

## **Press Release --- For Immediate Release**

Nov. 20, 2005

**The International Team for the International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities** gathered in Rome during the week of Nov. 7– 14, 2005, for its annual meeting and that of the World Council of the Marianist Family. Some highlights included:

- Evaluation of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of MLC and preliminary discussions for the next meeting in 2009.
- Concrete responses and strategies to address the challenges proposed at the 4<sup>th</sup> I.M.
- Meeting with Bishop Josef Clemens and Prof. Guzmán Carriquiry at the Pontifical Council for the Laity requesting permanent status as a Private Association of the Faithful. An unofficial invitation was given to us to participate in an upcoming International Congress for Lay Associations in Rome, 2006.
- An informal meeting with Marianist seminarians to discuss the role of priests in a Marian model of Church.
- The selection of Domingo Fuentes, SM, as the new Assessor for the International Team. We also said goodbye with great thanksgiving to Mary Louise Foley, FMI, who had been our assessor for the past four years. Her faith, stability and sense of humor enriched us and we know that she will continue to walk with the MLCs as both friend and mentor.
- The collaboration with the World Council of the Marianist Family to adopt the theme of Child Exploitation as an intentional action for social justice efforts.

More details will be forthcoming in the official bulletins and messages from both meetings. In addition, we will be posting a more reflective, discussion piece on the MLNNA site in the coming days.



*Members of the International Team of Marianist Lay Communities (IOMLC) meet at the office of the Pontifical Council for the Laity. From left to right: Isabella Moyer, Regional Responsible for North America Asia Australia, and Ireland, Ezequiel Reggiani, Regional Responsible for Latin America, Prof. Guzmán Carriquiry of the Pontifical Council, Tony Garascia, President of IOMLC, Ana Blázquez, Regional Responsible for Europe and Lorna Mueni, Regional Responsible for Africa.*