

## 2010 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY

*"Now the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Matt 1:18-21, 24.*

At this Christmas God continues to give us an immense gift: his Son who becomes incarnate. We believe that God continues to come into our lives, that he becomes a human being among us.

In the midst of calamities and adverse circumstances, be they caused by nature or by human beings, the Lord comes to life in compassionate hearts and in the hands of solidarity.

We have been witnesses of the presence of God in the world, through those persons who – like Mary and Joseph – have responded in faith before the inexplicable, putting themselves confidently into the hands of the Lord.

The Marianist Family has also given testimony in many ways, lifting up its trusting gaze to the Lord of life and holding out its generous hands towards the brother and sister who are suffering.

The celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Father Chaminade will give us the opportunity to go more deeply into our spirituality, to strengthen even more the bonds of the Family, and to see the Marianist vocation reborn.



Crib scene from Haiti

***My Spirit Rejoices in God,  
my Savior!***

United with you, O Mary, we rejoice with all our hearts because the Lord is in our midst! We firmly believe that his love continues to renew us, and we sing the Magnificat for his great gift to us of Father Chaminade.

Help us at this Christmas to receive your son Jesus into our lives.

**Merry Christmas!**



[www.marianist.org](http://www.marianist.org)