

CHAN

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Knights of Columbus  
Council #9246 of St. Michael's Parish  
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Dear Knights of Columbus,

I am writing to express my thanks for your generous bursary. Your support is greatly appreciated!

I would like to take this opportunity to give you some information about my life here in Rome, as well as my community, so that you can keep us and the poor we serve in your prayers. After three years of initial formation, I took my first vows with the Missionaries of Charity Fathers in July of last year in Mexico City. God willing, I will renew these temporary vows for two or three years before taking my final vows and being ordained.

The Missionaries of Charity Fathers was begun by Bl. Mother Teresa and Fr. Joseph Langford in 1985. This religious institute is the youngest in the Missionaries of Charity religious family. Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity Fathers to "complete" the work of the Sisters and Brothers among the poorest of the poor. The Fathers in our community offer priestly ministry to the poor that are served by the Sisters and Brothers in their homeless shelters, homes for the sick and dying, and soup kitchens. At our missions, the Fathers also minister to the poor who are not directly served by the Sisters and Brothers by attending chapels in mission territories and visiting hospitals, prisons and drug rehabilitation centers. In addition, the Fathers serve the Sisters and Brothers through confessions, retreats and conferences. In comparison to the Sisters, our community is quite small, but growing steadily. Currently we have houses in Mexico (in Tijuana, Mexico City and Guadalajara), Guatemala, Nairobi, India (in Calcutta and Shillong), and Rome.

Our house in Rome, where I have been living since August, is mainly a house for studies. In the house there are 10 other seminarians and three priests. We come from many different countries: Panama, Colombia, Mexico, United States, Canada, Slovakia, Scotland, Benin, Kenya, India and Japan. Often it feels like the United Nations here! All of us seminarians have recently finished our exams for this year. We study at the "Angelicum", which is the Pontifical College run by the Dominicans. Studying in Rome is, of course, a great opportunity and privilege, and we try to take advantage of this by attending different celebrations with the Holy Father and visiting Churches and other sites in the city. During the year, we serve the poor in different apostolates, for example visiting the sick in the hospital, helping in the Sisters' homeless shelter or serving the gypsies living in Rome. During the summer we will help at the Sisters' summer camp for children for three weeks which should be a fun and tiring experience! In early October classes resume and I will enter my third year of theology.

Thank you once again for your generous bursary and your prayers. You and your families are in our prayers here.

God Bless,



Br. Nick Meisl, M.C.