



# MISSIONARY FRATERNITY OF MARY

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021

*Fraternity life is a Gift to appreciate*



**Thank you for your support for our formation program.**  
Jaime Chioc and Antony Cheley,  
seminarians.



We are happy to share that amidst the circumstances with the pandemic, our seminarians began their formation program for 2021 with a deep faith in God for a better world.

Each one of us has a different story to tell about how our lives have been affected and changed by the pandemic. For most of our students at the seminary in Guatemala, it has been a time to enrich one's relationship with God, to appreciate God's generosity and providence. We are God's creatures, He is in control of our human nature.

75 seminarians continued with their formation this year. It is a great joy to know that all of them who were studying from home for about six months last year came back to the seminary to continue with their studies. There is improvement in Wi-fi signals at the library and in the classrooms for on-line teaching. There is much more to do to reach the goal of providing the best resources for the formation of our seminarians in these trying times and we continue working toward that goal.

**MISSIONARY FRATERNITY  
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[missionaryfraternityofmary.org](http://missionaryfraternityofmary.org)



In January our seminarians began their formation studies with a spiritual retreat and with great hope to continue their studies without any further difficulty, although social distancing is part of the protocols we follow in every activity at the seminary in Guatemala



Many of our seminarians come from rural areas in Guatemala where there is no internet signal and in some cases no electricity. The Fraternity gives these young men an opportunity to become agents of change within society as missionary priests. In these trying times, teachers and students have adjusted to the new ways of teaching and learning. Teacher Priests who reside at the seminary teach in person, but non-resident teachers, give their lesson plans online from home to preserve their health and to be safe.

If we look to the past in Guatemala, 35 years ago our teachers taught using blackboards and chalk. As technology evolved in our teaching system, we introduced computers. However, it is not enough just to have a laptop computer for study but we must have upgraded instruction including wi-fi and audio visual equipment. These are the challenges that we in our third world country as we compete in the modern world. Last year at the seminary in Guatemala City, we improved WiFi signals to continue providing a high level of education for our seminarians.





Guatemala has been a country deeply affected by the impact of the pandemic with over 200,000 people infected with the virus and over 6,500 deaths associated with Covid. Due to the results of the pandemic, the seminarians have to use masks in some liturgical activities at the seminary.



The improvements in technology at the seminary have been a blessing to our seminarians as they pursue their studies in philosophy and theology.



“I would like to express my words of thanks to all of you dear friends and benefactors, for all your support and help to the Missionary Fraternity of Mary. For some of you, these trying times could be the most difficult and for others a time of God’s grace. One thing I know, this is a time to be united in prayers and to ask the Lord to put his lovely eyes on us. May God bless you, your family and the work you do. I do keep you in my prayers.”

**Fr. Eder Escobar, General Moderator.**

## **Other News**

**From Peru:** New Mission site in the Apostolic Vicariate of Iquitos. Two Fraternity priests were assigned as pastors of the Sagrada Familia Parish (Holy Family Parish).

**Kenya:** In May of 2021, two additional priests will join the missions in the Diocese of Garissa and Malindi Diocese.

**Honduras:** In April this year, an additional priest will join the mission in the Diocese of La Ceiba.

**Panama:** Fr. Willians who was ordained as priest last year, was assigned to the mission in Panama.