



Two new novices in the Province of Italy

SANTERAMO, Italy - “Dearest brothers, what are you asking? »: it was with these words that Fr. Luciano NEMBRINI, SMM, the Novices Master, addressed Marcin and Mateusz during the brief rite of initiation into religious life. And Marcin and Mateusz responded: “We ask you to live your life, during a period of trial, in the desire to perfectly follow Christ, Wisdom Incarnate, according to the charism of the Missionaries of the Company of Mary”.

During vespers of the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Marcin and Mateusz began their novitiate journey in the community of Santeramo in Colle (Bari-Italy). We asked them for a short presentation.



*“My name is **Mateusz Dunajski**. I was born on October 1, 1991 in Gdansk, Poland. Mary has always been present in my life since the beginning of my conversion journey. She led me to Jesus, aroused in my heart the desire to give myself completely to Him as a slave of love and put people on my path to guide me. It was precisely during the spiritual exercises of preparation for consecration to Jesus through Mary that I perceived in myself the desire to follow Christ in religious life by entering an Institute.*

Providence allowed me to know the community of the Montfort Fathers of Częstochowa. I attended a retreat organized by them, during which I felt that Jesus and Mary inspired me to enter the

Company of Mary. I therefore began my journey of vocational discernment, made up of meetings and interviews with the Montfort Fathers. Subsequently, from September 8, 2021, I lived with them for nine months joining the community in Częstochowa. Subsequently, I went to Rome for my postulancy, at the end of which I asked to be admitted to the novitiate."



*"My name is **Marcin Draniczarek**. I was born on September 30, 1989 in Gdansk, Poland. The first thoughts about my vocation appeared when I was still a child, but the real discernment of my path began at the age of 25. It wasn't until I grew up in Catholic communities and was spiritually formed that I began to recognize my deepest desires.*

Through meditation on the Word of God, the sacraments and the prayer of the Rosary, I had the opportunity to know God, which gave rise to the desire to give my life to Him. In 2017, during a walking pilgrimage to Częstochowa, I heard for the first time about the Montfort Missionaries and discovered the spirituality of Saint-Louis. Discovering the special role and closeness of Mary in my life, I wanted to dedicate my life to the service of the Lord and the Church in the Congregation dedicated to her.

So, in September 2020, I entered the Montfortian community in Częstochowa, and after two years I began and completed the next stage of formation in Rome, in the postulancy community.

We renew to Mateusz and Marcin the wish formulated by the Novice Master at the end of the short rite of initiation into religious life: May God, with his Spirit, assist them in discernment and Christ, Master of truth, enlighten their hearts.

Fr. Alfio MANDELLI, SMM