



10 December 2012

Dear Members of the Marianist Family in North America,

Today is a special day! On this date in 1948, the UN members ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an initiative that has had significant impact on our world in the intervening years. The global community has a credible “standard” for human rights and a growing awareness of its importance as a tool for justice and peace throughout the world. The language of “human rights” is now well established in both the ecclesial and political realms, influencing pronouncements of Popes and the appraisal of governmental leaders.

It’s an appropriate day to announce a new initiative in our own Marianist Family. Beginning in January, the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative in conjunction of the SM Province JPIC Office will begin rolling out “The Marianist Call to Advance Justice”. This program is meant to help communities within the Marianist Family in North America raise awareness of justice issues locally and globally and to realize and confirm the many ways in which we currently work for justice, especially in our educational efforts. This program has been piloted during the past year with the Northeast Marianist Family Council. More information will be forthcoming from the organizers. This program carries the endorsement of the Marianist Family Council of North America which met in San Antonio from November 10-11. We urge all communities in the Society of Mary, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and the Marianist Lay Network of North America to welcome this initiative and embrace the program.

In addition to reviewing and endorsing the above initiative, the Family Council received reports from the Marianist Lay Formation Initiative (MLFI) and the Marianist Social Justice Collaborate (MSJC), projects sponsored by the Family Council. The excellent reports from Pati Krasensky and Jim Vogt provided a review of the previous year’s work, along with plans and projects for the future. Both projects provide vital support for our efforts at collaboration within the wider Marianist Family. We are indebted to Pati, Jim and their collaborators for the very fine work they are doing. As we clarify roles and responsibilities among these various entities, we look for even more collaboration and mutual support.

The Family Council wants to underscore the importance of the Year of Faith and the recently concluded Synod on Evangelization as opportune moments for the Marianist Family. Both of these find strong resonance in the life and writing of Bl. William Joseph Chaminade and Venerable Mother Adele. This year might be a good opportunity for each of the communities in the Marianist Family to reflect on the Marianist charism and upon our impact within the local Church.

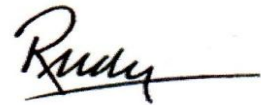
As we enter the second week of Advent, we wish all members of the Marianist Family in North America a grace-filled journey through Advent and a blessed Christmas. As we spend Advent with Mary, She will help us to know more deeply the Incarnate Word.



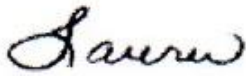
Sr. Evangeline Escobar, FMI
Provincial



Fr. Martin Solma, SM
Provincial



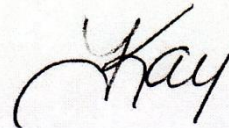
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