



## REDEMPTORIS MATER

Seminary of Galilee

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

Prot. n. 253.2020

Mount of Beatitudes, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear friends of the Seminary,

The isolation to which we have been subjected in these last months, has been a test for everybody. The Lord has brought us to the desert, drawing us to Him, because He has wanted to speak to our hearts. It has allowed us to resize ourselves, to look with truth and depth at that which is truly important in our lives, so as to show us that it is He who leads it, He is the Good Shepherd guiding his flock to drink from the spring of life, as we often deviate to cloudy waters, that cannot quench our souls. As so, and despite the difficulties, we can say with certainty that it has been a time of grace. I hope that this has been your experience as well; that you have been able to experience the caring closeness of the Lord throughout this time, that never leaves us orphans, but on the contrary, provides at all times for the necessities of his children with solicitude, consoling and supporting them in their fatigue, and above all filling them with the Holy Spirit.

We are filled with joy in telling you that even in this time of lockdown, we have been able to live through some important steps in the formation of our seminarians. The first, which took place on May 13<sup>th</sup>, the day in which the Church celebrates the memory of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima, the Patriarchal Vicar for Israel, Fr. Hanna Kildani, presided over the celebration in which he conferred the *Admissio ad ordines* to Paolo and Giacomo.

The second event that we recently lived through, was the institution of the ministry of the lectorate to five seminarians: Rubén from Spain, Iginio and Samuel from Italy, Kacper from Poland, and Mauricio from Colombia, and that of the acolytes to: Juan José from Ecuador, Roman from Ukraine, Paolo from Italy, and Samuel from El Salvador. This celebration was presided by the Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Archbishop Pierbattista, Pizzaballa. In his homily, Mons. Pizzaballa underlined the value of the candidates' consent expressed shortly after through the word "Present": "God can do anything, but He will not do it without us." He then moved on to indicate which form this collaboration will assume, that is salt: invisible, yet not irrelevant.

Such moments are fundamental in the path that our young men face as they progressively become more and more aware of their vocation; normally shared with their families and their communities in which they are both inserted, and with whom they walk. The particular situation in this time of pandemic has not allowed for the physical presence of guests, yet technology has allowed us to share these celebrations through internet, and this has permitted many people from all over the world, to both participate with us in these events, and share in the joys of the seminary.

Attached below, are the news and the pictures from both events that we mentioned above. This coming June 24<sup>th</sup>, on the Solemn feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, we will have the joy of celebrating the Priestly Ordination of Mateo Alvarez. In this case, we will also send you the link, so you may follow the celebration through live streaming, given the fact that many will not be able to participate due to the active limitations still in place for public celebrations.

*How much you have done, Yahweh, my God -- your wonders, your plans for us -- you have no equal. I will proclaim and speak of them; they are beyond number (Ps. 40,6).* These are the words that prayer evokes in us, thinking of the work that God is completing through this mission in the land that he has chosen to lay his tent amongst men, a mission that continues, despite the daily difficulties. That is why, we remember you every day with gratitude in our prayers to the Father, who certainly will not falter in recompensating your generosity and affection, so close to us through which you sustain us and of which we have continuous confirmation.

May the Lord bless and protect you and your families.

The formators of the seminary,  
Fr. Francesco Giosuè Voltaggio  
Fr. Paolo Alfieri  
Fr. Germano Lori  
Fr. Juan Pablo Diez Llamazares

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## **A day of joy in these hard times of the coronavirus. Two seminarians of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary of Galilee admitted to the orders**

On the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima, Paolo Felicetti and Giacomo Dainotti, seminarians of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary of Galilee, were admitted to the orders, completing a decisive step in their path of formation to the priesthood. The rite of the Admissio was celebrated by Mons. Hanna Kildani, Vicar of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Sara Fornari, Journalist, Radio Maria Nazareth



“This is a day of joy for the Church: the sprout of baptism has begun to give fruit in you! The growth of the vineyard, of the people of God, is incarnated in you in the service to the Church of the Holy Land,”. With these words Mons. Kildani has welcomed this new step taken by the two new candidates Paolo Felicetti and Giacomo Dainotti, both 31 years old. They were welcomed by the Church through the rite of the Admissio, and entrusted to the protection of Our Lady of Fatima, on the eve of May 13. Both of these seminarians of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary of Galilee were admitted to the Orders, as they proceed in their formation to the priesthood in a more decisive manner, as shown by their new attire. In the name of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

and the Church of Holy Land, Mons. Hanna Kildani accepted in the chapel of the Domus Galilaeae, the intention of both candidates, whom through the dialogue of the rite itself, confirmed their desire of “committing to the spiritual formation in becoming faithful ministers of Christ and his body, which is the Church”.

“The vineyard and the branches are the Church in which we find ourselves”, were the words of the Patriarchal Vicar in his homily, -underlining that the growth of this vocation “is for the Church in its entirety”-, as much as it is a sprout budding from baptism, grown in both of their respective families, and in the ecclesial way that these young men are completing.

Both were born in 89’, and come from two families belonging to the Neocatecumenal Way. Giacomo Dainotti was born in Pavia, and completed his studies in political science, while Paolo was born in Foligno, and discovered the calling of the Lord after a time spent in the service to the Domus Galilaeae; a time in which he experienced a conversion and a radical change of life. Both seminarians have done two years of itinerancy, i.e. missionary experience, as expected for the formation that is proper of the Redemptoris Mater seminaries, at the parish of Holy Family in Kuwait City.

Mons. Kildani began his homily in Arabic with a greeting full of affection: “I’ve missed you; I really was wishing to see you all!” The Admissio at the Domus Galilaeae, was in fact his first meeting with the Seminarians and residents of the house, after the end of the lockdown period. The celebration took place in a time in which the restrictive measures for the coronavirus in Israel were easing up, while in Italy where the two families of the candidates reside, the situation is not entirely calm. During his homily, the vicar sent a greeting to all the relatives and friends that were following the celebration through live streaming, just as to all those that are suffering due to this pandemic, remembering all the sick whom have left us, and all those who are constrained to stay at home. “We are all in the same boat, and in this boat just like on the lake of Tiberias here below us, Christ is present. The storm is raging, but Christ is stronger: the world is called to not lose hope”, said the vicar, as he turned his thoughts to the joyful event, and to the splendid Gospel of the Vines and branches: the center of the day’s liturgy. “The vineyard is a familiar plant for us in this land, and it evokes in us thoughts full of affection”, noted Mons. Kildani, who borrowed from the image of a tree which is filled with sprouts, and then with new leaves. He then focused on its development that should likewise happen in the soul and in the life of the Christian, and in particular with the vocation. “This development should occur inside each one of us, and in regards to Paolo and Giacomo, above all it has begun in the family-based origin of these two; in the relationship between father and mother. The family is founded on the love between the spouses,

like that of Christ and the Church,”. The patriarchal vicar has further pointed out that “this sprout begins in baptism; with which you have become part of the vineyard. So with today’s rite, with these new vestments, you begin a new service in the vineyard”. A service, therefore, which is far from carrying out a project or taking on a new role: “Christ clearly says ‘without me you cannot do anything’, meaning that the vocation is not our personal project: being a priest is not like having a career or like joining the military, but an incarnation of Christ.”

“Jesus”- the vicar said- “does not look at us as if we are the screws in a gear. We are part of Him, and of the Trinity! It is not about being a physical, material part, but of taking part in the same spirit”. You who are my disciples, says Christ, are called to bring much fruit. For this, every Christian, and you especially, are part of Christ for the salvation of all the world. “You are not here to offer yourselves as persons, as two young men: behind you are your families and your communities, your formators and companions. This growth, is the growth of a people who are behind you, God’s people, that is made incarnate with you in service to the Church of the Holy Land”. Mons. Kildani in the end, expressed his encouragement to them both: “it is true that there are difficulties, but also lots of joy. The details we can find in the person of the Virgin Mary that we celebrate today, in Saint Joseph, and in the Disciples. Today we rejoice because this plant has begun to give fruit, and this we see in you, Giacomo and Paolo”.

The pastor had concluded with gratitude to the Lord: “This is a joyous day for us; as seminary, as Church of the Holy Land, and as Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem: as the people of God, we rejoice for you and with you. We who work here in this land, and also where you were in Kuwait. We entrust your vocations to the protection of Our Lady of Fatima and to her spouse Saint Joseph”.

A new phase begins for Paolo and Giacomo. As of today, they will dress in black attire wearing the clerical collar, according to the request made by Saint John Paul II; making present that the church is young, and rendering the will to be formed to the priesthood more manifest.



**Galilee: Five lectors and four acolytes  
instituted by Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa**

*The Redemptoris Mater Seminary of Galilee has nine new ministers: five lectors and four acolytes. They were instituted by Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, on the feast day of St. Ephrem, on June 9th, in the Church of the Domus Galilaeae.*

Sara Fornari, Journalist, Radio Maria Nazareth



Ruminare the Word of God, let it always work on you, so as to be its announcers. The bread is not only bread and supper, but also knowing how to die: at its school, you learn how to give your life until the end. This was the exhortation of the Apostolic Administrator of Jerusalem to the new ministers.

“Receive the book of the holy Scriptures, and faithfully transmit the Word of God, so that it may spring and give fruit in the hearts of men”. “Receive the

plate with the bread, and the chalice with the wine for the Eucharistic Celebration, and may your life be worthy of the service to the Lord's Supper and to that of the Church". This prayer, along with the rite of the handing over of Scripture to the lectors, and the handing over of the Chalice and Plate to the acolytes, has clearly displayed the meaning of both the ministries of lector and acolyte: the service to the Word of God and to the Eucharist, that nine seminarians from the Redemptoris Mater of Galilee will fulfil in the Church. The new five lectors and four new acolytes were instituted by Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa on Tuesday June 9th, on the feast day of Saint Ephrem, in the Church of the Twelve Apostles and Seventy-two Disciples at the Domus Galilaeae. These young men come from seven different nations; their vocations were born within the Neocatecumenal Way. They are completing their theological and likewise human formation, that they receive in the missionary seminary, as they are accompanied in an experience of faith that matures in the communities of the Way, present in some of the parishes of the Galilee region.

The seminarians who were instituted lectors are Rubén Cabrera Rosique (Spain), Igino Sistilli (Italy, Giulianova), Samuel Costanzo (Italia, Rome), Mauricio Alberto De La Cruz Natera (Columbia), Kacper Paweł Jurczyk (Poland, family in mission in Kazakhstan). The seminarians that were instituted acolytes are Juan José Fernández Orbe (Ecuador), Roman Savluk (Ukraine), Paolo Sepich (Italy, Rome); Samuel Tobar Maida (El Salvador).

Lectors and acolytes represent two essential ministries in the life of the Church: they are called firstly to be announcers of the Word of God, as the ritual explains, and are invested with a particular office which is at the service of the faith, finding its roots and foundations in the Word of God itself. The acolytes instead, are entrusted with the task of helping both priests and deacons in carrying out their functions throughout the Eucharist; that is the source and summit of the Church's life.

"God can do anything, but he will not do it without us, he needs our consent that we give in our freedom". The Apostolic Administrator began his homily with these words, highlighting how the step of these ministries represent a freely taken consensus, that is gradually made concrete in life. In the Archangel Gabriel's announcement to Mary, the Lord has waited for her yes. The same happened with the widow of Zarephath, the main character in this liturgy's first reading: through her welcoming, and despite her poverty and the famine at that time, God went to meet the prophet Elijah, "It's



always like that", noted Archbishop Pizzaballa, who addressed the seminarians: "You are on your path, although you still have a long way ahead of you. No one knows what the Lord will make of you. What we do know though, is that God will need the consent you will give here, in front of the Church, that will later be transformed into a real, concrete life. And when you will be a little like that widow that no longer has anything-he continued-it's precisely at that time, if there shall be your freely given participation, and that yes to the Lord, He will be able to intervene; until there is a lot of you there, it'll be harder".

The invitation given by Archbishop Pizzaballa to the new ministers was that of growing in testimony. "These are small though significant steps. In his wisdom, the Church makes it so, that those founding elements for a priest, the Word and the Eucharist, may gradually enter into life. On Sunday, we will celebrate the feast of the Corpus Domini. The Word that you must proclaim, shall be a reality you will live". Pausing to speak on Mathew's Gospel ("you are the salt of the earth and the light of the world"), the Archbishop noted that one of the problems of the crisis of faith, in the current process of secularization, is the division between what we say, and what we are; between the announcement, and the life that is lived.

Being light means being those who allow us to see. Everything begins with experiencing Jesus Christ: "If we have this light inside of us, and with it we may see, then we ourselves will become light. If we have salt inside of us that gives flavor to our life, we will be salt in the life of the world", stated the Apostolic Administrator. From here comes the call to the youth, to ask themselves what does it concretely mean to give flavor to this generation's reality.

The Word of God needs witnesses, announcers: learn to chew on it, to ruminate it. You in the Way, are familiar with this; pay attention that this does not become a habit". Until the Word of God will disturb you, and there will be passages that you wish to understand, it means that It is working in you; when instead this is over, let's begin to worry". Being closer to the priest at the service to the table, is not a "bureaucratic" step: Eucharist is also a sacrifice, it's to give life. Knowing how to die, is the Christian way to love. With the simple priestly ordination, we do not learn to die. Each day is a school in which we must be in". Explained the Shepherd, as he concluded with a wish: "May this seemingly small step in your lives, be a step in your Way to meeting the Lord".



