



Conseil Mondial de la Famille Marianiste

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

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## Communication to all members of the Marianist Family

As we do each year, the World Council of the Marianist Family met in Rome, Via Latina, from October 25 to 27. We were many! The General Council of the Alliance Mariale, the two General Councils of the religious congregations, and the International Team of MLCs. It is always a joy to see each other again to "live" together the gift of being a Family. We welcome this communion in the diversity and complementarity of our vocations as a true wealth for the world today.



In recent years, and in the wake of a reflection on the universal Church, we are becoming more and more aware that our Family is a **"Charismatic Family"**. It is with this certainty that we first prayed every morning, both together and according to the style of each of our branches. The Lord nourished our hearts and souls by his Word and by our songs. The sisters offered us an exceptional moment of prayer in connection with the Synod on the Amazon and the memory of the martyrs. A dense moment of recollection and shared emotion.



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United in the same hope, we entered into exchange and reflection on our own "Charismatic Family." Today we are convinced that our Founders were the forerunners of a reality that is a gift and a challenge to be a family. This gift and challenge has both a real and a prophetic dimension: to live "the union without confusion" in the Marianist Family as a face of the Church in communion in today's world. A very special way was to live this dimension at the world level in Rome, thanks to the World Council of the Marianist Family (WCMF). **But every Family Council around the world, be it regional, national, or local, speaks of our "Being a Charismatic Family",** or our will to be it, since this gift to our Family is also a journey. That journey, the World Council would like to walk together with all the Family Councils around the world. It seemed even more obvious to us when a representative from each branch shared in Rome a concrete experience lived as a charismatic Family. The sisters proposed the experience of the project *Pascua España* in Spain, the brothers that of the meeting of their General Council with the different Family Councils during the time of their official visits in Latin America and India. They also shared their meeting with *Taller de Nazareth* in Argentina, a work where brothers, sisters, and MLC work together. The Alliance Mariale proposed the project of a meeting of all Family Councils in Latin America in 2020. Finally the MLC presented the Family experience of *Acción Marianista* in Spain. Our Family is already ... a "Charismatic Family"!

During the year, each Family Council at the national level will be invited to reflect and share with the World Family Council this dimension lived in so many places in the world with joy. Together we grow more and more!

Let's give thanks for the gifts of the Lord to our Family. He accompanies us with his fidelity and his graces. Let us give special thanks for the Alliance Mariale which, after a long journey, is now recognized as a "Secular Institute" in the Church. This recognition is an immense source of joy for all of us. Let us also give thanks to the Marianist Family in Benin, and particularly the progress of the MLC who recently celebrated their new restructuring for autonomy, after having been accompanied for a long time by the MLCs of Togo. Let us give thanks for the way that the Holy Spirit inspires the religious institutes of the Family and let us accompany them with our prayers in this time of discernment towards a path of reconfiguration in the service of life.



In this season of Advent, let's look up to where the true light and true hope are. Our Lord comes to dwell in our world still today. Here we are, his children, his family gathered, to welcome him. With Mary, like her, let us see Our Savior bringing by his presence peace to the world that needs it so much in all our continents. Let us broaden our tent, the space of our heart to welcome his peace and his life into our life. Like Mary, let us be astonished and silent: let us recognize a God who, in his love, gives us the gift of relationships, the gift of the multiplicity of our faces and our vocations. In their difference, they form a magnificent landscape within the Family. May the year 2020 give us each the taste and the joy of living and giving of ourselves. May it be the year of the "Marianist Family"!

With our wishes for a beautiful and holy celebration of Christmas to the entire Family!

The World Council

