
FAMILLE MARIANISTE
MARIANIST FAMILY
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MARIANIST WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2003

This year we celebrate the Marianist World Day of Prayer on October 12. Each year we give special attention to a Marian shrine on a different continent. This year it will be in Africa, the shrine of the Virgin of Lusaka in Zambia.

Among the special intentions for prayer we recall the following:

- The needs of the Church: that we may be a sign of hope and love in the world according to the spirit of Mary
- Peace and mutual understanding among peoples
- Fidelity to and a deeper understanding of our common Marianist charism
- The sick of the Marianist Family
- The poor and needy, victims of injustice in our environment
- Vocations to all of the branches of Marianist life, and their perseverance
- The special needs of the Marianists who live and work in Asia and Africa
- In thanksgiving for all of the favors received during 2003, and especially the Regional Meeting of the Marianist Family in Latin America (April) and of the Marianist Lay Communities of North America (July) and Africa (August).

On this occasion we invite you to join in the prayer of the Marianist Family composed by Fr. José María Arnaiz:

“**OUR FATHER**, we pray for our Marianist Family
with all its weaknesses and all its wealth.
Look upon us with kindness;
it is our mother and our family.
Give it your grace so that it may become
what it longs to be.

“**A family** which fosters life and enthusiasm,
in which all can express what they think and feel,
what they believe and desire;
a community of freedom.

“A family where people listen long and hard before speaking,
welcome others before judging them,
forgive much more quickly than condemn,
focus more on announcing the Good News than on denouncing the bad;
a community of mercy.

“A family in which the simplest brother and sister
understand what others are saying;
in which the leaders are highly educated and experienced,
but still know that there is much they do not know;
in which everyone is allowed to be himself or herself:
a family in which we learn wisdom.

“A family in which the Holy Spirit will feel at home,
since everything will not be pre-planned,
regulated and determined:
a community that fosters creativity and growth.

“A family in which the courage to risk the new
is more powerful than tried and true routines:
a community that looks to the future.

“A family in which all can pray in their own language,
develop and cherish their own culture,
appreciate the heritage and history in which they feel at home:
an incarnational community, one that knows the paschal mystery
and experiences a new Pentecost.

“A family of which people will say:
‘See how they love one another’,
rather than, ‘See how well organized they are’:
a living and growing community.”
“Marianist Family, you are small but growing,
fragile but full of hope,
hesitant but believing.
Lift up you eyes and see:
Jesus and Mary are always with you. Amen.”

Appended is information on the history of the shrine.

Fraternally,

Carlos Benítez (MLC)
President of the World Council of the Marianist Family

THE LUSAKA SHRINE STORY

The Marian Devotion in the Archdiocese of Lusaka began back in the late 60's when each year all the parishes would assemble at some parish for a Marian pilgrimage.



In 1974 the Archbishop brought back to Zambia a statue of Our Lady of Fatima after his visit to that shrine. He formed a committee that would see to it that this statue made a visitation to all the parishes of the Archdiocese. After the statue had completed the visitations, it was returned to the Cathedral Church where the Archbishop in the presence of the whole assembly said that now we need to find a "home" for this statue in the Archdiocese.



He then commissioned a committee to perform this task. The committee followed up and in time found a suitable tract of land which was donated to the Archdiocese. The committee investigated every part of the land and found the most appropriate spot for the shrine Church, and a cross was put up on the site. The committee continued to meet each month and plan pilgrimages from the parishes each month to the site.



One of the Jesuit priests on our committee was an excellent builder. He constructed a small grotto chapel off to the side of the marked position for the shrine. From that time on the committee has continued to meet each month, conducting a pilgrimage to the site each month, and then organizing the annual general pilgrimage from all of the parishes.



We got help from a group in Germany who aided us with enough money not only to put up a steel pavilion, but also create a suitable sanctuary area for an altar and room for the concelebrants.

Fr. Anthony Jansen, SM