



Conseil Mondial de la Famille Marianiste

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World Council of the Marianist Family
Consejo Mundial de la Familia Marianista

December 8, 2022

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Dear sisters, dear brothers of the Marianist Family,

The World Council of the Marianist Family met in Rome from 11 to 13 November, 2022.

Our Council was partly updated after the July elections that concluded the General Chapter of the Sisters and the International Meeting of Lay Communities.

A morning of retreat allowed us to begin our meeting by listening to the Lord. Father Miguel Ángel Cortés, SM, offered us a beautiful meditation on the theme: *"The Marianist Family, Called to be a People of Saints"*.

The new administrative teams of the branches explained their decisions and orientations to us:

- The Marianist Sisters are committed to responding to the challenges of integral ecology - the theme of their General Chapter - and also foresee a certain transformation of their structures. -
- The MLCs presented us with the main orientations defined at the international meeting in Madrid and the specificities of the different regions. It should be noted that the newly created Asian MLC region was represented by its leader, who came from Japan.
- The Brothers also shared with us their decision to dedicate their next General Chapter (July 2024) to *pastoral care for and with young people in the context of the Marianist Family*; they wish to prepare this Chapter in a synodal way by consulting also members of the Marianist Family.

The work of this Council was based on the **objectives** set last year for the period **2022-2025**.

These objectives were developed by the WCMF after studying the many responses received from around the world to the major 2021 survey on the situations of the Marianist family. Now we all have to bring these goals to life! And it is first of all at the local level: of the city, the region, the country, where the members of our spiritual Family are invited to meet, to dialogue, to collaborate... The locally represented branches are called to create a family, to carry together and radiate the Marianist charism. By the letter of November 13, 2022, addressed to the local and national councils of the Marianist Family, the World Council encourages all members of our family to implement these orientations and priorities together.

One of the 2022-25 objectives was specially worked on in our November meeting: that of **formation**. Why and how to consider pooling formation resources for members of the four branches? In a plenary session, through numerous exchanges, initiatives and achievements of several countries were discussed; limitations and the need for well-defined goals and projects were also noted. Reflection continued in language groups. It will be deepened by a commission with representatives of the branches, therefore of the various vocations, to specify a frame of reference and axes of formation that can be common to the entire Marianist Family.

Among the other topics studied during the World Council, a review **of the Statutes of the WCMF** led us to plan some adaptations and updates of the current text.

Finally, we made a certain "return to the well-springs" in France, evoking the two **places of our foundations**: in Bordeaux, the Chapel of La Madeleine and in Agen. Beautiful projects are being developed in the Society of Mary and among the Daughters of Mary Immaculate... with a desire to raise awareness and involve the entire Marianist Family. These two places that recall our history are also intended to offer opportunities for formation in charism, Marianist mission, with an international dimension.

This message is being sent to you on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. To Mary Immaculate we entrust our Marianist family, with her we want to serve the Church of Jesus Christ, the author of Life, the conqueror of all evil.

"O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you."

Dear sisters, dear brothers, in this season of Advent we await with great joy and hope the coming of the Savior. Let us entrust to him all the distress and violence, all the expectations of this world. The Lord Jesus inaugurates a reign of Peace...

***For a child has been born for us, a son given to us!
Authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."* Isaiah 9:5 (NRSV)**

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year to all!

The World Council of the Marianist Family.

JOYEUX NOËL
FELIZ NAVIDAD
MERRY CHRISTMAS

