



**WORLD COUNCIL OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY**  
**Christmas Message - 2005**

*The angel said: Peace on Earth.....*

Can there be peace on earth  
When there is so much violence around us?

*And the babe was born in a manger.....*

Why are so many children abandoned,  
with no shelter, no warmth, no food?

*And Herod killed all the children .....*

When will children stop being the victims  
of adults' irrational anger and hatred?

*And Joseph took Mary and the babe and went to Egypt....*

What becomes of children raised in refugee camps,  
where no access to education robs their hope of future promises?

We, the members of the World Council of the Marianist Family,  
reach out to you in this holy season of the Incarnation.  
Conscious of the widespread suffering of our world,  
especially the exploitation and violence towards children,  
we stand together with Mary,  
believing in the promise of the angel

that peace will come through her Son.

We are a people of hope,  
yet hope needs minds, hearts and hands  
to become a reality.

We seek to have the mind of Mary.....  
Her eyes open to the needs  
Her ears open to the pleas  
Her entire being open to  
the action of the Holy Spirit.

We seek to have the heart of Mary...  
A pondering heart that prayed  
A hastening heart that visited  
A sensitive heart that responded to needs  
An anguished heart that stood with the suffering.

We seek to have the hands of Mary....  
Loving hands that caressed the fragile babe  
Open hands that offered her son to the world  
Working hands that are active in ways big and small  
Holding hands that support each other in community.

As missionaries of Mary...

We are called to bring Jesus to the world  
especially through our charism of building faith communities.

We are called to bond more deeply with the local and universal church  
in order to share our vision of a Marian model of church with her.

We are called to work for justice and peace  
and we, as members of the World Council of the Marianist Family,  
invite all of you to join us in an intentional effort  
to protect the rights of children everywhere  
especially addressing the issue of child exploitation.

Trusting in the prayers of William Joseph Chaminade,  
Adèle de Batz de Trenquélleon, and Marie Thérèse de Lamourous,

let us go forward in hope, uniting our minds, hearts and hands  
in Mary's mission of birthing the Prince of Peace in our world.