



MESSAGE FROM THE WORLD COUNCIL OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY

November 9, 2025, Dedication of the Basilica of St John Lateran

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Marianist Family,

At the end of the annual meeting of the World Council of the Marianist Family, we wish, like Saint Paul, in the conclusion of his Letter to the Romans, heard in this Saturday's liturgy, to address to each one of you personally, our fraternal greeting and the assurance of our great closeness. Like him, we want to say to all of you: "Greet one another with a kiss of peace" (Rom 16:16). May the joy of fraternity lived in the Family, here, during our meeting and throughout the world, be our treasure. To form the great Family of the "privileged children of Mary", as our Founder said, is a great honor. In our time, marked by so much violence and suffering, we want the name "Family of Mary" to be associated everywhere with an image of peace and fraternity that we receive from the child that Mary presents to us.

We began our meeting by listening to **the call of young people**, as it has resonated in our tradition, and, more recently, during the last General Chapter of the Society of Mary, *A Promise of Life* (2 Tim 1:1), dedicated to "Pastoral Ministry with and for Young People." With the young people, we contemplated the unconditional love that God offers us despite the wounds that mark us all. We have regained the awareness that, in order to approach young people, "the first step is our personal and communal conversion" (PL 5). The community that we form is indeed the first ground where "Mary's warmth of welcome" can be manifested (PL 10). Let us continue to move forward on this path together and, as brother, sister, community or family, let us let young people challenge us so that we can "change their lives and ours too" (PL 12).

We exchanged **news from our four branches**. Among these, the General Assembly of the Alliance Mariale which allowed, a year ago, the election of the General Council and the definition of resolutions for the years 2025-2029. The sisters rewrote their Rule during an extraordinary Chapter (January 2025). The brothers lived the Jubilee of Youth with 160 of them in Rome (July 2025). The laity are preparing for their next International Assembly in Bogotá, from August 17 to 22, 2026, "Called by Jesus, in Alliance with Mary." They will choose their new international leaders.

Most of our meeting was devoted to the elaboration of the **objectives of the World Council of the Marianist Family** for the next four years (**2026-2029**). It is a profitable exercise in discernment and listening to the calls of the Spirit. Our priorities will be our charismatic unity, our presence among young people, our attention to the common home and to the poor, and common formation which offers an important means of growth, unity and missionary dynamism. We also see how important communication among all of us is, but also how difficult it is to do well. We believe that these different goals can serve as inspiration for your local Family, which is why we pass them on to you.



We re-read our document "**An Open Family**" (2024) and the reactions that the national councils sent us on it. We recognize the existence, in many places, of people connected to our communities and works who share some aspects of the Marianist charism.

We reaffirm that the Marianist Family is composed of four branches (AM, MLC, FMI, SM). As the WCMF, we must continue to reflect on the type of relationships that exist between those people and us. We will be attentive to your experience and to your own reflections inspired by our charismatic tradition.

In recent years, we have wanted to **communicate with all the national family councils**. An online meeting with the family

council of France, in May 2025, was very enriching. We want to repeat this experience with other national councils; please let us know if you are available. Over the past two years, we have been soliciting information from the national family councils. We will continue to do so annually. We thank all those who responded to this request. This is valuable information for the collaboration among us.

Recently, we celebrated the jubilee of beatification of Blessed Chaminade **with a novena of thanksgiving**. It was a moment that generated a lot of enthusiasm and joy. Let us continue to cultivate this contact that is so important to us.

For the next two years, the rotating presidency of our council will be exercised by the President of the Marianist Lay Communities. We thank him for that.

At the end of this Jubilee Year, we entrust you all to the love of Christ and Mary. May the Family of Mary always be animated by hope and joy.

You are all in our fraternal thoughts in Christ and Mary,

The World Council of the Marianist Family
 Sunday, November 9, 2025,
 Dedication of the Papal Basilica of St. John Lateran