although it is a blessing for us, we know that we cannot do it on our own. First, each vocation is a personal response to a call from God. It is the seminarians "yes" to this call which is the beginning of the journey. However, without the prayerful and financial support of you, our benefactors, mission directors, and caring pastors throughout Guatemala, the USA and Canada, many of our seminarians could not answer that call and realize their dream of becoming priests.



Fr. Julius Njuguna Mwai from Kenya is one of the newly ordained priests. He joined the Fraternity in 2008 in Bura-Tana Mission, Garissa Diocese, Kenya.

Fr. Julius has a big heart for the people of God and that is the reason that motivated him to follow Jesus and become a missionary Priest. He wanted to administer the sacraments, to bring the Good News to the people of God and to give testimony of the love of God among the poor.

Fr. Julius has received the support of many people in Guatemala to accompany him in times of challenges and in times of joy (as shown in the adjacent picture). He will continue with his ministry as Assistant Director at our Center for Aspirancy located in San Lucas Sacatepequez, Guatemala which is the first step for those who are discerning their vocation.

Below: Fr. Francisco Ujpan joined the Fraternity at the age of 15 and he began his studies at the minor seminary. Fr. Francisco comes from San Juan La Laguna, Sololá, Guatemala, a place where the entire population are indigenous Zutujiles (one of 28 ethnic majorities in Guatemala). As a matter of fact the ethnic background of Fraternity priests mirrors the population of Guatemala which remains at least 80% ethnic Mayan origin. For his initial assignment as a newly ordained Priest, Fr. Francisco will work in the Department of Communications for the Fraternity in Guatemala.



Fr. Francisco requests your continuing prayers that he may be faithful to his calling and that many more young men will be open to God's call.



Fr. Francisco with our General Moderator





In our Formation Program at the seminary in Guatemala, parents play an important role in the life of the candidate to the priesthood, particularly when a candidate joins the Fraternity at an early age. For example Fr. Efraín Boror comes from a very poor family. His parents were happy that their son wished to become a Priest but they knew that they could not afford to pay anything for his formation. But as they say, God acts in strange ways and Efrain was led to the Fraternity wherein we were able to support him in his formation through the support of our benefactors. Your prayers helped him grow in faith, confident that he had the support of many fellow Catholics throughout the world.

Fr. Efrain giving communion to his Dad on the day of his ordination.



Fr. Efrain in procession to his ordination, with his parents.



Parents carrying vestments for their sons at the ordination ceremony.

Fr. Ernesto Yoc, from San Juan Sacatepequez, Guatemala, in procession to his ordination, with his parents



The guidance and support of experienced priests is of vital importance for the ordained priests in their first years of ministry.



As we thank God for the gift of vocations to the priesthood and for the newly ordained priests. Let's continue praying for vocations to religious life. As we have 8 new priests, there are others still waiting for our support.

Let's continue working for the promotion of vocations to the priesthood. There is much to be done, as our Lord said "The harvest is rich but the labourers are few".

**Thank you for your prayers and your support to the
Missionary Fraternity of Mary**

All contributions are tax deductible and are used exclusively for the work of the Fraternity in Guatemala and its missions worldwide. For more information or to mail contributions, please send to:
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