

To all the members of the Marianist Family:

Dear Friends,

The members of the World Council of the Marianist Family have been meeting in Rome from November 8-10, 2006. These days have been times of meeting, of sharing and of prayer in the joy of seeing each other once again as the four branches of the Marianist Family and days in which we have been thinking of all of you as well. We felt that our discussions were honest and fruitful and strengthened a sense of communion in our Family. We welcomed the three new members of the General Administration of the Society of Mary, Father Manuel Cortés, SM, Father André Fétis, SM, and Brother Edward Violet, SM, as well as Brother Domingo Fuentes, SM, spiritual advisor for the International Team of the Marianist Lay Communities.

Each branch reported on various highlights of the past year. Some of them were:

- In the Alliance Mariale two of the founding members are praying for the Alliance in heaven. In Ivory Coast the Alliance is preparing for a perpetual profession of five members, and there is an aspirant in Japan. In many places in the world there are people in formation.
- The Marianist Lay Community received definitive approval of their statutes from the Pontifical Council for the Laity. In May three members of the international team represented the Marianist Lay Communities at the Second World Congress of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities organized by the Pontifical Council at Rocca di Papa. Three members from the Latin American region participated in the First Congress of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities in Latin America in Bogota in March. The MLC are beginning preparations for their next international meeting in 2009, with a theme of Marianist Lay Communities in the Church and in the World.
- The Society of Mary held their General Chapter in July. The center of the documents from the Chapter is one entitled "In Mission with Mary." Members of the other branches were present at the Chapter. During our Council meeting those present at the Chapter expressed how pleased they were with the gracious welcome and the spirit of consultation about serious matters. The SM capitulants also considered how to develop the sense of a Marian style of Church. At the meeting there was thought as well about planning ahead for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Blessed Chaminade and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the foundation of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and of the Society of Mary.
- The Daughters of Mary Immaculate in a power point presentation talked about the actual foundation of a community in India by December 1, 2006. They showed images of the meeting of the young professed sisters in Rome this year. They will hold a General Chapter in 2007 and presented the basic plan, as well as the proposal for presence of the other branches. There were also images of the visits to the communities throughout the world.

## **Developments**

The Council looked at the objectives set for 2005-2008 and discussed the progress that has been made and the current issues.

There was an extensive discussion on how to share our work at promoting vocations to and within the Marianist Family and each of the Branches. We shared some experiences of the Marianist World Day of Prayer and its relation to promoting vocations. We noted the good selection of pictures on the website showing the various activities during that day and the interest this day seems to have generated.

We spoke as well of the purpose of our Founders' celebration in January, around the time of the anniversaries of Blessed Chaminade and Adele, to promote vocations. We would hope to increase our use of our website [www.marianist.org](http://www.marianist.org) to spread information about the various branches.

The Marianist World Day of Prayer will be October 14, 2007, and we will journey to the Marian shrine of Notre Dame du Cap in Quebec, Canada. Information in various languages about Notre Dame du Cap is available on the internet at [www.sanctuaire-ndc.ca](http://www.sanctuaire-ndc.ca)

The Council agreed that the World Day of Prayer in 2008 would be in Aparecida, Brazil, noting that the Latin American Bishops will be meeting there in 2007. The Council is also interested in hearing from National Councils about proposals for the pilgrimage center for future Marianist World Days of Prayer, especially when the places are connected with particular celebrations, anniversaries, or ecclesial meetings.

Brother Michael McAward, SM, presented the redesigned World Council web site ([www.marianist.org](http://www.marianist.org)) with an explanation of its new features. He gave examples of how we might use the website for such things as a forum, current prayer intentions, photo galleries, promotion of the causes of our saints, and so on. For sending information to Brother Michael, his e-mail address is: [gensecsm@smcuria.it](mailto:gensecsm@smcuria.it)

We made plans for the next Marianist Family Album. Brother Javier Anso, SM, had volunteered to head the team, and we expect to be sending requests for articles and especially for pictures for the next Family Album soon.

The World Council devoted a good amount of time to the subject of our response to issues of justice, peace and integrity of creation and reconciliation. The Council was very appreciative of the work of Mr. Daniel Jordan and the Marianist Lay Network of North America (MLNNA) in sending out a weekly reminder of our commitment to pray the Magnificat for the intention of children at risk. The Council received a request from Mr. Jordan to gather more stories about initiatives that work in favor of exploited children. Representatives of each branch will work at gathering this information and at making the entire Marianist Family aware of this issue and this commitment. However, it was expressed at the Council that prayer was a beginning and a spur to promote and engage in activities to struggle against this. We talked about putting on the website examples of our own experience of working with children and in activities which try to alleviate their problems.

We are happy with the work that José Luis Perez, Coordinator of the Marianist International Volunteer Program (MIV), has accomplished this year in spite of limited resources. The World Council discussed the report on the MIV and expressed its commitment to continuing to develop our Marianist Family's commitment to service of others. The MIV is one of the

means we have taken to encourage this service. Over the next year the Council will be looking for ways to strengthen the activity of MIV.

With this meeting the presidency of the World Council of the Marianist Family changes in its regular rotation to the Society of Mary. The new president for the next two years will be Father Manuel Cortés, SM.

The Council thanked Sr. Marie Joëlle Bec, FMI, for her capable leadership of the World Council over the past two years.

The next meeting of the World Council of the Marianist Family will be held in Rome, November 7-9, 2007.

Members of the World Council of the Marianist Family  
November 2006

José María Alvira SM  
Marie Joëlle Bec FMI  
Ana Blázquez Ubach MLC  
Paola Brivio FMI  
Isabelle de Cantellauve MA  
Manuel Cortés SM  
André Fétis SM  
Domingo Fuentes SM  
Anthony Garascia MLC  
Estella Ibarra FMI  
María José Jáuregui FMI  
Isabella Moyer MLC  
Lorna Mueni MLC  
Ezequiel Reggiani MLC  
Edward Violet SM  
Timothy Phillips SM