

To all the members of the Marianist Family

Dear Friends,

The members of the World Council of the Marianist Family have been meeting in Rome from November 9-11, 2005. We noted that this is the 10th meeting of the World Council. These days have been times of meeting, of sharing and of prayer in the joy of seeing each other once again as the four branches of the Marianist Family. We welcomed the three new members of the International Team of the Marianist Lay Communities. For first time, we had the recently appointed secretary for the World Council, Brother Timothy Phillips, S.M. who participated at the meeting.

Each branch had many things to remember. Some highlights were:

- The Alliance Mariale is continuing to grow. In many places in the world there are people in formation.
- The World Council viewed a very impressive power point presentation on the Fourth International Meeting of the MLC in Bordeaux in July 2005. During this meeting the MLC produced a document entitled *In Alliance with Mary*.
- The MLC also created a new region for the Marianist Lay Communities in Africa.

The International Team of Marianist Lay Communities had a positive meeting with the Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity. During this meeting they received invitations for a regional and international Congress on the laity organized by Church authorities.

The International Team of the Marianist Lay Communities announced the appointment of their new spiritual advisor, Brother Domingo Fuentes, SM. They expressed their gratitude for all the accompaniment of Sister Mary Louise Foley, FMI, over the past four years.

- The SM is preparing their General Chapter and reported on their modalities for presence of the other branches.

It was noted that there will be a greater number of elected members from India and Africa at the Chapter.

They also reported on the issues around Mixed Composition.

The Society of Mary reported on their new foundations in Haiti, Cuba, the Philippines and elsewhere.

- The Daughters of Mary Immaculate spoke about the new foundations in India (2006) and Argentina (2008).

They reported on their General Chapter of 2007 with an invitation to the other branches.

In July 2006 they are having a meeting for Perpetually Professed Sisters in Rome.

Developments

The survey of National Councils and the meeting between the World Council and members of National Councils held at the Fourth International Meeting of the MLC helped the World Council to understand better their respective roles.

A presentation was made at the World Council meeting pointing out these results. Members were encouraged to talk with any member of the National Councils when an opportunity arises during their visits in a country.

After our report on the survey of lay Marianists who are not part of an MLC and discussion at our meeting, we invite everyone to recognize and appreciate the existence of these individuals and groups as an enrichment for the Marianist Family, to foster an attitude of openness and interest for these persons, and, when it seems appropriate, always respecting their free choice, to invite them to share in some activities of the various branches. It is clear that the situation varies from country to country.

It is clear from our interaction with the National Councils that exchange of information is important, to show the international character of the Marianist Family and to show successes and ideas that work. It also is a means of mutual support of members throughout the world. The World Council discussed at length communication and the various ways we communicate.

We discussed improvements and better use of the webpage. Brother Michael McAward, SM, will be taking up responsibility for the webpage (www.marianist.org) from Brother DuWayne Brisendine, SM, who will soon be leaving Rome. Brother Michael's e-mail address is: gencomm@smcuria.it

Presently the World Council sends a Marianist Family Bulletin with the Christmas message, the report of its annual meeting, and information about our World Day of Prayer.

You have received or will receive the third Marianist Family Album, and we are planning another Marianist Family Album. We are interested in knowing how these three albums have helped you in relating worldwide to the Marianist Family and to make our family known to others. Please send comments to Brother Timothy Phillips, Curia Generalizia dei Marianisti, Via Latina 22, 00179 Rome, Italy, e-mail: semvrec@smcuria.it

The World Council devoted a good amount of time to the subject of our response to issues of justice, peace and integrity of creation. Mr. Jim Vogt, Director of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative, MSJC (a project of the National Council of the Marianist Family in North America), described the work of the MSJC and presented two proposals for mutual collaboration between the MSJC and the World Council. After a fruitful discussion, we developed an objective on the issue of justice, which is found in the Appendix.

There was a brief report on the work that Brother Steve O'Neil, S.M., does at the United Nations in New York and there was a report on the status of the Marianist Family becoming an NGO at the UN. We are delighted with the work Steve is doing and encourage him to continue communicating with the World Council through the SM Assistant for Temporalities.

We were happy to hear about the Marianist event at the World Youth Day and we thank everyone for their preparations and participation. The youth gave signs of hope for the future of the Marianist Family.

After an evaluation of the objectives of the World Council for 2002-2005, we developed objectives for 2005-2008. They are found in the Appendix to this report.

We are very happy with the work that José Luis Perez, Coordinator of the Marianist International Volunteer Program (MIV), has accomplished this year. His powerpoint presentation done in English, French, and Spanish is an excellent instrument for promoting the Marianist International Volunteer Program. He also developed a well-designed brochure.

The General Administration of the Society of Mary composed of Fathers David Fleming, and George Cerniglia, and Brothers José María Alvira, Javier Anso, and Peter Pontolillo have completed their term of office. We want to express our deep gratitude to them for their service to the World Council. We also deeply appreciate all the work on the website done by Brother DuWayne Brisendine and we sincerely thank him.

We want to remind everyone that the communications and the objectives for the World Council of the Marianist Family can be found on the World Council website at www.marianist.org

Finally, the Marianist World Day of Prayer will be October 15, 2006, and we will journey to the Marian shrine at Verdélais, France, a place well known by Blessed Father Chaminade. The next meeting of the World Council of the Marianist Family will be held in Rome, November 8-10, 2006.

Members of the World Council of the Marianist Family
December 2005

José María Alvira SM
Javier Anso SM
Marie Joëlle Bec FMI
Ana Blázquez Ubach MLC
Paola Brivio FMI
George Cerniglia SM
Isabelle de Cantellauve MA
David Fleming SM
Domingo Fuentes SM
Anthony Garascia MLC
Estella Ibarra FMI
María José Jáurgui FMI
Isabella Moyer MLC
Lorna Mueni MLC
Ezequiel Reggiani MLC

Peter Pontolillo SM
Timothy Phillips SM