



Sr. Evangeline Escobar, FMI  
Sr. Gretchen Trautman, FMI  
Rev. James Fitz, SM  
Bro. Stephen Glodek, SM  
Ms. Kay Stone  
Mr. A. J. Wagner

Contact: Rev. James Fitz, SM  
November 24, 2008  
[jfitz@sm-usa.org](mailto:jfitz@sm-usa.org)

**News Release**  
**Marianist Family Council of North America**  
**Meeting of the Family Council—November 2008**

The Marianist Family Council of North America met on Saturday and Sunday, November 8 and 9, 2008 at the Marianist Provincial Offices in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose of the Family Council is to encourage the implantation of the Marianist Family in North America and to facilitate the cooperation of all its members in implementing the mission of the Marianist Family in North American culture. At present, the Council supports two major initiatives: the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative (MSJC) and the Marianist Lay Formation Initiative (MLFI).

The following people represent the various branches of the Marianist Family on the Council:

- Marianist Lay Network of North America (MLNNA): Ms. Kay Stone and Mr. A.J. Wagner
- Marianist Sisters: Sr. Evangeline Escobar and Sr. Gretchen Trautman
- Society of Mary: Bro. Steve Glodek and Rev. James Fitz

The Council's time together included shared prayer, reflection on and discussion of reports, and reflection on issues facing the Marianist Family in North America. Included in these discussions were:

- reports on its two major initiatives;
- updates on significant developments in the respective branches of the Family;
- reflection on joint communications and a possible joint website
- reflection on the definition of lay Marianists and lay Marianist communities.

The Marianist Lay Formation Initiative is now sponsored under the umbrella of the North American Center for Marianist Studies and is directed by Ms. Pati Krasensky. The goal for participants in the Initiative is to begin a new Marianist lay faith community or reenergize an existing community. The current cohort has 12 participants. 14 others have completed training in earlier cohorts. Each participant is given a mentor. These mentors have also met to discuss their important role.

The annual report of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative highlighted the Collaborative's efforts on communication, action and dialogue opportunities, collaboration with Marianist institutions and ministries, and funding issues. During the

discussion of the report, the Family Council was joined in a conference call by Fr. Ted Cassidy, chair of the Collaborative Steering Committee; Mr. Jim Vogt, Director of the Collaborative; and Sr. Leanne Jablonski and Ms. Brenda Fitzpatrick, members of the Collaborative Steering Committee. The Family Council commended the Collaborative for its many initiatives for the sake of social justice and discussed some key issues for its future.

The next face-to-face meeting of the Family Council will be November 14-15, 2009 at the Marianist Sisters residence in San Antonio, Texas. The Family Council continues its business between meetings by periodic conference calls.

### **Encouragement in common meetings and prayer:**

Finally, the Family Council communicates to all members of the Marianist Family some important upcoming Family events. Members of the Family are encouraged to remember these events in prayer. For anniversaries the Family Council encourages gatherings of all three branches in local areas.

- January 10, 2009—Anniversary of the death of Venerable Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon
- January 22, 2009—Anniversary of the death of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade
- February 2, 2009—Anniversary of the foundation of the Marianist Family (foundation day of the Bordeaux Sodality)
- May 23, 2009—Society of Mary—first profession in Dayton, Ohio
- September 14, 2009—Anniversary of the death of Venerable Marie Thérèse de Lamourous
- October 11, 2009—Marianist World Day of Prayer
- August 1-8, 2009—International Meeting of Lay Marianists—Nairobi, Kenya
- July 22-25, 2010—Marianist Lay Network of North America—Continental Assembly, Chaminade University, Honolulu, Hawaii
- 2011—250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Fr. Chaminade (plans are being formulated)