



**MLNNA E-News**

**March 2005**

Marianist Lay Network of North America  
*Building a Community of Communities in the Marianist Tradition*

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### **Extra, Extra: Continental Assembly Update**

The next Continental Assembly of Marianist Lay Communities will occur in San Antonio, Texas, from July 27-30, 2006. Save the date! Rey Gustamente is the Assembly Coordinator for this event.

This marks the seventh Continental Assembly, an event MLNNA conducts every three years. The last Assembly was held in St. Louis, Missouri, in 2003, and included workshops near and dear to Marianists and dynamic presentations. For an overview of the past Assembly, visit <http://www.mlнна.com/ContAssembly2003.htm>. Watch future editions of *E-News* for updates on next summer's Assembly.

### **MLNNA Spring Election: You Can Help**

MLNNA's Nomination Committee is looking for a few volunteers, especially from Canada and the eastern and central portions of the United States, to help with this spring's election. The Committee solicits nominations for offices to the MLNNA Leadership Team and contacts potential candidates. All work will be done via phone or e-mail and will be completed by this June. If you are interested in helping, contact Jennifer Mansfield at [jenbrian1@earthlink.net](mailto:jenbrian1@earthlink.net).

Would you like to serve the MLNNA or do you know someone who would be good for the team? If so, please fill out and return the attached Registration/Nomination form to Cathy O'Rourke at [cmsccathy1@aol.com](mailto:cmsccathy1@aol.com). The top portion of the form assures that you are eligible to vote in the election. The bottom portion allows you to nominate a lay Marianist for the position indicated.

Nominations are being sought for the following positions:

**Executive Secretary**  
**Development of Communities**

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS APRIL 8, 2005

**Plagued with Goodness: MLNNA Meeting and Greeting**

Jean-Rony Francois, the new MLNNA Area Representative for Haiti, drew upon the image of a virus—a “Marian virus”—when discussing the steady growth of Marianist lay communities (now at seven, since the fall of 2000) on this island nation. His remarks came during a meeting of MLNNA Area Representatives and the Leadership Team, held in Hollywood, Fla., from Feb. 18-21.

While the idea of a virus might sound like unusual phrasing, Francois’ words echo those of our Founder, Father Chaminade, who spoke of the contagion of good in the world. (After all, Christianity is often like the common cold, we get it from those we know.)

The February gathering also marked the first meeting between Brian Reavey, the National Coordinator for Marianist LIFE, and MLNNA. Marianist LIFE and MLNNA have agreed to keep in dialogue about the formation and involvement of young adults into Marianist Lay Communities.

During the weekend, the hospitality of Chaminade-Madonna College Preparatory—the site of the meeting—the brothers in Hollywood, who hosted a Eucharist and social at their Jackson Street Community, and several lay Marianists, who graciously welcomed their Marianist visitors, matched the warmth and sunshine of the gorgeous Florida weather.

**Reflections of Marie Thérèse**

May the words of this marvelous Marianist lay woman guide you this Lenten season.

“Let us constantly beg our good mother to strengthen us in our weakness, to increase our courage and our faithfulness, and, by the love she bears us, to

preserve us from the misfortune of ever losing sight of what faith has a right to demand of us.”

*-Marie Thérèse de Lamourous*

(To learn about Marie Thérèse and her involvement in the Marianist Family, visit

<http://www.mlanna.com/ReflectionsNo6deLamourous.pdf>. MLNNA is providing quotations from the life of this amazing woman as a way for the Marianist Family to get to know her better.)



### **The International Meeting of Marianist Lay Communities**

The Fourth International Convocation of Marianist Lay Communities (MLCs) occurs in Bordeaux, France, July 23-29, 2005. Twenty-four countries have MLCs and can send delegates to the meeting, where a document expressing our relationship with Mary will be developed.

This document will join the previous three international documents—Identity, Mission, and Community—promulgated at past convocations.

The convocation delegates are chosen from the leadership of each country. This year the U.S. is sending four delegates and Canada two. (Countries sending only one delegate are invited to send a lay observer with the voting delegate.) There are three regions so far in the international organization: Latin America (including Mexico); Europe and West Africa; and Canada, the U.S., Ireland, East Africa, Korea, Japan, India, and Australia. The region to which the U.S. and Canada belongs is perhaps the most diverse in terms of economics, language, and culture. In addition, each region is allowed to send up to three spiritual advisors to the convocation.

### **Can You Help With a Donation?**

Many of our MLCs are in developing countries. The registration cost per person for this summer's international convocation is approximately \$850 U.S., with

travel costs ranging from \$1000-1500. We are committed to helping the delegates from developing countries defray the costs of registration and travel. Because we are a world community, those from developed countries are being asked to help those who need financial assistance.

Please consider making a donation to the travel and registration fund for these delegates. Your donation will be used exclusively for this purpose. Send checks to:

MLNNA  
1341 N. Delaware Ave - #302A  
Philadelphia, PA 19125-4300

Remember, your contribution is tax deductible.

### **Uniting in Brotherhood**

The Miryam Community, a Marianist Lay Community whose members have taken the vow of stability, will be in prayerful celebration at the vow ceremony for Isak Keyman-Ige, who will make his temporary profession as a Marianist brother on Saturday, May 21, in Dayton, Ohio. Miryam meets for retreat each spring during the brothers' vow celebration weekend. Miryam members look forward to being with Isak as he vows himself to the evangelical councils (poverty, chastity, and obedience) and to a deeper commitment to the life of Christ.



### **Marianist Spirituality Day at Parish**

The Nazareth Community of Dayton, Ohio, is planning a program on Marianist spirituality at Ascension Parish on Saturday April 9. Many lay Marianists attend this parish, and the Marianist Sisters and the Society of Mary's Novitiate Community often participate in parish liturgies and other activities. Because Ascension has a strong sense of community and there is a definite Marianist presence, we hope to introduce a better understanding of our charism. Our intended outcome is to increase the understanding of who we are as Marianists within the parish, expand people's knowledge of Marianist life, and—if there is

interest—help a group start a Small Christian Community or a Marianist Lay Community. (Material provided by Marilyn Schwieterman.)

To learn more about Nazareth's involvement in developing lay communities, visit <http://www.mlanna.com/ReflectionsNo1.pdf>.

### **“Spanning the Globe”: International Twinning Project**

Is your MLC interested in forming a “twinning” friendship with a community in Japan? For further information, contact Isabella Moyer, [moyerfam@mts.net](mailto:moyerfam@mts.net).

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