

News Release

Marianist Family Council of North America Meeting of the Family Council—November 2011

The Marianist Family Council of North America met November 18-20, 2011 at the Marianist Provincial Offices in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose of the Family Council is to facilitate the communication and collaboration of all its members in implementing and sustaining the mission of the Marianist Family in North America.

The following people represent the three branches of the Marianist Family on the Council:

- Marianist Lay Network of North America (MLNNA): Mr. Rudy Reyes Jr. and Ms. Kay Stone
- Marianist Sisters: Sr. Gretchen Trautman and Sr. Laura Leming
- Society of Mary: Bro. Joe Kamis, Fr. Marty Solma

The weekend of meetings included shared prayer, discussion on reports as well as issues facing the Marianist Family in North America. Specifically, reports were received from:

- Marianist Lay Formation Initiative conference call with Pati Krasensky. MLFI was commended for the excellent work they have done with annual cohorts to form leaders for Lay Marianist communities as well as conduct various workshops and speaking engagements. MFCNA is very interested in the results of a survey currently being conducted by MLFI with Lay Marianists.
- Marianist Social Justice Collaborative members Jim Vogt, Father Ted Cassidy, Brenda Fitzpatrick, Sister Leanne Jablonski and Ted Gorczyca joined MFCNA members on the conference call. MSJC was praised for their excellent work done by their Immigration Team. The desire to have even more collaboration between our two groups was expressed with a goal of have at least one face to face meeting of representatives from both groups each year in the future. Future meetings will address establishing more clarity of roles and boundaries. Father Ted Cassidy was acknowledged and thanked for his contributions to MSJC as he leaves their Board.
- Northeast Marianist Family Council report was read and a letter of acknowledgement was sent to Linda Zappacosta, chair of the council, complimenting the council on their formation, progress and use of staggered terms.

- MLNNA, FMI and SM reports were shared to update council members on current developments in each branch of the Marianist Family.

There was discussion on the details for a future joint assembly of all three branches. This discussion will be continued at future meetings, exploring possible ways to celebrate the anniversaries of each branch in 2015-16-17. Also, initial discussion on vocation culture and ways to sustain and enhance this culture and continued collaboration among the three branches.

MFCNA will have a mid-year conference call on March 21, 2012. The next face-to-face meeting will be November 11-12, 2012 in San Antonio Texas.

Submitted by:

Kay Stone

Chair

Marianist Family Council of North America