

MEMORANDUM

To: National Councils of the Marianist Family
From: World Council of the Marianist Family
Re: Objectives for 2002-2005

From 13 to 15 November 2002, the World Council of the Marianist Family held its annual meeting at the Curia Generalizia Marianisti in Rome, Italy. In the course of the meeting, we reaffirmed the mission of the Marianist Family today, as it was expressed by the founding World Council in 1996:

In order to transform the world into the reign of God, we, the Marianist Family, as members of the Church collaborate in a variety of ways and settings to form persons and communities in faith.

At the same time, we reviewed and evaluated the five-year objectives established by the original World Council and established three primary objectives for the next three years, 2002-2005. We have chosen to focus our attention in three specific areas: the mission of the Marianist Family, the non-formal members of the Marianist Family, and our shared responsibility for vocation ministry. Those objectives, along with some specific strategies to accomplish them, are listed on the enclosed sheet.

During this coming year, we have decided to give special attention and focus to the ways in which we can collaborate as a Marianist Family in vocation ministry. We ask your help and assistance in this project. Therefore, we ask you to review the present programs and activities in your vocation ministry. We are particularly interested in any unique and creative approaches you may have in collaborating in this ministry with the other branches of the Marianist Family. We ask you, as well, to explore the vocation ministry experience of other religious and lay groups so that we may benefit from their successes and their failures.

When you have gathered this information, we ask you to send a written summary to the President of the World Council of the Marianist Family, Carlos Benítez, by 1 September 2003. This will allow us time to collate and to summarize the information. At the next annual meeting of the

World Council, in November 2003, we intend to devote a significant period of time during the meeting to assessing the present vocation ministry reality in the Marianist Family and to suggesting ways in which we can make our collaboration more effective.

We also want to encourage you to organize an annual Founders' Day celebration for the Marianist Family, recognizing both William Joseph Chaminade and Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon. We see this as a wonderful opportunity to renew our own baptismal and religious commitments as well as to pray intensely for an increase of vocations to the Marianist Family. We would appreciate hearing about your experiences of these celebrations.

When the World Council of the Marianist Family was formed in 1996, it articulated this vision for all of us:

We, the Marianist Family, strive to bear witness to the gospel through our lives and through our service characterized by simplicity, dialogue, discernment, and enablement for mission. In alliance with Mary, we work together in faith and hope to serve the needs of persons for dignity, liberation and justice.

Sisters and brothers, let us pray and work together so that, day after day, we can strive boldly to make this vision a reality in our world and for our church!