

September 2, 2008

Dear Jack:

Greetings and peace to you!

The Lay Marianist movement is alive and well in the year 2008. With almost 10,000 Lay Marianists around the world, the Marianist charism is flourishing in many ways. And you, my dear brother, have played a very special part in that movement.

On behalf of the Provincial Council, the Province and the Marianist Family in North America, I want to say thank you for your many years of devoted service to the Lay Marianists, especially the Lay Marianist Affiliates on the West Coast and in the Hawaiian Islands.

You have given many years to the Lay Marianist Affiliates, and your ministry was a labor of love. The Affiliates always speak very highly of you. You are a true "missionary," bringing Jesus to them and continuing Mary's mission. How truly and wonderfully "Marianist."

On a personal note, I have always looked forward to your Affiliate gatherings. I got to know the Fr. Jack of wisdom and great insight about the Lay Marianist Affiliate movement. I saw a man who loved the lay branch of the Marianist Family in a special way. I thank you for all you have taught me.

As we move into the future with our lay sisters and brothers, please know this relationship is built on your shoulders. It is on a solid foundation and you should be very proud.

Jack, I pray for our Lord and Mary our beloved Mother, and certainly our Marianist founders and martyrs, to bring you countless graces and blessings, now and in the future.

In fraternal gratitude and peace,

Bro. Jack Ventura, S.M.  
National Liaison for Lay Marianist Affiliates