



R E D E M P T O R I S M A T E R

S e m i n a r y o f G a l i l e e

إكليريكية "أم الفادي" الجليل
סמינר "רדמפטוריס מאתר" של הגליל

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Korazim, 29 October 2019

Dearest friends of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary of Galilee,

We are writing to you at the beginning of this new year of mission which the Lord gives us, to communicate to you the graces that the Lord is gifting us with, so that you may rejoice as well. You who support and encourage the small church of the Holy Land, a flock that is always threatened and small, but that the Good Shepherd loves and protects. For in his plan of love, in fact, God has chosen to make use of you too, who collaborate with us in this work of mission, in the service of the new evangelization.

This year as well, as you know, we are sending some seminarians to live the experience of mission, which is an integral part of their formation process. Some of them this year will be in support of some parish priests in the parishes of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and in the Arabian Gulf, while others will be inserted in teams of itinerant catechists who are on mission in Palestine, Cyprus and Jordan or in other parts of the world (such as, for example, in Ukraine).

The entire Seminary, including the brothers and sisters on mission, participated in October (in the extraordinary missionary month convoked by Pope Francis) in a day of mission in Palestine, in the parish of Rafidia (Nablus), where Fr. Juan David Aragon, formed in our seminary, is currently parish priest. It was a wonderful experience, everyone returned full of joy seeing the wonders worked by the Lord. How many people suffer and do not know the love of God, even if they are baptized Christians! Many welcomed us with joy and felt loved. We are delighted to be able to see hope and joy flourish once more on their faces. Our wish is that no Christian in these lands may feel abandoned and may experience the maternal and loving care of the Church. After the mission, the parish priest commented: "It is beautiful for the priest to know that he is not alone in the mission. In a single day we visited all the houses of the parishioners. How long would it have taken without you?".



The Seminary on mission in Nablus and on a visit to the Well of the Samaritan Woman

In the last days we have been graced by the visit of the Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate for Jerusalem, Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, who has been a great honour for all of us, but especially for the seminarians who on these occasions have the opportunity to know and be known personally by their Bishop, to whom we are grateful for his constant and paternal care towards us (we attach below an article and some photos in regards to this visit).

In addition, in these very days, his Eminence Cardinal Paul Josef Cordes was our most appreciated guest. He gave us a course on the Ministry of the Priesthood, and the *Lectio Inauguralis* on the figure and work of the holy cardinal John Henry Newman, recently elevated by Pope Francis to the honour of the altars.

On the 7th of December, on the eve of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, Mateo Alvarez will be ordained Deacon. He completed his studies in June and is already inserted in the Parish of Rama, in Galilee.

Dear friends, we wish to share with you all of this grace that the Lord is giving us, so that you may see the fruits of all the help and support that you have given us in recent years with such generosity, without which everything that is happening would not be objectively possible. The Lord who sees in the hearts of each one knows the love with which you have offered your time, your prayers and your goods. May he, who sees all, give you back a hundred-fold and reward you according to your needs for what you have done and can do for us.



The Seminary with Card. Cordes

We greet you with the words of St. Paul the Apostle, wishing that the Lord will grant you His consolation from above, especially in times of difficulty:

"Blessed be God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, merciful Father and God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our tribulations so that we too may console those who are in any kind of affliction with the consolation with which we are comforted ourselves by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so, through Christ, does our consolation abound (2 Cor 1:3-5)".

We pray always for you, may the Lord bless you, protect you, make his face shine upon you and grant you Peace.

Fr. Francesco Giosuè Voltaggio and the other formators of the Seminary



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