



# Conseil Mondial de la Famille Marianiste

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

**TO:** All the members of the Marianist Family  
**FROM:** Franca Zonta, FMI, President  
**DATE:** February 3, 2013  
**RE:** Report from the WCMF session, November 16, 2012

### REPORT OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY FOR THE YEAR 2012

To all the members of the Marianist Family

Rome, November 16, 2012

The World Council of the Marianist Family (WCMF) met in Rome on November 14, 15 and 16, 2012. Meeting together as a Family is always a reason for rejoicing. These three days were dedicated to seeking together the will of God for us all.

We welcomed the newly elected General Administrations of the Society of Mary and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate. Unfortunately, due to visa difficulties, Ernest Kasongo (MLC Regional Responsible for Africa) and Agathe Senou (Alliance Mariale, Ivory Coast) were unable to attend the meeting.

#### News of the Family

The **Society of Mary** convened their XXXIV Chapter from July 3 - 22, 2012 in Rome with the theme, "To Enliven the Fire that enkindles other Fires". The Chapter was clearly animated by a profound spirit of faith. It was ambitious and difficult in its application but prescient about the poverty of our human situation and present challenges. There was a call to increase mutual collaboration and sharing of resources.

The **Daughters of Mary Immaculate** convened their XXXI<sup>o</sup> General Chapter from July 16 to August 5, 2012 with the theme, "If you say so...We'll go into the Deep". The sisters were grateful for the participation of the Marianist Family in the early days of the Chapter. Much of the work of the Chapter was accomplished within small, discernment communities. This was a very helpful and effective dynamic.

More information on both Chapters can be found at [www.marianist.org](http://www.marianist.org)

For the first time in history, the two General Chapters met together. The Society of Mary and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate are collaborating on a mutual celebration of the bicentennial of the founding of our two religious congregations in union with the Marianist Family.

The **Alliance Mariale** is growing in numbers and stability. More than half of their members are perpetually professed. The first Latin American meeting was held with four perpetually professed members from Chile and Ecuador and the General Responsible. All members have begun a discernment process in preparation for an International Assembly and leadership elections in 2013.

**Marianist Lay Communities** are preparing for their 6th International Meeting in Lima, Peru, January 26 to February 2, 2014. The theme of the meeting is "Faith of the Heart, in the Heart of the World". In September, 2012, Ernest Kasongo represented our Marianist Lay Communities at the Pan-African Congress for the Laity in Yaounde, Cameroon.

## **Spirituality**

The **Marianist World Day of Prayer** continues to be celebrated around the world. On October 14, 2012 we united in prayer with our sisters and brothers in Togo. On October 13, 2013, we will gather spiritually around the shrine of the Madonna of Urakami in Nagasaki, Japan.

The **World Day of Marianist Vocation**, on the Feast of the Annunciation, invites us to celebrate Mary's "Yes" to God's plan of Salvation. It is also a time to ponder in gratitude for the gift of our own Marianist vocation. The World Council will continue to provide materials each year for reflection, inspiration and prayer. In 2013, the World Day of Marianist Vocation will be on April 8.

The **Friday Magnificat**, prayed on the first Friday of each month, unites the Marianist Family with Mary in praying for justice in our world. We encourage all Marianists to subscribe to this monthly email message, and to promote and distribute this prayer to your communities.

We invite the Marianist Family around the world to respond to Pope Benedict's invitation to join the Church in this **Year of Faith**. It is a providential opportunity for the Marianist Family to know, love, and live our faith. We are called to welcome Jesus as Mary did, to renew our own charism and share this gift for the Year of Faith. We warmly ask every community, Family Council, and educators in the faith to devote some time this year deepening our spiritual treasures: the faith of the heart and the meditation on the Creed. We invite everyone to share your Year of Faith initiatives, experiences, prayer and formation resources with us for inclusion on our website.

## **Marianist Causes**

The **Daughters of Mary Immaculate** invite us to celebrate the life of **Mother Adele de Batz de Trenquellion** and to unite our efforts towards the cause for her beatification by praying for Mother Adele's intercession in our concerns. Messages of gifts received can be sent to Sr. Susanna Kim at [genrel@fmi-adele.org](mailto:genrel@fmi-adele.org)

The cause for the canonization of **Blessed William Joseph Chaminade** continues to proceed. We have great hope and expectation that the canonization is close.

In 2013, we will remember the **50th anniversary of the death of Faustino**. A Lenten program is being prepared for our youth.

## Communications

We received a report from Brother Michael McAward on the ongoing work of the **official web-site of the World Marianist Family**, [www.marianist.org](http://www.marianist.org). A new page is being prepared for basic information and links to Marianist sponsored Justice and Peace works around the world. Invitations will be sent from each branch for inclusion on this web-page.

**A survey** was sent to all countries to gather information on the presence and current reality of local, national and regional Marianist Family Councils. All countries were encouraged to respond, whether a Family Council was present or not. We received responses from Brazil, Columbia, Spain, Chile, Japan, Canada, France-Belgium, Mexico, Poland, India, Ireland, Kenya, USA, Cameroon, Argentina. A summary of the responses is being prepared. We continue to encourage all local areas, countries, and regions that have two or more branches of the Marianist Family present to form a Family Council; a concrete model of Marianist family spirit and collaboration.

## Common Mission

The final copy of our document on **Common Mission** was approved unanimously and will be distributed to Marianist Family Councils around the world. We hope that this will be a living document, both inspirational and motivational. We encourage its implementation and promotion. We will be happy to receive any information describing how the message of this document is being lived in its reality.

## International Center for Marianist Formation

Brother Jack Ventura, the Director of the **International Center for Marianist Formation**, gave a report on the current status of the continental centers for Marianist Formation. A discussion took place on how we can collaborate in the goals and efforts of this important formation project.

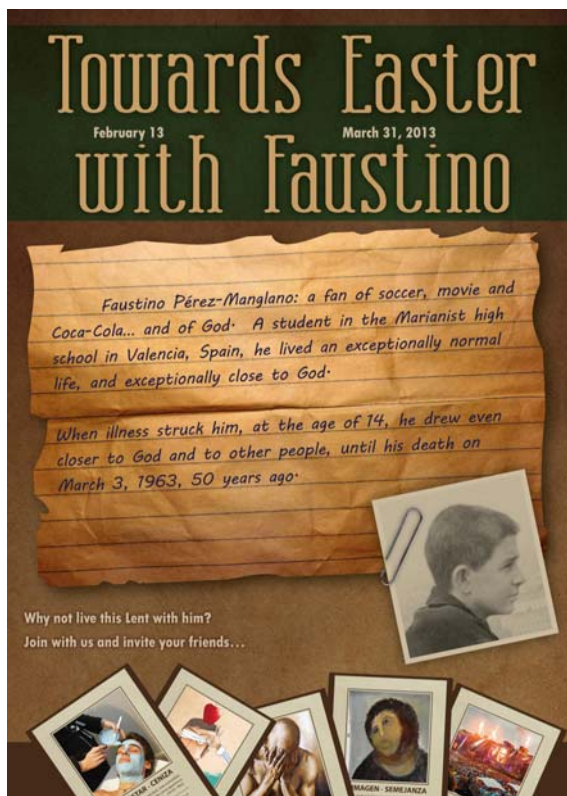
## United in Prayer

As another year comes to a close, we remember all in our Marianist Family who have suffered from violence, the current economic crises, and natural disasters around the world. We remain united in love and prayer for all.

## Conclusion

We would like to thank Christiane Barbaux, World Council President, and Brother Charles-Henri Moulin, Secretary, for helping to make this an efficient, effective and successful meeting. We also thank all the Brothers of the Via Latina community for their generous and gracious hospitality.

**The dates of the next meeting of the World Council of the Marianist Family Council are November 6, 7, and 8, 2013.**



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