

Mariapolis Luminosa



Getting to know our new residents:

This time we hear from Victor...



Hi, I am Victor. I was born in Oaxaca, Mexico. Along with my parents, I have 7 sisters, 2 brothers, and 12 nieces and nephews. (photo below) I grew up participating in different parish and diocesan groups. In 1997, a nun from my city invited me to a summer Mariapolis, which was the only one for the whole country. Chiara Lubich was visiting Mexico then and I still remember that there were thousands of us who attended. Everything that I had experienced during the Mariapolis was completely different from the Catholicism that I was used to. Living the gospel with everyone in a concrete way revolutionized my life at that moment. I only realized after several months how the Ideal had influenced my relationships, especially at home, with the people I'm close to.



In 1998, I made a pact with God: “I will live a year without any expectations to reflect and find my way” because for a long time I had been asking myself what to do in my life. After that moment I met the first Mexican focolarino, Luis Manuel, who invited me to visit their focolare in Mexico City.

It was my first time to be in a focolare. Everything was new for me, but I felt for sure the presence of God. I could not understand what it was, but it probably was the presence of Jesus in the midst. On my way home, I felt the happiness that I had been looking for. The next day, I got a call from a focolarino, inviting me to live with the focolarinos in formation in Mexico City. It was a strong moment for me to decide and accept such an invitation, because my life was already in order. I worked in a bank. I had an amazing family. My environment was amazing with a lot of wonderful friendships. Until now, I remember that moment when my life was almost perfect.

In September 1999, I moved to Mexico City to start my formation to become a focolarino. During that period, a lot of things happened. At a certain point, we decided to take a break and not feel any pressure towards becoming a focolarino. I think that this was key to the whole experience. In February 2002, after living for some time at the permanent Mariapolis *El Diamante* in Puebla, Mexico, and trying to understand what God was asking me, I saw clearly that “I wanted to follow Him in this specific vocation”. From 2002 to 2004, I stayed in Italy and Switzerland for formation. Then, I lived in the focolare in Costa Rica for 11 years where I had a very fruitful experience. Costa Rica as a country is so beautiful, with people who are faithful, warm and friendly, and like brothers. But the most enriching was being with the Gen 3. I learned a lot from them. After every meeting, which was demanding, I always felt happy despite feeling tired at the same time. As a professional, Costa Rica gave me great opportunities. By the way, I studied accounting, with a degree in philosophy and a MBA in Finance.

In 2016, while my life in the focolare in Costa Rica gave me a sense of total fulfillment -- I was working for a multinational, Bacardi, in their global financial department, and there was also the proposal for me to pursue a PhD in Business Administration -- I was asked to move to the focolare in India. I was in Bangalore, India for 4 1/2 years. As India is big in different ways, it is difficult to do a summary of my time there, but I am immensely grateful for the experience. The simplicity of the people and their deep spiritual life remain in me.

And then, I landed here at Mariapolis Luminosa last May, for a specific project, to work at NCP. I want to say a big “thank you” for welcoming me here. Due to the pandemic, I have not gotten the opportunity to meet all of you in person, but rest assured you are always present in my prayer.

Recent groups

After the official July 1st reopening of Luminosa, groups have gradually begun returning for various events as well as those coming for the first time. The multi-purpose use of



Lumi Hall (formerly Lumi Cafe) has proven to be beneficial for diverse groups

Here's a list of some of the groups:

Jesus the King & Sacred Heart - retreat for about 20 youth

St. Christopher's parish - annual confirmation retreat for 30 students

Regina Coeli parish - annual confirmation retreat for 30 students

Dutchess County Chamber of Commerce Women's Leadership Alliance (WLA) - leadership workshop (40)



Net Pro Business meeting - 8 people

Engaged Encounter - retreat for 8 engaged couples.

Department of Youth Faith Formation - Advent Retreat for 20 guests

Leadership of the Dutchess County Chamber Foundation - leadership workshop for 30 guests

Music for people

“When you come to a Music for People workshop, you’ll find a community of music lovers where all instruments are welcome. Among the participants you will also find photographers, artists, dancers, writers, poets, actors & actresses, recording artists and performers that take Music for People’s music making philosophy into schools, community centers, therapeutic sessions and eldercare facilities.”

<https://www.musicforpeople.org/wp/>

Music for People returned in mid-October for a weekend of music enjoying the beautiful surroundings.

Showcasing our new tractor and electric golf cart

Thank you to our donors for these useful gifts!



The maintenance team named the tractor “Hope” and the golf cart has yet to be named.

Labor Day Picnic

A pig roast, bbq, intergenerational games, awesome weather plus a whole lot of love =



a fun Labor Day outdoor picnic on our green grass!



All Souls Day

On November 2nd, we remembered in a special way all those resting in the Luminosa cemetery and all our loved ones who recently passed away. Click on the link below to visit our friends virtually: [All Souls Day 2021](#)

Service Weekend



A huge shout out to the nearly 60 people who came to help during this year's Service Weekend in early November! The link below illustrates a bit of Luminosa's transformation during the weekend, but above all captures the spirit and joy we experienced while working together.

[Mariapolis Luminosa 202...](#)

New website

Mariapolis Luminosa has upgraded its website with a newer look. We hope it will be a great opportunity to share its life with so many who have it in their hearts.

[Mariapolis Luminosa – Hyde Park, New York](#)

**Welcome
Sr. Maria
and Sr.
Theresa!**



In early September, Sr. Haruko (Maria) and Sr. Kyoko (Theresa), belonging to the Congregation of Mary of the Annunciation in Nagasaki, Japan came here for six months to experience life in our permanent Mariapolis and to learn more about the Spirituality of unity. And what a gift their presence is maintenance grateful for contribution Luminosa's



to all of us! The team is especially their enormous in helping with landscaping. Their

concrete love and talents also enhance and keep our Chapel beautiful.

We also welcomed new long term residents, Atle and Birgit, who we will get to know in the next newsletter!

Website: <https://www.focolare.org/mariapolisluminosa/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Mariapolis-Luminosa-445836642103476/>

Luminosa Youth School: <https://ycna.focolare.us/luminosa-youth-school/>

Luminosa Conference Center: <https://lcc.focolare.us/>

Supporting programs and facilities:

<https://sites.google.com/focolare.us/luminosa-donate/home>
