

Marianist Family

Do whatever He tells you



To all members
of the Marianist Family:

Dear friends,

The members of the World Council of the Marianist Family met in Rome November 6-8, 2008. Once again, gathering together as a Family was a beautiful experience for us, full of joy in moments of sharing and of mutual enrichment in the exchange about missions and points of view. In hearing the news from each branch, we could observe with delight and hope that the fraternal atmosphere among us is a reflection of the spirit that reigns in all the members of our communities and their missions and projects, inspired by the charism of our Founders. The Council noted particularly the composition of the new Council of the Alliance Mariale, which could not be represented in this meeting because its head was convalescing from an operation, just as was Ed Violet, who also could not be present. Sr. María José Jáuregui was absent being on an official visit to the Region of Africa.

Each Branch presented a report about the most important events of the past year:

In a written report the head of the Alliance Mariale informed us of the election of a new Council, composed of Christiane Barbaux of France (Responsible), Cecilia Moraga of Chile, Agathe Senou of Ivory Coast and Marie Laure Jean of France (Councilors). The World Council of the Family invited all the members of the Council to join us next year.

The Marianist Lay Communities

underlined the importance of participating actively in the Church, nourishing relationships with the Pontifical Council for the Laity and with national and local Churches. In this line of work, the International Team participated in the Vatican conference on "Woman and Man, the *humanum* in its Entirety" (Isabella Moyer) and in the Second Latin American Meeting of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities (Ezequiel Reggiani). This year also saw the celebration of the Third European Meeting of the MLC in Greisinghof, Austria. An item, which took up a great part of its activities, was the preparation for the 5th International Meeting of the MLC in Nairobi, which will take place August 2-8, 2009; other branches are invited to attend (some members of the World Council of the Marianist Family and national representatives). The Pontifical Council for the Laity has shown a great interest in the organization of this meeting, especially since it follows upon the visit of His Holiness to Africa and precedes the Synod of Bishops of that continent. The Pontifical Council's collaboration is very positive in matters that concern necessary contacts with the Vatican and with the Church in Kenya.

The Society of Mary described its participation in activities organized by the Union of Superiors General at all levels. As to internal affairs, the Brothers are preparing to open a series of centers for the study and spreading of the Marianist charism in each zone, open to

the collaboration and participation of the rest of the Marianist Family. They are also preparing for the Meeting of the Assistants for Education from all Units, immediately after the meeting of the WCMF, and for the General Leadership Assembly in Puebla in July 2009. They are also completing an evaluation of the work of the International Seminary after 10 years of its operations, as well as a study on the theme of "mixed composition," a characteristic of the Society of Mary that is unique in the Church and which appears to be affected by a growing clericalization. They commented also on their concerns about the financial situation of the Society and the necessity to seek external funding in order to carry out the mission in several countries.

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate told us about the foundation in Ranchi, India, which is growing with the reception of young women interested in religious life. A dispensary has just been opened for street children and their families. They also spoke of developments in Togo, Africa, where they have opened a new community in Lomé. The Bishop of Kara has asked them to take responsibility for a health center in Kapatichil by the end of 2010. In January 2009 a new community will be opened in Argentina. Some young women of Haiti are considering the consecrated life and will begin their initial formation in Togo by the end of December 2008. This next year, the Sisters in Japan, USA and Italy

will celebrate their 60th anniversary in those countries. The feminine religious branch of our Family also participates actively in the Assembly of Women Superiors General.

Business

The meeting of this Council continuously returned to the figure of our Founder, the underlying theme that colored all our activities in preparation for the 250th anniversary of the birth of Blessed Chaminade:

A consultation of all the National Councils of the Family was done on the topic of a celebration of a World Day of the Marianist Heritage. Upon reading the various responses, it was decided that, since this feast will already be celebrated locally, it would not be opportune at this time to convoke a World Day, but rather to urge each Council to continue with its own celebrations, deepening them in the study of our charism.

Echoes of the Marianist World Day of Prayer in Aparecida, Brazil were received, and we were delighted that this has already been turned into a strong tradition that unites us as a Family, separated in space but united in time. The next Day of Prayer will be October 11, 2009 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Kinshasa. This Council will send out timely information about the Sanctuary, its history and its devotional elements, prayers and suggested intentions, underlining this time aspects more closely linked to our own charism, the spirituality of our Founder and its contribution to the community which meets in the Sanctuary and in the rest of the world.

Once the cycle of the Friday Magnificats dedicated to the Objectives of the Millennium is

completed, it will continue with other universal themes of the year, centering upon the mission to which our Founder and Mary call us through the Magnificat: promotion of peace, justice and the integrity of creation with a preferential option for the poor. Estella Ibarra will coordinate the themes and the contact with the groups which will be in charge of the editing.

250th Anniversary of the birth of Blessed Chaminade in 2011. A moment of grace like this one must be celebrated and announced from this very moment on so that all of us might have time to diffuse and to study materials about his image and his significance in facing the challenges of our own time, as well as preparing to give thanks for all that God has done in our communities up until now. This Council highly recommends to the National Councils of the Family that:

1. They announce and spread the celebration of this event.
2. That they study how to celebrate it in each place and what activities will be developed.
3. That they send to us suggestions that they believe appropriate for the worldwide celebration. These suggestions may be sent to our secretary, Tim Phillips (semvcrecsm@smcuria.it).

A European Youth Meeting is already being organized, with the possibility of linking it to the World Youth Day to be celebrated in Madrid in August 2011.

We are pleased to announce to you that, with a great deal of work, we are counting upon a new Family Album next year, 2009. We hope that you will enjoy it and, above all, that you will use it to spread news of our Family and its works everywhere, in the local Church, in the educational communities of our

schools, other communities and movements... that none of these instruments of communication and transmission of the charism be neglected.

José Luis Pérez, coordinator of the Marianist International Volunteers, whom we congratulate once more for his contribution and dedication, sent his annual report to WCMF. At this time, he is developing a series of documents that will permit a better definition and spreading of the special character and the mission of this entity, as well as the characteristics that each Marianist volunteer should have and the work that has to be done.

Finally, we inform you that the next meeting of the World Council of the Marianist Family will take place in Rome November 11-13, 2009. The current International Team of the Marianist Lay Communities is finishing its mandate, so this is their goodbye. We are grateful for their work and we are preparing to receive the new members for these dates.

Members of the World Council of the Marianist Family

José María Alvira SM
 Christiane Barboux AM
 Marie Joëlle Bec FMI
 Ana Blázquez Ubach CLM
 Manuel Cortés SM
 André Fétis SM
 Domingo Fuentes SM
 Anthony Garascia CLM
 Estella Ibarra FMI
 María José Jáuregui FMI
 Susanna Kim FMI
 Isabella Moyer CLM
 Lorna Mueni CLM
 Timothy Phillips SM
 Ezequiel Reggiani CLM
 Edward Violet SM

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