

A COMMUNITY LIFE
IN LOCKDOWN PERIOD

At the General House of the Society of Mary, at Via Latina 22, Rome, reside two communities, each with its own program: the community of the Curia and the community of the Seminary. Some important steps have helped us and continue to help us to live this period of lockdown:

1. ONE COMMUNITY: Here in Via Latina, the communities of the General Administration and the International Seminary have temporarily merged into one, in order to better manage the strict standards of hygiene and "social distancing" that these days demand. We have the experience of ONE community. Indeed, since the start of the lockdown, we decided to get together for prayers and meal sharing. This sharing helped us a lot to overcome loneliness and the fear of isolation.

2. ONE FAMILY: We have formed a virtual family together with our collaborators and people familiar with our Sunday Eucharistic celebrations. So we put in the chapel the photos of each of them as if to show our closeness and to open our prayer to them.

3. PASSION AND EASTER: we had two very special moments: Holy Week and Easter. Through these two moments we lived intimately our encounter with the dead and risen Jesus. We have lived them in union with all Christians, in particular those who have not had this chance to experience these strong moments of the Church. From the top of our terrace the brothers performed Easter songs, Sunday of the Resurrection and Easter Monday. So our neighbors were able to experience this Easter joy with us.

4. EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: the day of prayer and fasting proposed by the diocese of Rome was also experienced as a day of Eucharistic adoration. We took turns in adoration throughout the day. It was very important and meaningful to us.

5. DIALOGUE: we have received a guide for psychological care in this pandemic period in different languages. The guide was produced by the team of the Jesuit University of Comillas (Madrid). The guide offers very interesting reflections on personal and community life, prayers and relationships with the outside world. In small groups, sometimes linguistic, we discuss these different themes. It also allowed us to share our fears and hopes.

6. MESSAGES OF SUPPORT AND HOPE: We sent a short video message of happy Easter to the whole Marianist family around the world as well as to our loved ones and families. In return, they also sent us hopeful videos. It brought us so close together.

Finally, let's take a look at the new world on the horizon that so many people are calling for. Let's be ready to work on its growth so that afterwards it's not just a return to "as usual", without hope. May the sufferings of today not be fruitless and may contribute to this renaissance.

The communities of Via Latina 22 send you our sincere greetings tinged with great fraternity and fraternal Love, assuring you of their fervent prayer for the good health of all the members of SEDOS, of the whole Christian Family, and of those with whom we work.

THE RESURRECTION GRANT US GOD'S VICTORY!



Bro. Frederic Bini, SM