



Marianist Family Council  
of North America

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## **MARIANIST FAMILY COUNCIL MEETS IN ST. LOUIS**

The Marianist Family Council of North America met Saturday, November 13, 2004 at the Marianist Province of the United States' offices in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose of this Marianist 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 the North American culture. At present, the Council supports two major initiatives: the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative and a joint venture on Marianist lay formation.

The membership of the Council at the present time is Bro. Stephen Glodek and Rev. James Fitz, representatives of the Society of Mary; Sr. Evangeline Escobar and Sr. Marcy Loehrlein, representatives of the Marianist Sisters, and Marge Cavanaugh and Jean Canning, representatives of the Marianist Lay Network of North America (MLNNA). At the meeting, Marge Cavanaugh completed her term as chair of the Council. Jim Fitz was chosen as chair for a term of two years. Jean Canning, a member of the founding Marianist Family Council, has completed a four year term and will be replaced after the MLNNA spring election.

During the meeting the Council prayed and ate together, received reports on its two major initiatives, updated each other on significant developments within each of the member organizations, clarified modes of communication to member organizations, and discussed future meetings.

Joan McGuinness Wagner, director of the Lay Marianist Formation Initiative, reported by conference call on progress of this program. The first year of training of lay leaders will begin on the weekend of January 28 - 30, 2005. It is hoped that 12 lay members of the Marianist family will gather for a weekend of training which will be followed by continuing training during the year using internet resources and lay Marianist mentors. The group will gather again in January 2006 to complete the first phase of their training. It is hoped that a second group of 12 will begin its training in July of 2006. The office for the Lay Marianist Formation Initiative has been provided as a gift by the University of Dayton and the generous support of its President, Dr. Daniel Curran.

The Family Council also received the annual report of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative and a summary of the work of its issue teams which include the Death Penalty team, the Environment and Ecology team, the Anti-Racism team, the Sweatshop Labor team, and the War and Peace team. During the discussion of the report, Fr. Ted Cassidy, chairperson of the Collaborative, joined the Council by phone. The Social Justice Collaborative has requested that the Marianist Family in North America make a commitment to renounce the sin of racism and affirm the gift of cultures in our midst. The Family Council, through its member organizations, will encourage Marianist religious and lay communities to

respond to this challenge. Further information will be sent to all communities in the near future.

The members of the Family Council found the meeting very productive. Progress is being made on the joint collaborative projects. The next face-to-face meeting of the Family Council will be November 12, 2005 in San Antonio, Texas.