

GET TO KNOW: FR. LUCA

Rev. Gianluca Roso, MCCJ, is the parochial vicar of S-12 parishes: Holy Family, St. Boniface, St. Joseph, St. Leo, and St. Thérèse of the Little Flower Churches. St. Boniface parishioner Lisa Biedenbach interviewed him.

Brothers and Sisters of our S-12 Family of Parishes,

First, we thank God for the Easter Season. Once again God has blessed us in many ways: the Paschal Triduum celebration, the newly baptized, the candidates who were admitted to the full communion in the church, and so on. Indeed, we have received blessing after blessing at personal, family, and community levels.

Second, we welcome Fr. Gianluca Roso (Fr. Luca) who recently joined our Family of Parishes. We are so grateful to God that finally Fr. Luca is among us and starting his ministry as Parochial Vicar of the S-12 Family of Parishes. As he becomes acquainted with the pastoral and spiritual life of our communities, he will guide the liturgy committees of our parishes as Worship Director.

We look to the future with trust in the Risen Lord who is not in the tomb but among us. We entrust ourselves in the Risen Lord as we choose a new name for the S-12 family of parishes and move forward knowing that our Risen Lord is alive and is leading his church.

Sincerely, Fr. Rudy, pastor



Fr. Gianluca "Luca" Roso, MCCJ, is parochial vicar of S-12 Family of Parishes

BIRTHPLACE: Schio, in north Italy (Vicenza province, Veneto region)

FAMILY: Mother, 5 brothers, 5 sisters-in-law, 6 nephews

STUDIES: Bachelor of Philosophy, Degree in Theology of Architecture (unfinished)

ORDINATION: May 28, 1994

PLACES SERVED AS COMBONI MISSIONARY: Peru 1990-1994, Chile 1994-1996, Peru 1996-2001, Italy 2001-2004, Chile 2004-2019, Peru 2019-2022

What was your path to become a priest?

The idea of the priesthood was always with me. I didn't really know how or when, but finally at school things became more concrete until I "surrendered," and in October 1986 I entered the Comboni Postulancy. I would be a priest and missionary. According to my family, they always knew that I would be a priest, quite naturally, so they never forced me to accept or reject it.

What attracted you to the Comboni Missionaries?

They came to my town during summer holidays and were always part of the family. I also did

childhood school in a school run by the Comboni Sisters. For a moment I also thought about joining the Franciscans or the Benedictines, but everything led me to the Comboni Missionaries. The Lord gave me to know good and true missionaries. Esteem for them was an important factor in wanting to follow in their footsteps.

What should people know about the Combonis?

We are an international congregation and come from 27 countries, and we live and work together. Saint Daniel Comboni founded us mainly for the evangelization of Africa, and gradually we have begun to

serve the American continent and, more recently, Asia. Our first option is to work for "the first evangelization" and "among the poorest and most abandoned."

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“The Eucharist is where I get strength and joy.” – Fr. Luca

How did you come to be a missionary in the USA?

A few years ago, I told my Comboni superiors that I was available (and willing) to serve elsewhere. They invited me to come to the USA and join the missionary project of this province. Here I am. Very happy.

What positions have you held?

My first destination as a priest was to a parish in Arequipa, in southern Peru. In 2001 I was assigned to Verona, Italy, in the motherhouse of our congregation where for six years I dedicated myself to administration. Later I was sent to Chile where I served until the end of 2018. In Chile I worked in missionary animation, was rector of two parishes, chaplain of a monastery, director of the Department of Missions of the Episcopal Conference, and for eight years national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies. From 2019 to January 2023, I served as provincial treasurer and procurator of the Comboni Province in Peru.

What is your favorite thing about being a pastor?

Being able to celebrate Eucharist is a daily grace, an extraordinary gift from God given to me to deliver to others and where I get strength and joy. Being a pastor means seeking to be in service: at the service of God and at the service of brothers and sisters.



In 2016, the Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis named Fr. Luca a Missionary of Mercy.

What is the biggest challenge as parochial vicar of five parishes?

Creating a community of brothers and sisters who believe and celebrate together, accepting and enjoying differences (which are never a problem but always a wealth and an opportunity to grow), who fight and walk toward the same goal: the kingdom of God and his justice.

How can parishioners help you meet the challenges of the new Family of Parishes?

Being protagonists of change and not mere spectators.

What is your favorite prayer?

The rosary. Our family prayed it at night.

What saint inspires you?

Saint Francis of Assisi because

he sought God everywhere and he knew how to find God everywhere.

What languages do you speak?

Italian, Latin, Greek, French, Spanish. I am learning English.

What is your favorite Scripture?

Luke 15. Jesus shows us the true face of his Father, his God, his infinite mercy.

How do you spend free time?

Walk, explore, see places. Now I study English to make it more my own every day. I like music but not noise! And I like art.

What should people know about you?

I am simply a man. I am no one extraordinary. I have some gifts God gave me that I hope to put at the service of this community.