



REPORT OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY 2014

TO: All members of the Marianist Family
FROM:: Franca Zonta, Presidenta del CMFM
DATE: Rome, November 14, 2014
SUBJECT: Report of the World Council of the Marianist Family 2014

The World Council of the Marianist Family (WCMF) met in Rome on November 12, 13, 14. We thank God for this meeting of dialogue, prayer, and shared life within our Family.

All four branches were represented. With joy we received the presence of Sonia Galarza, general counsel for Alliance Mariale and the new international team of MLCs elected in Lima in January 2014. These days have been an opportunity to look together at the future, convinced of our call to collaborate in building the Kingdom of God, as a Marianist Family

FAMILY NEWS

Marianist Lay Communities (MLCs) reported on their international meeting held in Lima, Peru, from January 26 to February 2, 2014. The Holy Spirit moved with grace and generosity during this time together. They shared testimonies and reflected deeply on "Faith of the Heart in the Heart of the World." There was a lot of energy and inspiration as delegates shared from their hearts, not only their heads. They studied the faith of the heart in Scripture, in our Marianist tradition and the words of Pope Francis. The words of "Evangelii Gaudium" echoed in the ears of the attendees. For MLCs this meeting was a moment of grace, a call to conversion, to be attentive to the signs of the times and to keep growing as a family.

There was a turnover of the international team of MLC at the assembly of Lima. Thanks to Isabella Moyer, Domingo Fuentes and the responsible for Africa, for their years of dedication and mission to the International Organization of MLCs. We appreciate the great service they have done for all of us

Susan Vogt and Isabel Duarte continue to be responsible for their regions. Francisca M. Jere (MLC Zambia) was elected as the new Responsible of Africa. Beatrice Leblanc (CLM France) was elected as the new Responsible for Europe. Pablo Rambaud SM was selected as the new team advisor and Felix Arqueros was elected President.

Future challenges approved for the period 2014-2018 were presented. Following the instructions in the assembly of Lima, the international team has started to reflect upon the identity of MLCs and to invite the input of the other branches on this topic.

Susan Vogt and Felix Arqueros will representing the MLCs at the upcoming Third World Congress of Ecclesial Movements and New Communities to be held in Rome from November 20 to 22, 2014. The theme of the Congress is "The joy of the gospel: a missionary Joy".

Alliance Mariale (AM) informed us of the growth of their membership among the French and Spanish speaking. Communication is growing more spontaneously in the AM. It reaches beyond countries and continents. They feel that they are gaining a better knowledge of members and cultures. The internationality is a richness to them.

Like a family, happy or tragic events that happen to them, touch the deepest part of each member. This is the way they experienced the sudden death of Josephine Otari in Brazzaville in September. They have also shared moments of joy, such as the celebration of perpetual vows in Togo, France and Chile. In all these events the members expressed their support and friendship through prayer and fraternity by sending messages.

The International Year of Consecrated Life (2015) will be an opportunity to revisit their vocation, to make their life and shared prayer more visible and attractive within the Church, the Marianist Family, and Alliance Mariale.

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate (FMI) reported on the many visits to their communities this year. They have found that the FMI is a very vivid in places, especially in Latin America. In general, the sisters live an ardent missionary spirit and generous service in a variety of apostolic activities.

As a congregation the FMI have chosen training as a priority and thus are seeking to develop the Community of Agen, France into its Congregational Training Centre. In 2015 they will develop some training programs for the sisters.

They shared their joy with the following hopeful realities:

- the Latin American novitiate moved to Colombia and is doing well;
- the Japanese sisters are preparing a new foundation in Vietnam;
- the Brazilian sisters celebrated their 25 years of presence;
- Korea and Africa have vocations and dream of a missionary expansion;
- India continues to grow, despite some difficulties;
- the USA has new vocations after many lean years

The cause of the beatification of M. Adela has been boosted. After recognition as Venerable in June 5, 1986 (158 years after her death), in June this year the conclusion of the diocesan process in Novara (Italy) was held. On September 23 input additional input was given to the cause at the Vatican. We ask you to continue praying for the proper conduct of this case.

The Society of Mary (SM) has completed the distribution of Haitian brothers who remain in the SM, (1 in the US, 1 in Colombia, one in Ivory Coast, 3 in Spain and 2 in France)

The SM are actively involved in training, as it is very important for the future to ensure the religious formation for consistency and coherence of life. They have had two international meetings of formation in Rome organized by language groups (English and French) The next will be in Bogota in January 2015 in Spanish. The purpose of these meetings is to review the training guide and enhance the SM initial and ongoing training, as a priority in the units.

During visits to units, the importance of the laity in the works of the SM have become more evident. In all units there are concerns about the formation of the laity. We are reflecting on how to maintain the Marianist identity in our works and ministries even without the presence of religious SM.

André Fetis is participating in meetings of members of general councils of other male religious orders to reflect on the spiritual families connected with congregations.

The cause of canonization of Father Chaminade continues to progress slowly and raises many hopes.

FOCCUS ON SYNERGY AMONG THE BRANCHES

Sister Ana Lucia IMF has helped us to reflect on the theme: "Synergies in the Marianist Family". After an introduction to the subject, we shared some experiences of the family in different parts of the world:

Susan Vogt (MLC) shared with us the experience of how the SM, Lay Marianists, and FMI formed the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative (MSJC) which informs and inspires the Marianist Family on social justice issues in the USA such as the Death Penalty, Immigration, LGBT, Global Economic Justice, Ecology/Environment, and the Adele Social Justice Project.

Sonia Galarza (AM) told us about the experience of the Family Council in Ecuador which is a living testimony within the Church of Ecuador. The Sychar Quinindé home is becoming a landmark for the entire Marianist Family Ecuador.

Beatriz Leblanc (MLC) talked about the experience of living JOADES in August in France. This pilgrimage to Lourdes included the participation of members of the four branches of the Marianist Family of France, nearly 300 people in "union without confusion" prayed, shared, celebrated, and lived faith.

Ana Lucia (IMF) informed us about the experience of a temporary mixed community of the Marianist family living in Lima this summer. For two weeks, three members of each branch lived in community, devoting time to prayer, formation, and mission. The testimony and presentation as Marianist Family works was a new way to tackle our ministry and witness who we are. It has been an excellent experience in which they have shared life and apostolate with a presentation of the Marianist vocation held in common

BICENTENIAL CELEBRATION

In 2016 - 2017, the two religious congregations celebrate the bicentennial of its founding. They reported the preparation process being carried out.

- May 25, 2016 is the Opening of the Jubilee season as this commemorates the founding of the FMI
- Oct. 2, 2017 is the commemoration of the founding of the SM
- Jan. 22, 2018 is the Closing of the Jubilee

We want the bicentenary of foundations to be a celebration of the whole family.

DAY OF MARIANIST FAMILY VOCATIONS

The Day of Marianist Family Vocations is developing as a way to give thanks for our Marianist vocation in the Church, sustained by the cheerful and enthusiastic response of Mary. Materials and guidelines were sent to continue celebrating our patron saint during the feast of the Annunciation (March 25). Next year materials will be prepared by our brothers in the SM.

MARIANIST WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Marianist World Day of Prayer was held this year at the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Argentina. It was a beautiful occasion of celebrations in this place of significance for the Marianist Family of Argentina. We appreciated the materials they sent for preparation. Next year the Marianist World Day of Prayer will be celebrated on October 11, 2015 and prepared by the Marianist Family of Switzerland, from the shrine of Notre Dame de Burguillón in Freiburg. We will send the material to celebrate and encourage you to continue celebrating with joy this Marianist World Day of Prayer.

FRIDAY MAGNIFICAT

We continue to expand the use of the "Friday Magnificat." This monthly newsletter invites us all Marianists to pray the Magnificat together on the first Friday of each month, with a specific intent to discover the social actions carried out throughout the world by the Marianist Family.

COMMON MISSION

The Family Council again studied the objectives of this World Council and reviewed the action plan for accomplishing the objectives. We would like feedback from the national and local Family Councils to try to pursue our common mission. We invite all Family Councils and those responsible for each of the branches throughout the world, to continue to encourage Marianist Family life and consider these guidelines, as inspiration and communion between us.

Next year the presidency of the WCMF will be held by the SM.

May our loving God continue to guide us all, and may Mary always be at our side as a model and inspiration of faith of the heart; a faith that truly loved and lived in the heart of the world. May the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary.