



Conseil Mondial de la Famille Marianiste

Via Latina 22, 00179 Roma, Italia – www.marianist.org
Tel (+39) 06 70 47 58 92 -- FAX (+39) 06 7000 406

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

TO: All members of the Marianist Family in the World
FROM: Franca Zonta, President of the WCMF
DATE: Rome, November 14, 2014
RE: Report of the World Council of the Marianist Family 2014

The World Council of the Marianist Family (WCMF) met in Rome November 12-14, 2014. We thank God for this meeting of dialogue, prayer and shared living within the bosom of our Family.

The four branches were all represented. We were happy to have among us the presence of Sonia Galarza, General Councilor of the Alliance Mariale, as well as the new international team of the MLC elected in Lima this past January.

These days were an opportunity to look together to the future, being convinced of our call as Marianist Family to collaborate in the building up of the Kingdom of God.

NEWS OF THE FAMILY

The **Marianist Lay Communities (MLC)** reported on their international meeting which took place in Lima, Peru, from January 26 to February 2, 2014. The Holy Spirit moved among them with grace and generosity during that time together. They shared witness and reflected deeply on “Faith of the Heart in the Heart of the World.” There was a lot of energy and inspiration in their sharing; it was an exchange from the heart, not merely from the head. They studied faith of the heart in Scripture, in our Marianist tradition and in the message of Pope Francis. The words of *Evangelii gaudium* resonated with and challenged the attendees. The meeting was a moment of grace for the MLC, a call to conversion, to be alert to the signs of the times and to continue to grow in the Family.

A new international team of the MLC was elected at the Lima meeting. Thanks to Isabella Moyer, Domingo Fuentes and the leader of Africa for their years of dedication and mission in the international organization of the MLC. We are very grateful for the great service they gave for all of us.

Susan Vogt and Isabel Duarte continue as the leaders of their regions and have been joined by Francisca M. Jere (MLC Zambia), the new leader for Africa, and Béatrice Leblanc (MLC France) as leader for Europe.

Fr. Pablo Rambaud, SM, joined the group as moderator and Félix Arqueros continues as President.

Future challenges approved for the period 2014-2018 were presented. Following the instructions of the Lima assembly, the international team has begun reflection and discernment, shared with the other branches of the Family, on the identity of the MLC.

Susan Vogt and Felix Arqueros, representing the MLC, attended the III World Congress of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities which was celebrated in Rome with the slogan “The Joy of the Gospel: a Missionary Joy” on November 20-22, 2014.

The **Alliance Mariale** tells us that it is a large international family with both French- and Spanish-speaking members. Communication among members is growing more and more spontaneous in the AM, beyond individual countries and continents. They feel that they are acquiring better knowledge of their members and their cultures. The international quality is a real richness for them.

As in any family, happy and tragic events occur, touching each one of them deeply. That is how the sudden death of Josephine Otari in Brazzaville in September was experienced. They also shared moments of joy, like the perpetual vow celebrations in Togo, France and Chile. In all these events, the members express their support and friendship through prayer and by sending fraternal messages to one another.

The International Year of the Consecrated Life will be for them an opportunity to re-examine their vocation, in order to give it more visibility and attractiveness through the witness of their lives and shared prayer, with one heart, in the bosom of the Church, the Marianist Family and the Alliance Mariale.

The **Daughters of Mary Immaculate** reported on the visitations made to their communities during this year. They observed how the FMI is a very alive presence in some places, above all in Latin America. In general, the sisters are living with an ardent missionary spirit and a generous gift of self in a variety of apostolic activities.

As a congregation, they are giving priority to formation, intending to convert the Agen Community (France) into their Congregational Formation Center. In 2015 some formation programs for the sisters will be developed there.

The sisters also shared their joy about some hopeful facts: the Latin American novitiate was transferred to Colombia and is going well; the Japanese sisters are preparing for a new foundation in Vietnam; in Brazil the sisters celebrated the 25 years of their presence in that country; Korea and Africa have vocations and are dreaming about missionary expansion; India continues to grow, in spite of some difficulties; the USA has new vocations after many years....

The cause of beatification of M. Adele has taken on a new dynamism. After her recognition as Venerable on June 5, 1986 (158 years after her death), in June of this year the conclusion of the diocesan process in Novara (Italy) was celebrated. On September 23 it was entered into the cause in the Vatican. We ask you to continue praying for the good development of this cause.

The **Society of Mary** has finished the redistribution of the brothers from Haiti who are continuing in the SM (1 in the USA, 1 in Colombia, 1 in Ivory Coast, 3 in Spain and 2 in France).

The SM is actively working at formation, since it is very important for the future to ensure religious formation for consistency and coherency of life. They had two international formation meetings in Rome, organized by language groups (English and French). The next one will be in Bogota in January 2015 in Spanish. The goal of these meetings is to review *The Guide to Formation in the Society of Mary* and to strengthen both initial and on-going formation as a priority task in the Units.

During the visitation of the Units in this period, the importance of the laity in the SM works was more and more evident. They are reflecting upon the conditions that must be fulfilled in their works for them to be recognized as Marianist, even when there is no presence of SM religious.

André Fétis is participating in the meetings of members of general councils of masculine congregations in which they are reflecting upon their spiritual families.

The cause of canonization of Father Chaminade continues to progress little by little and raises lots of hopes.

CALLS FOR TODAY

Sister Ana Lucia, FMI, helped us reflect upon the topic: “**The synergies in the Marianist Family.**” After an introduction to the topic, we shared some actual experiences of the Family in various parts of the world:

Susan Vogt (MLC) shared with us the experience of the **MSJC (Marianist Social Justice Collaborative)** which is working actively, reporting to and inspiring the Marianist Family of the USA about social justice: death penalty, immigration, LBGT, globalization, ecology, environment and the Adele Social Justice Project.

Sonia Galarza (AM) brought us the experience of the Family Council in Ecuador, which is currently a living witness within the Church there.

Béatrice Leblanc (MLC) spoke to us about the experience of the **JOADES** in August in France, a pilgrimage and meeting in Lourdes in which members of all four branches of the Marianist Family in France participated. About 300 persons in “union without confusion” prayed, shared, celebrated their faith and lived together.

Ana Lucia (FMI) reported to us about the **experience of a temporary mixed community of the Marianist Family** in Lima last summer. For two weeks, three members of each branch lived together in community, dedicating time to prayer, formation and mission. Their witness and presentation as Marianist Family in the Marianist works was a new way of addressing our apostolate and of bearing witness to what we are. It was an excellent experience in which they shared life and apostolate, showing the Marianist vocation they held in common.

In 2016-2017 the two religious congregations will celebrate the **bicentenary of their foundation**. They reported on the process of preparation which is underway. We want the celebration of the bicentenary of the foundations to be a celebration for all the Family.

The **Day of the Marianist Family** is becoming solidified as an occasion for giving thanks for our Marianist vocation in the Church, supported by Mary’s joyful and enthusiastic response. You will receive material and guidelines for continuing to celebrate our patronal feast on the Solemnity of the Annunciation (March 25) prepared by our brothers of the SM next year.

The **Marianist World Day of Prayer** was celebrated this year in the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. It occasioned beautiful celebrations, inspired by this site so meaningful for the Marianist Family of Argentina. We appreciated the preparatory materials that they sent us and we thank them for it.

We will celebrate the next Day of Prayer on October 11, 2015, prepared by the Marianist Family of Switzerland, in the shrine of Our Lady of Bourguillon in Fribourg. We will send you the materials for the celebration and we encourage you to continue celebrating this Marianist World Day of Prayer joyfully.

We again recommend your use of the “**Friday Magnificat.**” This monthly electronic bulletin invites us to pray the Magnificat together on the first Friday of each month, with a specific intention, to know the social activities accomplished throughout the world by the Marianist Family and to thank God for them with Mary.

The Family Council reflected and worked on studying the **objectives** of this Council and on establishing a plan of action for developing them. The SM will have the presidency of the WCMF next year.

We would like our contributions to come to the national and local Family Councils to try to illuminate our common path.

So we invite all the Family Councils and the leaders of each of the branches throughout the world to continue to encourage family life and to take account of these guidelines, as a source of inspiration and communion among us all.

May our loving God continue guiding all of us, and may Mary be always at our side as model and inspiration of faith of the heart, a faith that truly loves and lives in the heart of the world.

May the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places by the Immaculate Virgin Mary.