

Marianist Family

Do whatever He tells you



**"AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH,
AND DWELLED AMONG US."**

(John 1: 14)

In countries where some of our Marianist Family is present, many sad events have unfolded in the past year. These include; wars in Democratic Republic of Congo, violence in Kenya, religious persecution in India, hurricanes in Haiti, Cuba and the USA. And in recent months, global markets have reached a serious crisis that is affecting all — rich and poor. These events are compelling us to a deeper commitment to our work for justice and peace in our world.

Friends, as Marianists, we acknowledge activities from 2008 that are signs of hope. There is an ongoing interfaith dialogue between Moslems and Christians. A Vatican Congress studied the role of women in the

Church and in the world. The 2nd Meeting of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities took place in Latin America. And, the recent Synod of the Word in Rome studied and promoted ways to increase the use of sacred scriptures to nurture the faith life of all.

As the Marianist Family, and in communion with the universal Church, we look forward in the coming year to the 5th International Meeting of MLC-CLM in Nairobi, Kenya, and the General Leadership Assembly for the Society of Mary in Puebla, Mexico. Also, Pope Benedict XVI will visit Cameroon and Angola. This visit will precede the Synod of Africa.

We echo the evangelist, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelled among us." With Mary, we move beyond fear and

despair, knowing that with the coming of her son, God became one of us so that truth and love can overcome all evil.

The Bible is fraught with appeals "not to be silent", to "speak out", to "proclaim the word at the right and at the wrong time", to be the sentinels that tear away the silence of indifference. (Synod on the Word Message, paragraph IV)

As individuals and as communities, we turn to the Word of God to seek wisdom. We pray with the Word to find strength. We study the Word and are challenged to action, to bring the Word to life in our here and now.

Rome, november 2008
World Council
of Marianist Family

MARY,

**YOU WELCOMED THE MAGI INTO YOUR HOME,
STRANGERS FROM THE EAST.**



YOU GAVE THEM WELCOME,

EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE DIFFERENT.

**SOON AFTER, YOU AND JOSEPH
FLED WITH THE BABY JESUS INTO EGYPT,
EXILED FROM YOUR OWN LAND.**

LEAD US FROM FEAR.

TEACH US ALWAYS TO INCARNATE

YOUR SON, JESUS,

**IN OUR WORKS, OUR FAMILIES AND IN OUR
RELATIONSHIPS.**

LET THE WORD MADE FLESH

LEAD US TO WELCOME THE STRANGER,

**REACH OUT TO THE EXILED AND IMPOVERISHED,
AND CARE FOR THE INTEGRITY
OF ALL GOD'S CREATION.**

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> 12/2008

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