
FAMILLE MARIANISTE
MARIANIST FAMILY
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A MESSAGE
FROM THE SIXTH WORLD COUNCIL OF THE FAMILY OF MARY
TO ALL MEMBERS WORLDWIDE

The annual meeting of the *World Council of the Family of Mary* took place in Rome, at the Generalate of the Society of Mary, from the 7th to the 9th of November. Participating were the leaders from each of the Council's four branches: the International Team of the *Marianist Lay Communities*; the General Moderator of the *Alliance Mariale*; and the General Councils of both the *Daughters of Mary* and the *Society of Mary*.

For three days we were able to partake of prayer, reflection and discernment in a spirit of intense family sharing. For some of us, recently elected to our positions, it was a first experience working with the *Council*. Our meetings served to highlight, not only that which unites us, but also to give life and direction to the living out of our common charism. We also had the opportunity to acquaint the International Seminary community with the realities and concerns of the different branches of our Family.

As a central focus of our reflection we used the model of the Church inspired by Mary. For this purpose we availed ourselves of a series of texts which will soon be made available to all of you on our Marianist Family webpage (www.marianist.org). We hope these texts might stimulate both personal reflection and community dialogue. As Marianists, we find in Mary a model for our understanding of the Church and for the living out of our belonging to Her.

Throughout these days together, we went through those diverse aspects that make up the reality of our Marianist Family. We began, first, by sharing together whatever recent events had taken place within our different branches since our last Council meeting. We gave special attention to the reports from both the International Convocation of Lay Marianist Communities (Philadelphia, USA, August, 2001), and those from the General Chapter of the Society of Mary (Rome, July, 2001.) The result was a rich exchange, which brought to the fore the great impetus our Founder's Beatification had for all of us.

We then looked at the *National Family Councils* and their continued growth in those countries in which we have a presence. These Councils are already a reality in some 14 nations; and they are contributing most positively to the Family by their dedicated sense of

belonging. We heartily encourage you to continue your work in these already existing Councils, and we ask you to establish them where they do not yet exist.

We made some important decisions relating to the Constitutions of the *International Marianist Volunteers*, by defining their scope, duties, responsibilities and their mode of action. We want these decisions to serve them in coordinating and empowering their present situations throughout the world. You will receive greater detail on all of this, later on.

Presented to us was a decision, by the General Chapter of the Society of Mary, to establish an *International Center for Marianist Formation*, which would be open and available to all branches of our Family. This Center would not have a fixed location, but would be of service by offering us, through the medium of Internet and long-distance learning, a selection of courses, course materials and other types of information.

We also considered the possibility of hosting a *Marianist Gathering* for those of us present in Toronto at the 2002 World Youth Day. We also talked about on-going arrangements with other religious congregations in the establishment of an N.G.O. We discussed, as well, the next issue of the Family Album, and of possible future publications thereof, and also the Marianist Family Webpage. And so, to the extent that you can, we invite and encourage your participation in all these initiatives; these can only serve to reinforce those ties already binding our great Marianist Family.

Our next Meeting will take place on November 13-15, in 2002. On that occasion, we intend to deal with a matter we consider of the utmost importance to the Marianist Family - namely, our common mission, its present reality, and its future possibilities.

We thank you for all your prayers on behalf of our annual meeting, and we send you our warmest fraternal greetings.

[The World Council of the Family of Mary](#)
[Rome, November 9, 2001](#)

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