



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: Every members of the Marianist Family
FROM: Franca Zonta, President of the WCMF
DATE: Dec 19, 2013
RE: Message of the World Council of the Marianist Family 2013

MARIANIST FAMILY COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2013

To all the members of the Marianist family

Rome, November 1, 2013

The World Council of the Marianist Family (WCMF) met in Rome from October 30 to November 1. We were happy to have the chance to meet, to dialogue, to pray and to share as a family.

The four branches were represented at the meeting; we missed being with Christiane Barbaux, general responsible of the Alliance mariale, who had to stay home for health reasons, but she was represented by her assistant. We wish her a quick recovery.

That our meeting finished on the feast of All Saints' Day reminds us of the great desire of Father Chaminade and Mother Adèle that we be a people of saints, witnessing to the timeliness of the Gospel today, everywhere we are.

FAMILY NEWS

The Marianist Lay Communities are preparing their international meeting, which will be held in Lima, Peru, from January 26 to February 2, 2014. The theme is "Faith of the heart, in the heart of the world." This meeting marks the end of the term of the current international team, and we thank them for the service they have provided for us all. The meeting is an important event for all the lay communities in the world; we are praying for its success, as well as for the current and future leaders of the Lay Communities.

This year **the Alliance Mariale** had its General Assembly, with six months of preparation and six months of meetings. Mary of the Visitation accompanied the members throughout their period of reflection, helping them identify their own visitation paths. Quite naturally, the feast of May 31 in honor of the Visitation was established as the feast of the patron saint of the Alliance Mariale. The members of the Alliance, as women, as Marianists, and as consecrated lay people, see Mary as the model of their vocation. At the end of the General Assembly, the elections changed the face of the General Council, making it even more intercontinental because North America, South America, Africa and Europe are represented. The Alliance Mariale felt supported by the prayer of the whole Marianist Family; they want to extend their sincere thanks.

The **Daughters of Mary Immaculate** are emphasizing the importance of formation in the life of the congregation, as well as the ministry of vocations. The sisters celebrated 50 years of presence in Togo and 25 years in the Ivory Coast; on that occasion, the Region of Africa was established. The community of Agen, already led by an international community, will be put under the responsibility of the General Administration in January 2014, with the special mission of being a center for charismatic retreats and formation.

The **Society of Mary** has been through some happy times and some painful ones, such as its departure from Haiti after the tragic deaths of their two brothers, Chevalier and Richard, as well as from the Philippines and Nepal; may the seeds sown there by the presence and the work of the brothers continue to grow. In the wake of their General Chapter, they are implementing a major project on formation, reorganization, and strengthening the Marianist identity of their works. A new document on *The Principle Characteristics of Marianist Leadership* has just been published and could inspire our different branches in this important part of our mission.

CALLINGS FOR TODAY

In 2016-2017, the two religious congregations will celebrate the **bicentennial of their foundation**. The two general administrations have established a commission to develop plans for celebrating that event. More information will follow.

The **cause of our Founders** is making progress. That of Mother Adèle is at a new stage, with the opening of the diocesan process for recognizing a miracle, in the diocese of Novara in Italy. The cause for Father Chaminade's canonization continues to advance bit by bit and has raised a lot of hopes.

The **gathering of the directors of the Continental Centers of Marianist Formation** will take place next January in Philadelphia, led by the head of the International Center of Marianist Formation, Brother Jack Ventura. This shows our desire to strengthen work and formation on the Marianist charism throughout the Marianist family, with the support of these Centers. We thank Brother Jack for his presence among us during our meeting.

At the Solemnity of the Annunciation, we have emphasized the Marianist vocation for the last two years. We decided that it will now be the **Day of the Marianist Family** and become the **feast of our patron saint**, an occasion for thanking God for our Marianist vocation in the Church, sustained by Mary's joyful and enthusiastic response. Guidelines for celebrating this feast day will be sent to you each year by one of the branches.

The **Marianist World Day of Prayer** was celebrated this year with our brothers of the Marianist family in Japan. It was based on the sanctuary of the Bombed Virgin of Nagasaki and was the occasion of beautiful celebrations, inspired by this place so meaningful for the Christian history of Japan and for prayers for world peace. The preparation given us by the Marianist Family of Japan was much appreciated; we thank them kindly. Next year, we will celebrate the day of prayer October 12 with the Marianist Family of Argentina.

Father José Maria Arnaiz made a **proposal to our World Council**, inviting us to strengthen our common experience of life and mission, as well as the structural ties among our branches. We liked that challenging invitation. We believe in the importance of that reflection. However, we think that these realities must first be experienced on the ground, where our different

communities are located. Observing the fruits of such experiences, and discerning about them, can help us take future steps, particularly at the international level.

A **project of presence as the Marianist Family** is being prepared in Peru. The sisters, who are not present in this country, initiated it; they're organizing it with the other Marianist branches. It's a two-week experience of sharing life and apostolate, with a presentation of the Marianist vocation produced together.

We continue to recommend the use of the **Friday Magnificat**. This monthly electronic bulletin invites us to discover the social actions that the Marianist Family carries out all over the world, and to thank God for them with Mary.

The World Council evaluated its objectives for the last four years, and, in continuity with them, wrote the **objectives for the next four years**. They are presented in the annex to this report. We invite all the Family councils and the councils of each branch around the world to take into account these guidelines as a source of inspiration and communion among us all.