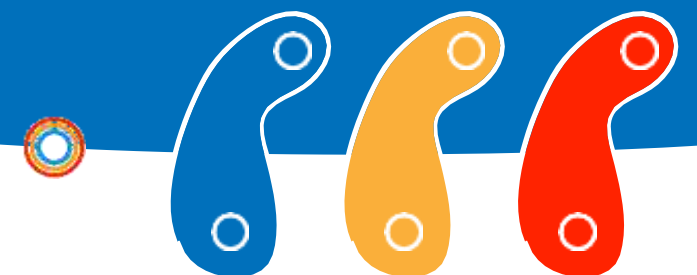# XXXVI

GENERAL CHAPTER

SOCIETY OF MARY

IN MISSION WITH AND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE MARIANIST FAMILY
XXXVI General Chapter July 2024

With the colors we highlight the different generations: in orange the young, in red, the older ones, including Joseph, husband of Mary and, in blue, Mary, the first young woman, the one who leads us to Jesus.

Mary, the young woman par excellence, who brings Jesus into the world, initiates the natural chain of transmission of the faith, of the charism, of education in general, which spreads **from one generation to the next** , as Chaminade liked to do. We must recover the missing links between generations in order to work **with and for young people** and thus assist the young Mary in the **mission of bringing JESUS into the world**.

The chain is a sign of interdependence and **communion**, of a mechanism that performs a function, that transmits a force and dynamism.

The circle with which Jesus **the Eucharist** is represented is in turn **what joins** each of the links to the next.

JESUS   MARY   YOUNG   ELDER

The scene depicts the birth of Jesus in the community / family formed by Mary and Joseph. The gateway, the safe home and the welcoming community, is formed by the last ones in the spiral: the elders, who put themselves at the service of the smallest and most vulnerable. Thus, in the interior, we find the younger generations, occupying the first places next to Jesus.

Joseph, who is older, takes on the mission of welcoming, protecting and feeding Jesus and Mary, working with and for the young people, without understanding and against his initial plan, but with faith. We, like Chaminade, want to take Joseph's place in this equation.

In the center, where the whole spiral is directed, only Jesus can be. And the spiral itself speaks to us of that "man who does not die", who passes the baton from generation to generation in an unbroken chain, assisting Mary to bring Jesus into the world.