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S.M. 3 OFFICES

MARIANISTI – AMMINISTRAZIONE GENERALE – Via Latina, 22 – 00179 Roma – Italia

October 2, 2014

Feast of the Holy Angels

197th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Society of Mary

RESULTS OF SURVEY NO. 2 AMONG THE COLLABORATORS IN OUR MARIANIST APOSTOLIC WORKS

From: Assistant General for Education

To: All the religious of the SM and to the collaborators of the Marianist works

Re: Results of survey no. 2 among the collaborators in our Marianist apostolic works

Dear Brothers and Lay Collaborators,

The International Commission on Apostolic Works has completed its analysis and work on the results of the second survey that took place from February through April, 2014. I would like to report on these results.

As you are aware, a first survey was sent to the members of the Society of Mary in all Units throughout the world and its results were already communicated in *Three Offices*, # 139 of January, 2014. Previously, the entire objectives and work of the Commission were outlined in *Three Offices*, # 137 of March, 2013, and, basically, consist in presenting an analysis of the current thinking about what makes an apostolic work Marianist and what are the present day challenges to accomplish that.

This Survey No. 2, based on the SM responses in Survey No. 1 and sent to Administrative Councils and Boards of all our works through the Unit Heads of Education, aimed at getting to know the point of view of those who collaborate with us in these works. Over 700 responses were sent in. We are very grateful to the ICMF (International Center for Marianist Formation) for the collection and initial analysis of these responses.

In the following pages, I would like to present to you the summary of these results (of Survey No. 2 to the administrative councils and boards of our apostolic works) and some analysis about where the two surveys agree and how they perceive the present day challenges somewhat differently on some points. **Any Unit Council that would like to know more about the responses that concern their Unit may request them of me and I will be happy to forward the information to you.**

The first five questions of Survey No. 2 were merely demographic questions and present nothing special to be reported here.

1. Importance of the Marianist religious life and its missionary style

This paragraph refers to the question no. 6. It was composed of 14 specific sub-questions and was about the importance of the Marianist religious life in the works and the awareness the collaborators have of the Marianist way of implementing the mission.

Lay collaborators' responses echo the same responses as Marianist religious. There were high levels of agreement about the importance and visibility of both individual Marianist religious and the local Marianist community in the apostolic work. There was general agreement that both key local administrators and unit leadership supported the apostolic works. And both lay and religious valued the connections possible between their local apostolic work and those of other units in the Society.

While there is a strong level of awareness of the *Characteristics of Marianist Education*, there is less awareness of the newer document, *Characteristics of Marianist Administration*. Marianist formation programs for apostolic works are seen as an important element in about half of the units of the Society, while the other half lack such programs or collaborators in these works are not aware of them. That being said, individual units may need to analyze specifically the responses from their particular units.

2. Essential elements of the Marianist character and tradition of an apostolic work

Respondents were asked to choose the top three elements that they considered essential to the Marianist character and tradition in their apostolic work. The elements (taken from Survey No. 1 of the Brothers) were: 1. Formation in Faith, 2. Family Spirit, 3. Involvement of Individual Marianists, 4. Mary, 5. Local Marianist Community, 6. Collaborative Decision Making, 7. Concerns for Issues of Justice and Peace, 8. Accessibility to all Persons, and 9. Excellence.

The prioritization of elements between lay collaborators and Marianist religious was the same, except for the first two: Family Spirit was #1 for the lay collaborators and #2 for Marianist religious, and Formation in Faith is #2 for the lay collaborators and #1 for the Marianist religious.

3. Elements that contribute to the accomplishment of the Marianist mission

In the question n° 8, which consisted of 12 sub-questions, respondents had to choose one of three options: YES, NO, or NOT AWARE. The questions dealt with such things as the importance of the presence of a Marianist religious community, civil and Church policies, decision-making, financial resources, accessibility of the work to all persons, hiring of the appropriate personnel and the connections felt with the apostolic works of other units. There was a strong agreement between the responses of lay collaborators and the Marianist religious in many areas. However, once again the Commission suggests that unit leadership needs to look closely at the responses from their particular unit.

There was a strong agreement in items such as the importance of the presence of a local Marianist religious community at the apostolic work; and the perception that neither Church nor civil policies limited the ability to instill the Marianist character and tradition at their apostolic work.

Areas of difference between the responses of Marianist religious and the lay collaborators were in the areas of:

- opportunities for formation in understanding the role of lay persons as key collaborators in the Marianist apostolic work;
- the viability and support of financial resources for the apostolic work;
- the need for clarity concerning who makes decisions for the apostolic works;
- the process for hiring which ensures that the Marianist mission for the Marianist apostolic work continues;
- the need for Marianist religious to take a greater role in the decisions and policy making for the Marianist apostolic works.

Because of the NO and NOT AWARE responses that exist in some units to some of the subquestions on this question no. 8, these areas may also need to be addressed specifically by leadership in some units.

4. Challenges noted by the respondents

Question no. 9 listed current challenges that Survey No. 1 identified as important for the future of Marianist apostolic works. These included:

- Lack of the presence and visibility of a local Marianist community;
- Lack of the involvement and visibility of individual Marianist religious;
- Lack of formation programs in faith for non-Marianist religious administrators and collaborators;
- Lack of Family Spirit;
- Lack of a concern for issues of peace and justice;
- Lack of an understanding of the *Characteristics of Marianist Education*;
- Lack of an understanding of the *Characteristics of Marianist Administration*;
- Lack of Marianist religious having an active role in the decision and policy making in your Marianist Apostolic Work;
- Lack of a process for collaborative decision making;
- Lack of accessibility to all persons regardless of their financial, religious, social or family circumstances;
- Lack of an awareness and connectedness of your Marianist Apostolic Work to other Marianist Apostolic Works.

Respondents to Survey No. 2 were asked to choose the top 3 challenges that would impact Marianist apostolic works in the future. There was a difference between the responses of Marianist religious and lay collaborators.

The Marianist religious who are members of boards and responded to this Survey No. 2, listed: Lack of understanding of the *Characteristics of Marianist Administration*, Lack of understanding of the *Characteristics of Marianist Education*, lack of formation programs, and lack of involvement and visibility of individual Marianist religious as the top 4 challenges.

Lay collaborators, in Survey No. 2, listed: Lack of involvement and visibility of individual Marianist religious, lack of formation programs, lack of a process for collaborative decision

making and lack of understanding of the *Characteristics of Marianist Administration* as the top four challenges.

As we can see, both groups include the lack of formation programs and lack of involvement and visibility of individual Marianist religious in their top four challenges.

By way of conclusion

Once again, and on behalf of the International Commission which works on this topic, I'm most grateful to the many persons from the Marianist apostolic works around the world who responded to this survey. We are gathering very rich material and a deep understanding of the apostolic works in the units and the perceptions of those who work in them.

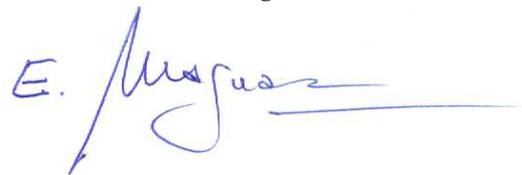
In the near future the materials and conclusions from Survey No. 1 and Survey No. 2 will be sent to the leadership of the units (Councils and Chapters) for comments and inputs from the particular perspective of leadership.

Once received, a preliminary synthesis of what gives an apostolic work its Marianist character and identity will be submitted to the General Leadership Assembly of the Society to be held in July, 2015, for others' comments.

As usual, if you have any questions or comments in reading this presentation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

My fraternal regards to all of you on this day of the celebration of the 197th anniversary of the foundation of the Society of Mary.

Essodonna Maximin Magnan, SM

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Magnan', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Assistant General for Education