



Conseil Mondial de la Famille Marianiste

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

To: All members of the Marianist Family
From: World Council of the Marianist Family (WCMF)
Date: Rome, November 3, 2017

REPORT OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY FOR THE YEAR 2017

The World Council of the Marianist Family met at Vía Latina, from November 1-3, with the International Team of Marianist Lay Communities (MLC), the General Council of the Society of Mary (SM), except Michael McAward, absent for professional reasons, the General Council of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (FMI), welcoming Clotilde Fernández del Pozo and regretting the absence of Michaela Lee Pok-Sun, who has not yet joined the Council because she is wrapping up her mission in her unit of origin. The Alliance Mariale unfortunately was not present, because Christiane Barbaux had health problems.

We celebrate the joy of being reunited to continue walking as a family. We share the joy of the Bicentennials, the good news of the Beatification of Mother Adèle and two new foundations of our sisters (Vietnam and Malawi).

In this meeting we have collected the reactions of the Marianist Family on the document "Marie Thérèse de Lamourous: Who are you?" distributed during this past year. We emphasize the importance of her contributions at the origins of the Marianist Family, although we cannot consider her as a foundress. We attach the document that supports this reflection, and we invite you to delve into it.

We have felt the need to clarify the role and tasks of the National and Local Family Councils. We see that their existence is fundamental to strengthen family life, that they must be constituted by the leaders of each of the existing branches in the country or locality, to support and promote new joint projects.

We note that there are concrete initiatives to strengthen formation in different branches; today we are called to go further in elaborating and promoting common formation projects, in the Family and for the Family, being aware that it concerns not only content delivery, but that it should produce a transformation in life.

We evaluated the objectives of the 2014-2017 period, noting that we are making progress in their fulfillment to a great extent, such as: celebrating the Patronal Feast in a large part of the world, the pilgrimage of the triptych, and the celebration of the World Day of Prayer of the Marianist Family. Other goals we see that we need to deepen, for example: stressing our missionary commitment with young people, strengthening our commitment to peace, justice and the integrity of creation. We have set new objectives for the period 2018-2021, which are attached.

The Patronal Feast will be celebrated on the Sunday closest to the Feast of the Annunciation, in this case on April 9, 2018. The World Day of Prayer of the Marianist Family will be Sunday, October 14, where the Daughters of Mary Immaculate invite us to make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of La Vang, in Vietnam. We have attached a calendar with the relevant dates of celebrations for our Family during the year 2018.

REPORTS BY BRANCH

1. MLC report:

- The document *Being a Lay Marianist and being MLC* has been distributed in the communities and is proving very useful to clarify how many they are and their identity within the Marianist Family.
- The *MLC DIRECTORY 2017/18* was presented. There are currently 6,480 Marianist lay people in 587 communities, present in 32 countries. The foundation in Cuba is celebrated with joy.
- The next international meeting of the MLC will take place in Korea August 12 - 18, 2018, with the motto "Walking hand in hand: the gift of the laity in the Marianist Family."
- The International Team had a very fruitful meeting with Fr. Alexandre Awi Melo, Secretary of the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life.
- The joys and difficulties of the different regions were shared with joy. Keeping communication going with all countries is very important for everyone.

2. Report of the AM: We received a written report, of which we present the following summary:

- The festivities of the Bicentennial of the FMI and the SM were an intense experience.
- The process of recognition of the Alliance Mariale as a Secular Institute continues in the Roman Congregation.
- This year, the secular institutes of the world celebrate their 70th anniversary of recognition by the promulgation of *Provida Mater Ecclesia* by Pius XII in 1947.
- Next year the General Assembly will take place with elections for the members of the administration. Work is being done on the preparation of a document on the identity of a consecrated lay woman in a Marianist secular institute.

3. FMI report:

- Celebration of the 32nd General Chapter of the FMI (from July 15 to August 6) with the theme: "New times, New Wine, new paths in solidarity," emphasized the need to reconfigure the congregation. Election of the new General Council.
- Within the framework of the Bicentennial, with great joy, the foundations in Vietnam and Malawi were celebrated on the feast of the Holy Name of Mary (September 12).
- Reception of the Decree of Beatification of Mother Adèle. The ceremony will be held on June 10, 2018, in Agen, France. Some days before the beatification, the remains of Mother Adèle will be transferred to the Cathedral of Agen.

4. SM Report:

- We are preparing our next General Chapter for the month of July 2018, with the theme "A man who does not die."
- Much effort has been devoted to the formation and Marianist identity in the Society's works. A document has been published to reinforce the pedagogy of discernment in the accompaniment of a vocation.
- The five Zonal Centers of Marianist Formation are progressively developing.

The next World Council of the Marianist Family will be chaired by the MLC and will be held October 26-28, 2018.

Full of joy and hope, we put the work of our Family Council in the hands of Our Mother.