



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

**DEST: To all the members of the Marianist Family**

**FROM: World Council of the Marianist Family**

**DATE: November 27, 2011**

**RE: Report of the World Council of the Marianist Family**

### **Report of the World Council of the Marianist Family for the year 2011**

#### **To all the members of the Marianist Family**

Rome, November 4, 2011

On November 2, 3 and 4, 2011, we held the meeting of our World Council of the Marianist Family (WCMF) in Rome.

Meeting together as the Family is always a reason for rejoicing; those were three days dedicated to seeking together the will of God for us all.

This Chaminade Year is turning out to be, in many places throughout the world, a particularly joyful time of celebrations, meetings and public presence. We have been able to realize that we have all the strength of the Family for our common mission.

We have been especially pleased by the participation of our young Marianists in the various pilgrimages: Lourdes, *Fortes in fide* (pilgrimage to our origins), World Youth Day, etc....

Happily we can see that the initiative of the WCMF to dedicate a special year to the celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of our Founder has met with a very positive echo throughout the entire Family. The programming and materials developed have been an important support and have multiplied the initiatives of celebration in every country. They are an opportunity to bring to the Church the richness of our charism and family spirit. The materials remain available on our website ([www.marianist.org](http://www.marianist.org)). We ask that you continue to send documents from the celebrations so that we might publish them.

#### **News of the Family.**

The process for the canonization of Father Chaminade has also been a source of joy for us. The Congregation of the Saints has validated the documentation that came from the Archdiocese of St. Louis. We hope and pray that the canonization of our Founder will take place soon.

The Society of Mary (SM) and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (FMI) are preparing for their upcoming general chapters to be held in July 2012. The preparatory commissions of both chapters are already at work, consulting the various units. These are important events for the Marianist Family and we, the Council, invite you to keep our brothers and sisters in your prayer.

The **SM** has reported to us about the creation of a single province in Spain. For the past two years a process of reflection and study of Marianist education has been underway and is now reaching completion; the intention is to develop some materials intended for the training of those who work in education.

The **FMI** of the Region of Korea recently inaugurated a house of spirituality dedicated particularly to Marianist Family groups and with the intention of furthering interreligious

dialogue. We share the joy of three newly professed sisters in Togo and Ivory Coast and the opening of a maternity clinic in Kpatchile (Togo), which is already contributing significantly to bettering maternal-infantile health in the region. In July a meeting of nineteen young sisters from eleven countries was held. They reflected together about enculturation of the Marianist charism.

The **Alliance Mariale (AM)** celebrated its Golden Jubilee and has prepared a commemorative document that recalls the history of these past 50 years. They continue to work on the adaptation of their statutes towards the goal of becoming a secular institute. It is a joy to see the spread of this branch of the Family.

The **Marianist Lay Communities (MLC)** have begun their reflection on the New Evangelization with the second circular of their international Responsible about Marianist lay communities and the New Evangelization. The visit of the international team of the MLC to the Pontifical Council of the Laity was especially enlightening. They reflected together about the role of the lay person in the New Evangelization. During this year the Directory of the MLC was finished. There are currently 563 communities and somewhat more than 7,000 lay persons present in 31 countries. The next international meeting of the MLC will take place in Peru, at the end of January 2014. The topic of the meeting will be *the faith of the heart in the heart of the world*.

The Family Council has evaluated the goals for 2010-2013 and we would like to share with you some ways to continue putting them into practice:

### **Review of the goals for 2010-2013**

- **Vocations: to work together to deepen and live our particular vocations as well as our common vocation.**

The World Council of the Marianist Family (WCMF) continued its reflections about the “common mission.” As soon as possible the document which we developed will be sent to the national councils of the family (NCMF) so that they may enrich it with their contributions. After evaluating the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, we wish to continue emphasizing its importance, giving it a more specific character. For this we have established March 25, feast of the Annunciation of the Lord, as THE WORLD DAY OF THE MARIANIST VOCATION. We chose this feast because in it we celebrate the vocation of Mary and her “Yes,” as well as the “Yes” of the Word to God’s plan of Salvation. The Marianist vocation, in all its forms, is better understood in the light of the Annunciation, which is at the center of the understanding and living out of our charism. This new world Marianist Day will include convocation to common prayer among the Family. Appropriate materials will be sent from the WCMF.

The Marianist World Day of Prayer 2011 was celebrated on October 9 with a spiritual event in the Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar in Saragossa. In many places this celebration was enhanced with the materials prepared for the Chaminade Year.

The next Marianist World Day of Prayer will be held on **October 14, 2012, in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lake Togo, Mother of Mercy (Togoville), Togo.** We invite you to propose locations for the celebration in coming years.

The setting up of continental centers of Marianist formation is an opportunity for promoting the enculturation of our charism and for enabling formation projects for the entire Family of Mary. The new director of the *International Center for Marianist Formation*, Jack Ventura, SM, shared with us a working day on reflections about the formation needs of our Family. We

encourage you to get into contact with the continental centers of formation and to collaborate in their development and implantation.

- **Mission: contribute to the support and development of our mission in the Church and in the world.**

We observe with joy that the *Magnificat* for the first Friday of each month is reaching ever more persons in the Marianist Family. It is a good instrument for our communion. It will continue to be published because it reminds us of the challenges in the field of justice and peace, which we can make known in our surroundings.

As for solidarity, we were glad to see the strengthening in Spain of the NGO: “Marianist Action for Development” and the creation of the “Marianist Foundation - Education and Development” in France. We encourage you to promote initiatives that contribute to the development of missionary projects in our Marianist Family. We need to continue to explore new ways of financing them.

- **Communications**

For the WCMF it is important to continue to make efforts towards animating and empowering the National Councils of the Family in each country. We shall soon send a questionnaire to learn the actual current situation of each council.

Our website [www.marianist.org](http://www.marianist.org) has been brought up to date, and has established itself as a place for virtual encounters of the Marianist Family. On this site are to be found news items that can help us to be in contact with the whole of the Family. It would be good to establish mutual links between the website and the pages of the various branches.

Next year the website will have a specific place for news about social justice and peace. We consider it important to know about the projects for the most disadvantaged which are being carried out in the Marianist Family.

### **Rotating presidency of the WCMF**

**For the year 2011-1012 Christiane Barbaux** (Reponsable générale of the Alliance Mariale) will take the presidency of the World Council of the Marianist Family.

**The next Council will meet in Rome November 7-9, 2012.**

José Maria Alvira, SM	María José Jáuregui, FMI
Félix Arqueros, CLM	Marie-Laure Jean, AM
Christiane Barbaux, AM	Ernest Kasongo, CLM
Marie Joëlle Bec, FMI	Susanna Kim, FMI
Manuel Cortés, SM	Cecilia Moraga, SM
Isabel Duarte, CLM	Isabella R. Moyer, CLM
André Fétil, SM	Agathe Senou, AM
Domingo Fuentes, SM	Edward Violett, SM
Jean-Edouard Gatuingt, SM	Susan Vogt, CLM
Estella Ibarra, FMI	