

Summer 2022



Missionary Fraternity of Mary **Newsletter**



Our seminarians—65 strong! The Fraternity's Future!

It's our joy to report that amidst the difficulties of the pandemic, our seminarians have embraced their vocation with increasing dedication and generosity.

This year has been unique with the requirement of social distancing and various safety protocols as the pandemic while easing remains a part of Guatemalan life. Our 65 seminarians continue to live the fraternal life and share as brothers in Christ.

In many ways this process has been an adventure for our seminarians as they have adjusted their way of learning by embracing online learning and instruction as well as using virtual methods to continue motivating youth in the many parishes served by the Fraternity in Guatemala.

Weekend pastoral activities are mandatory for all of our seminarians. This outreach nurtures and motivates the vocation of each seminarian and provides a level of support to Fraternity priests who serve as pastors in these parishes. Each year seminarians are assigned to a parish in Guatemala, Belize and Honduras where they organize different activities with youth, help

with catechesis in preparation for the reception of the Eucharist as well as Confirmation. In a very biblical sense our seminarians are required to go out in pairs (two by two) to different parishes to gain experience in evangelization. In this environment they grow in their missionary spirit and become more involved in the mission of the Catholic Church.



Deacon Luis Jose, giving a talk on vocational discernment to young men.

Workshops, retreats, and talks about vocational discernment are given to those who may be interested in enrolling at the the seminary in Guatemala City.

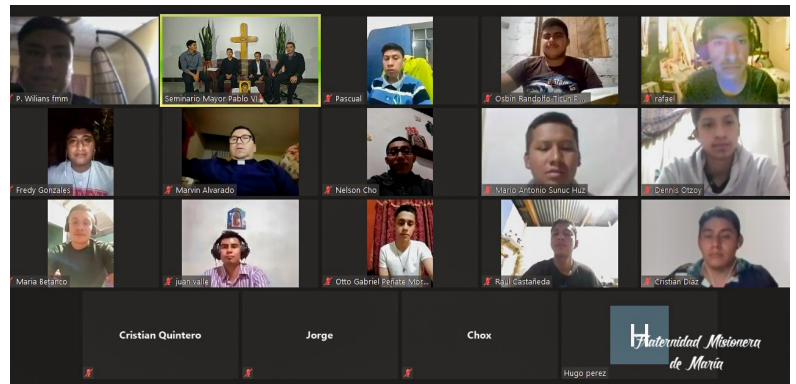


We utilize the different talents of our seminarians to motivate potential candidates for the priesthood by presenting the unique spirituality of the Fraternity.

Most of our candidates come from the parishes where the Fraternity priests serve. For those who have received God's call, they begin their discernment at the parish level and from there, are invited to participate in retreats and workshops, three times per year. After a period of evaluation these candidates are then welcomed to join the Fraternity as new seminarians.



As some of the restrictions of the pandemic continue to hamper our methods of formation and one on one contact, the use of digital platforms has been a blessing providing for continuous outreach to potential seminarians.



Going forward we look to continued use of virtual meetings as we return to person to person contact.

Seminarian Carlos Roman became the technician for the virtual activities at the seminary in Guatemala.



In June of 2022 we held a series of retreats for those interested in discerning a vocation to the priesthood. We are pleased to announce that 9 young men attended while expressing a strong desire to become missionary priests. Our prayers are that many more may make the same decision by the end of this year.

We sincerely hope that you have enjoyed this brief update on the status of our formation programs at the seminary in Guatemala. Please pray for vocations. In addition to your financial support we need your continued prayerful support. It seems so easy to say this but we want to assure you that this is not just a hollow request. There is power in prayer—it is what allows many of our priests working in difficult environments to continue following The Way and spreading the gospel message of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We continue to rely on the intercession of our most Blessed Mother and ask that her mantle of care and protection cover you and your loved ones daily!

Other News

- **Peru** — One more priest for the Mission in the Vicariate of Iquitos
- **Kenya** — The construction of a new worship site is completed at the St. Jude Catholic Church, Garissa Diocese. Number of Catholics is increasing in a predominantly Muslim area.
- **Honduras**— Youth movement at Nuestra Señora del Carmen Parish in Yojoa is making a big difference in the life of Young people— youth evangelizing youth.
- **Guatemala**— Through the Program of Formation for Lay people, 14 received a Diploma in Pastoral Theology.

For more information and online giving please access our website:

www.missionaryfraternityofmary.org

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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