

REDEMPTORIS MATER
MISSIONARY SEMINARY
ARCHDIOCESE of TORONTO



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Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, upon David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!" ISAIAH 9:6-7

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



In the midst of turbulent times, where fear, uncertainty for the future, and unrest in human hearts, seem to dominate our world, the Good News is brought to us: a light shines in the darkness (Jn 1:4)! Jesus Christ is born and is alive among us! This is the great announcement of Christmas, in which the Church invites us to rejoice!

Our joy is not based on fleeting emotions or on superficial circumstances. Instead, as Pope Francis said in a memorable speech given to the Canadian clergy and pastoral workers at the Cathedral of Quebec City, on July 28, 2022, authentic “Christian joy is about the experience of a peace that remains in our hearts, even when we are pelted by trials and afflictions, for then we know that we are not alone, but accompanied by a God who is not indifferent to our lot.” This amazing sense of peace and joy “is a free gift, the certainty of knowing that we are loved, sustained and embraced by Christ in every situation in life.”

We announce and wish for all of you, dear Brothers and Sisters, this joy and this peace, witness as we are of the presence of Christ among us in the events of this past year at *Redemptoris Mater* Missionary Seminary.

- The re-opening of the pastoral activities in person after the pandemic allowed us to celebrate with many of you, on May 6, 2022, the Admission to Candidacy to the Holy Orders of two seminarians: Jesús Fidel Añón and Matteo Bertozzi. The celebration, held at St. Augustine's Seminary, was presided over by His Excellency John A. Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto.
- On June 10, after three years, we were finally able to host again our Annual Fundraising Dinner. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet again in person, to enjoy your presence and support, and to give glory to God for His faithfulness. We are very grateful to all those who participated and contributed to it in any way.
- In summer, at the end of July, we had the grace to participate, with all the seminarians, in the historic visit that His Holiness, Pope Francis, made to Canada. In particular, we could attend the aforementioned meeting with clergy and pastoral workers in Quebec City. It was very moving to listen to the words of the Holy Father, weak in the flesh and yet strong in the Spirit. He exhorted us: "the Gospel needs to be proclaimed if we are to communicate the joy of faith to today's men and women. Yet this proclamation is not primarily a matter of words, but of a witness abounding with gratuitous love, for that is God's way with us."
- In the month of September, at the convivence with the initiators of the Neocatechumenal Way in Porto San Giorgio (Italy), a new seminarian was sent to our seminary: José Angel Davis Flores, who was born in Nicaragua, but lived most of his life in Vancouver, BC, with his missionary family. He has already joined us and begun his studies. At the moment, therefore, we have twelve men in formation, nine of whom live at the Seminary; Jesús Fidel Añón is currently doing his internship year at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Toronto; Francesco Buttitta is serving for a year at the *Domus Galilaeae*, in Israel; Sebastian Novoa Rodriguez is accompanying Fr. Mauricio Sanjines in his itinerant mission at the service of the Neocatechumenal Way across Canada.

Carlos Alberto Torres Marquez and Mirko Ljuba, were ordained Deacons by His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto



- On October 6, Abraham Villegas Vazquez received the ministry of Lector during a Eucharistic celebration presided over by His Excellency Guy Desrochers, Bishop of Pembroke, in the chapel of St. Augustine's Seminary.
- On October 16, Matteo Bertozzi received the ministry of Acolyte. The celebration of installation, held at the Seminary, was presided over by His Excellency Vincent Nguyen, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto.
- On Sunday, November 27, two of our seminarians, Carlos Alberto Torres Marquez and Mirko Ljuba, were ordained Deacons by His Eminence

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Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto, in a beautiful and joyful celebration held at Blessed Sacrament Church in Toronto. It was a grace to witness the faithfulness of the Lord in the life of these two men, who consecrated their whole life to the service of Christ and the Church. They will complete their studies at the seminary during the next semester, preparing themselves for their priestly Ordination (God willing in May 2023).

- In the month of September 1997, thanks to the initiative of Aloysius Cardinal Ambrozic, our Seminary in the Archdiocese of Toronto was called into existence. Therefore, this year we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of this event. It is an immense joy for us, and we are exceedingly grateful to the Lord for all the graces and blessings He has abundantly bestowed on us over these years.

These 25 years would have not been possible without your generous and faithful support, both spiritual and material. We have no adequate words to express our gratitude to all of you for everything you have done and keep doing for us. We ardently desire to celebrate with you this memorable milestone. In this sense, we are planning several activities during the year. In particular, we will celebrate a **Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving** on March 19, 2023, to which you are all invited. The place and time are still to be determined. Also, this coming year, instead of the regular Annual Fundraising Dinner, we will celebrate the **25th Anniversary Gala Dinner**, to be held at Paramount Eventspace in Woodbridge (222 Rowntree Dairy Road) on Friday, April 28, 2023. Further details regarding these and other events and initiatives will be posted on our website www.rmmstoronto.org, which we invite you to visit regularly.



You are all in our prayers, together with your families and dear ones, especially those who are sick or in distress at this time. Rejoice, brothers and sisters! Christ is with us! He loves us and He is faithful. Let us put all our trust in Him as we prepare to celebrate Christmas and the beginning of the New Year. May the joy and the peace of the newborn Messiah be poured upon you and your families, and may His blessings and the protection of His Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Star of the New Evangelization, accompany you throughout this time and the whole New Year!

*Fr. Tomasz Skibinski, Rector
Fr. Antonello Murgia, Spiritual Director
and all the Seminarians*