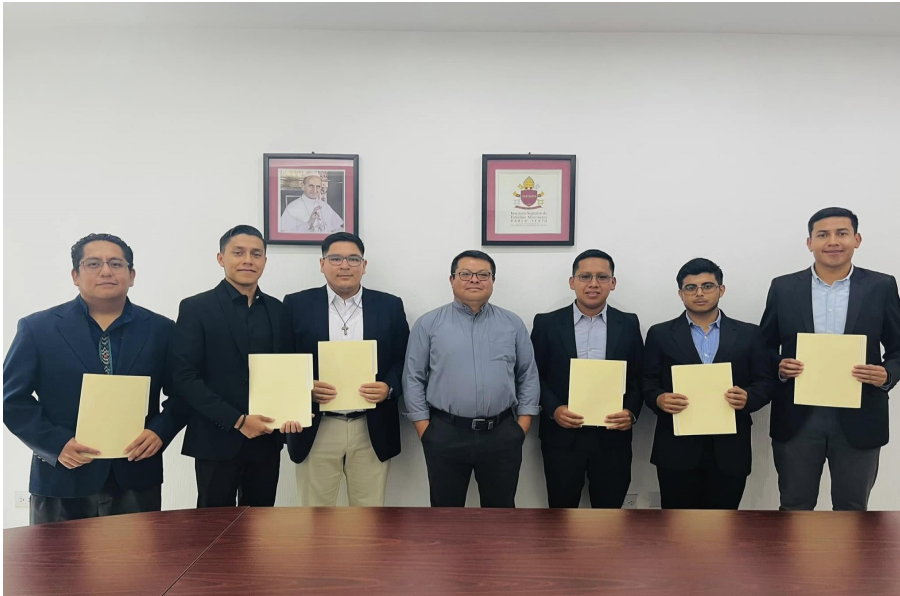




# *Missionary Fraternity of Mary* **Newsletter**

## *News of the Academic Formation in the Seminary*



### **Why Do Priests**

### **Need Philosophy?**

“Philosophy is the understanding of that human process of questioning and searching to which faith seeks to respond.”

(Pope Benedict XVI)

10.18.2010

### **PHILOSOPHICAL THESIS PROJECTS FROM OUR PHILOSOPHY SEMINARIANS:**

On March 14, the philosophy seminarians who are part of the discipleship stage presented their philosophical research projects.

The Director of Academic Formation, Fr. Germán Jichá, formally received their thesis projects. Learn about the interesting theses topics the seminarians will develop:

**Ángel Ortiz:** "Ethical Responsibility in the Age of Disinformation"; **Diego Mancilla:** "Alienation in Liquid Modernity According to the Thought of Zygmunt Bauman"; **Jaime Hernández:** "Hyperactivity in the 21st Century: A Problem of Alienation, According to Byun Chul Han"; **Mario Sunuc:** "Culture and Intercultural Dialogues in Latin American Philosophy since Raúl Fornet Betancourt"; **Otto Peñate:** "The Search for Happiness in St. Augustine of Hippo"; **Osbin Ticun:** "A perspective on the forgetting of the inherent dignity of the person and its possible recovery in Karol Wojtyła"

We appreciate the dedication with which they strive to find the truth and contribute to building an increasingly just and fraternal society in the 21st century.

## *The Alb, the First Liturgical Vestment for a Seminarian.*

**On January 15th 2025, the Newly initiated seminarians of the Encounter Stage—Aspirancy received their albs for the first time.**

The **alb** is the first liturgical vestment that a candidate for the priesthood receives. This vestment symbolizes dedication to the priestly vocation. This act marks the beginning of their journey toward the priestly ordination they will one day receive.

This white vestment signifies the self-denial and chastity that is befitting a priest. In this initial stage of their formation, our seminarians

begin to shape their priestly life with this vestment. In the Fraternity, the "Encounter Stage - Aspirancy" takes place at the San Bartholomew Apostol formation house (located in San Lucas Sacatepéquez) and is part of the entire process of the Paul VI Major Seminary of the Missionary Fraternity of Mary. The blessing of Albas took place during the celebration of the Eucharist, presided by Fr. Oswaldo Pérez, Prefect of Formation, and concelebrated by several priests of the Fraternity. The participation of some of our seminarians' parents was also very significant.



## *News of the Human formation and fraternal life*



### **The Greenhouse Project at the Seminary**

One of the four dimensions of formation for the future missionary priest in the Fraternity is the Human-Fraternal Dimension.

This dimension, which aims to develop the human quality of the missionary, does not overlook any aspect of human sensitivity, such as the love of work in the simple things of life, such as cultivating the land and enjoying its fruits. At the beginning of this year, 2025, our seminarians received technical training in tomato planting and cultivation.

This work not only resulted in the enjoyment of eating fresh tomatoes **continue page 3 >>>>>**



>>>>From page 2

in the seminary but also in reaping the fruits of work in fraternity and the love for simple things.

The seminary rector says:

**“Our Lord Jesus Christ explained the Kingdom of Heaven with the parable of the sower. How can we fail to appreciate the simplicity of sowing a seed and understanding eternal realities?”**

Mr. Francisco Tzaj was a great help in this project. He is an expert in greenhouse construction and planting various crops, and he provided our seminarians with technical training for this project.



## *News of the Pastoral Vocation.*

### **First Vocational Retreat of 2025, March 15 and 16.**



One of the Missionary Fraternity of Mary's ongoing activities is its vocational retreats. These retreats extend Jesus' invitation to follow Him and experience being his missionary disciples.

A vocational retreat marks the beginning of the long process of receiving formation and eventually becoming a missionary priest. The vocational retreats highlight the fraternity's char-

ism and spirituality, which are centered on celebrating the Eucharist and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This first vocational retreat had this theme: **"It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain."** (Jn. 15:16)

Please consider supporting the Missionary Fraternity of Mary so that this pastoral action may continue, and so could engage many young men in carrying out Jesus' mission.

## *News of US Mission.*



### **The Fraternity's missionaries in the U.S. held their annual retreat for 2025.**

From February 17 to 21, the Fraternity's missionaries working in the U.S. held their spiritual retreat at the Xaverian Missionaries' House in Milwaukee. It was led by diocesan priest José Gonzalez, who began his meditations with the motto: **"With our eyes on Jesus."** Fr. Gonzalez developed his reflections on the most critical moments of a priest's vocational and ministerial life and how these should always be the first love that drives the constant renewal with which one must live.

Participating in the retreat are the missionary fathers in the Diocese of San Bernardino, California, Máximo Tzul, Bonifacio Velasquez, Moisés Henriquez, and Nelson Ángel; and the priests in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Alejandro Umul; Fabián Rodas, Erick Cassiano, Carlos González, Jaime Charuc, Milton Herrera.

The Fraternity serves seven parishes in the U.S.: St. Salvador and Immaculate Conception in San Bernardino and St. Raphael, Prince of Peace, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Anthony, and St. Hyacinth in Milwaukee.

**<https://missionaryfraternityofmary.org/>**

**All contributions are tax deductible and are used exclusively for the work of the Fraternity in Guatemala and its missions worldwide.**

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