



Living in the City with a Heart

ROME - This is the theme of the pastoral journey that Pope Francis has entrusted to the dioceses of Rome for the year 2019-2020. It is an act of searching where God is already present or of bringing God where He is not. With the style of Jesus Christ: the heart, tenderness, mercy, hospitality, closeness...

A group of Filipino faithful has been established in the garden of the Generalate for about 5 years now under the leadership of Father Reynaldo Bullas Jr., SMM. They gather and celebrate the Holy Eucharist in front of the Grotto in their own language, demonstrating a lively and courageous style the various moments of the liturgical year and their devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The parish of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort thought of introducing this group of Filipinos by inviting them to participate in a Sunday Eucharist and entrusting them the animation of the 11:00 AM Mass on December 1, 2019, the first Sunday of Advent.

With joy and meticulousness, they were well prepared with the songs, both in *Tagalog* and Italian, as well as with the liturgical service at the altar. The Gospel and the homily were both proclaimed in Italian and in *Tagalog*, their native language. The parishioners attended the Mass in silence and with admiration. During the exchange of peace, some of them offered white roses to the Italian parishioners as Filipinos celebrate the Holy Mass not without flowers... In the end, the parish priest, Father Luigi Colleoni, SMM thanked everyone and was hopeful that this cordial and pleasant meeting around the altar of the Lord will be repeated in the future in which no one is a stranger.

Upon leaving the Church, the parish offered a moment of fraternity to honor this exchange of prayer.

Father Severo Agostinelli, SMM