
FAMILLE MARIANISTE

MARIANIST FAMILY

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No. 31

March 2002

MARIANIST WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2002

This year we will celebrate the Marianist World Day of Prayer on October 13. Each year we try to focus on a Marian shrine on a different continent. This year the focus will be in North America, at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

The choice of the National Shrine in the United States is an obvious one for this year. It will contribute to the celebrations marking the unification of four provinces of the Society of Mary into one united Province of the United States - an event which will take place during the summer of 2002. It will also be an occasion for us to be united in prayer with the numerous and multi-faceted Marianist Family in the United States, one year after the horrendous terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Such events stimulate the Marianists of the United States to united efforts at building a world of justice and peace, and to humble prayer that the Lord, His Mother, and Blessed Father Chaminade would strengthen and protect our world and our Marianist Family.

Members of the Marianist Family in North America will represent us in Washington on that day, praying for all of us and for the intentions we share as a Family. You are invited to celebrate this day in each local area by bringing together members of all branches of the Family and by offering prayers for the many needs we have as individuals and as communities.

Among particular intentions for prayer, we might remember:

- the needs of the Church, that we may be a sign of hope and love in the world, in the spirit of Mary
- peace and mutual understanding among all peoples
- fidelity and deepening for all of us in our shared charism
- the sick among our members
- the poor and needy, victims of injustice around us
- vocations to all branches of Marianist life and perseverance
- the special needs of Marianists living and working in North America and of the people whom they serve in the United States and Canada
- thanksgiving for the graces of the past year, in particular for the General Chapter of the Marianist Sisters (July-August 2002)

Enclosed is some information about the history of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. We invite you to begin making plans now for this celebration of the World Day of Prayer 2002.

Fraternally,

David Joseph Fleming, S.M.
President, World Council of the Marianist Family