



World Council of the Marianist Family

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

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 11-13, 2009. These days have been times of meeting, of sharing and of prayer in the joy and especially of welcoming the new *responsibles* of the International Team of the Marianist Lay Communities and the *responsible* of the Alliance Mariale. Agathe Senou, a member of the council of the Alliance Mariale, was also supposed to join us from Ivory Coast, but was unable to come. We were very sorry about this. We have been thinking of all of you in these days as we reflect on the life of the Marianist Family throughout the world. Isabella Moyer, the President of the International Team of the Marianist Lay Communities began her term chairing the meetings of the World Council. We felt that our discussions were honest and fruitful and strengthened a sense of communion in our Family.

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

- The Alliance Mariale is growing. The Alliance in its beginnings was localized in France and Switzerland, but is now experiencing its greatest growth in Ivory Coast, Canada, Chile, DR Congo, Rep. of Congo, Ecuador, Japan, Togo, and Haiti. Membership has reached 51 members. They are an association of the faithful of diocesan right (in La Rochelle) moving towards recognition as a secular institute. In some places they are taking up some of the responsibilities for their own formation, and this is a very positive and satisfying development.
- The Marianist Lay Communities have just finished their Fifth International Meeting in Nairobi, having elected new leadership and completed a document on *The Role of Marianist Lay Communities in the Church and in the World*. The document emphasizes MLC outreach in the area of Social Justice, especially with the poor. The MLC reported the eight challenges which were developed and decided on at the International Meeting, as well as their priorities. Strengthening bonds among the branches of the Marianist Family was one of the main challenges. Strengthening formation in MLCs is one of the highest priorities of the International Team. The *Guide to Lay Life in the Marianist Tradition*, prepared by the previous team, is already available on the website (www.clm-mlc.org).
- The Society of Mary held the General Leadership Assembly (GLA) this past July, which occurs between General Chapters. The discussions during the meetings confirmed the changing face of the SM. The older units are aging; growth is happening in the newer units, especially in Africa and Asia. These are difficult times of change with challenges in mission and formation as well as economic challenges. Study is continuing of a possible miracle for Father Chaminade; there is hope that this will lead to his canonization soon. Likewise the process for declaring Faustino venerable is nearing completion. The final volume of *Ecrits et Paroles*, the collected works of Father Chaminade, is being published. The development of centers of Marianist studies and formation is moving along.
- The Daughters of Mary Immaculate highlighted the developing of strong relationships between the Province of Japan and the Region of Korea and among the MLC groups as

well. These relationships between the Japanese and Korean cultures are a notable witness in the Church and in society. The FMI will hold their extraordinary council early next year. It will be looking at the future development of the congregation. There was a report on the educational meeting of July 2009 at which a great sense of unity among the educators was felt and the beginnings of a guide for Marianist pedagogy emerged.

Outcomes of the Meeting

We had the opportunity to share at a deeper level what the Marianist Family means to each one of us and to each branch.

The Marianist World Day of Prayer, celebrated for the twenty-fifth time this year, is becoming a more and more important sign of unity of the Marianist Family and a moment of real communion throughout the world. The sharing through the website and internet has been notable. The Marianist Family in Kinshasa, DR Congo, at the sanctuary of Our Lady of Peace, was particularly grateful for this opportunity to share their life and to experience the solidarity of the whole Marianist Family in prayer. The next Marianist World Day of Prayer will be October 10, 2010 at a Marian shrine in Haiti. It will also mark the tenth anniversary of the foundation of Marianist Lay Communities in Haiti. For 2011 we plan to celebrate on October 9, 2011 at the shrine of Our Lady of the Pillar in Saragossa, during the 250th anniversary of Father Chaminade's birth.

In a similar vein, the Council considered our efforts as a Marianist Family at encouraging vocations to all the branches. It plans to provide materials each year at the time of the universal Church's World Day of Prayer for Vocations that would provide a particularly Marianist reflection for this day.

The Council reviewed the initiative of the Friday Magnificat, the theme of which in 2009 was the ministries related to justice and peace carried out by those in formation in the FMI and SM. The Friday Magnificat will continue in 2010 with the theme of educational programs that promote justice and peace. It is clear that distribution of the texts and reminders is uneven. It appears in English, French, and Spanish and can be requested from Dan Jordan at dan.jordan@udayton.edu. Susan Vogt (MLC) will be soliciting stories and photos for the 2010 series.

The 250th anniversary of the birth of Father William Joseph Chaminade (1761-1850) will be observed in 2011. In order to celebrate this well a calendar has been developed with a monthly focus on Chaminade themes, from historical, liturgical, and current perspectives. This is something to look forward to as we approach this historic moment in our lives.

The Council continued its reflection on voluntarism in the Marianist Family through the Marianist International Volunteers (MIV/VIM), directed with attention by José Luis Perez.

For this year the Council decided to suspend the publication of the Family Album and is looking at the possibility of having one following the celebration of the 250th anniversary of Father Chaminade's birth.

The World Council reviewed its statutes and recognized the need for updating. The changes reflect the current status of the financial arrangements for the Council and the secretary for the Council. They are available on the Marianist Family web site at www.marianist.org

The objectives of the Council 2010-2013 are attached to this report as an appendix and are also available on the website.

Brother Timothy Phillips, SM, World Council Secretary, will be leaving Rome at the beginning of 2010. The Council thanked him for his service. Brother Charles-Henri Moulin, SM, has graciously accepted the request to take up the responsibilities of secretary.

Finally, we inform you that the next meeting of the World Council of the Marianist Family will take place in Rome November 3-5, 2010.

Members of the World Council of the Marianist Family

November 2009

José Maria Alvira SM
Félix Arqueros MLC
Christiane Barboux AM
Marie Joëlle Bec FMI
Manuel Cortés SM
Isabel Duarte MLC
André Fétis SM
Domingo Fuentes SM

Estella Ibarra FMI
María José Jáuregui FMI
Ernest Kasongo MLC
Susanna Kim FMI
Isabella R. Moyer MLC
Edward Violett SM
Susan Vogt MLC
Timothy Phillips SM

OBJECTIVES 2010 – 2013

1. VOCATION: TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEEPEN AND LIVE OUR PARTICULAR VOCATIONS AS WELL AS OUR COMMON VOCATION.

Actions:

- To continue our reflection on common mission within the World Council.
- To propose and support the celebration of the “Chaminade Year 2011” during the 250th anniversary of the birth of Father Chaminade as an opportunity to renew ourselves in our Marianist vocation.
- Promote reflection and prayer for Marianist vocations during the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.
- Support the project of creating, and setting in motion, centers on Marianist formation in each zone.
- Share among the branches formation materials, through the web page.

2. MISSION: CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR MISSION IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE WORLD.

Actions:

- Insist on work for justice and peace
- Continue to use the “Friday Magnificat” as a way of accompanying and making our concrete actions for justice and peace known. Emphasize activities directed toward the education of the poorest.
- Animate and share on the web site experiences related to justice and peace.
- Support the idea of seeking financial and human resources for the activities of the Marianist Family in mission.

3. COMMUNICATIONS

- Continue to develop our means of communication.
- Make better use of the website so as to make the World Council more visible/present.
- Try to highlight new items on the website.
- Update the list of e-mail addresses.
- Continue to promote the development of National Councils and stimulate them to be a means of communication.
- Assure that communications reach everyone.