



## MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY

July 29, 2018

Dear sisters and brothers of the Marianist Family,

The religious of the Society of Mary, together at the General Chapter, in the name of all the members of the SM, wish to greet with most fraternal words the religious of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (FMI), the members of the Marian Alliance (AM) and the laypeople who belong to Marianist Lay Communities (MLC). With all of you, we wish to thank the Lord for the Marianist Charism received from our Founders, to renew in our lives our passion and commitment to live this Charism with generosity and zeal, and to reaffirm that this will lead us to shared lives and mission that are very fruitful. In this way, let us grow more and more in holiness as communities of saints.

Throughout these days of the Chapter, we have felt the support of your prayer and the influence of your reflections and suggestions, which were shared with us, above all, through the wonderful presentations given by Félix Arqueros, MLC, Christiane Barbaux, AM, and Sr. Franca Zonta, FMI, on July 14<sup>th</sup>. On that day, they participated in our Chapter work with great wisdom. They also contributed to the selection of the title for the document which was eventually developed and approved by the Chapter: *The Man That Does Not Die: In Mission with the Marianist Family*. They invited us, in great measure, to embrace a change of perspective.

We share with you the great conviction that we renewed these days: the Marianist Charism acquires its full value only when lived as a Family. We are also convinced that to be, and go on living as, a charismatic family is a clear prophetic witness for the Church and today's world. Thus, we would like to tell you that we leave this Chapter very inspired. We wish to pass on this spirit and to live this orientation as Marianist religious throughout the world. As such, we must live and be a Marianist Family, giving our best selves to you. We are also convinced that the best from you will come to us. Have no doubt that we will welcome this with gratitude! Thus, mutually, we complement and enrich each other, coming to an admirable fraternal communion while respecting the diversity of our vocations and ministries. In this way, we show the prophetic dimension of our lives and our mission, which is focused on transmitting the Faith and on solidarity with the poor. None of us is superior to the others, and we all need each other. Among us all, we cultivate a mutual affection which makes us better and a collaboration which is transformed into real synergy benefitting the entire Marianist Family.

We send you some suggestions and proposals approved by our Chapter, in order to share these with you. We are convinced that, upon making these things a part of our lives, we will be walking better together and growing as a Marianist Family. They are born of our

deep appreciation of the Family and our affection for each one of you. Of course, for our part, we promise to do the same as what we propose that you might do: we want to work, more and more, with you and like you.

***Suggestions we would like to share with the other branches for our journey together and growth as a Marianist Family:***

- Expand efforts at common formation, especially regarding those aspects which refer to the knowledge and living out of our shared Charism.
- Generate places of Marianist presence in which the different branches may share prayer, formation, celebration and mission, building an open community that is visible and attractive to those around us.
- Open avenues of common discernment regarding the Marianist mission in the countries and places where we are and consider the possibility of designing shared missionary projects.
- Design and support together pastoral ministries which assist people, especially youth, to listen to God's call in their lives and to discern their vocational response.
- Promote the necessary means for good communication between the branches, allowing for the exchange of information regarding the life within of these branches.
- Cultivate a knowledge of those witnesses to holiness which the Marianist Family has generated, as a stimulus for personal and communal recommitment to embarking on the journey toward sanctity.
- Study and promote the organization of local, national and international Family encounters.

Have no doubt that the Marianist Family has been present as an energizing thread during our work in the Chapter, and so it will also be with us as we put that work into practice. Mary, our mother and teacher, invites us all to "do whatever He tells us." As such, the Marianist Family will truly be the Family of Mary. The support and help of each and every one who belongs to this great charismatic family will be indispensable. Thank you, already, for welcoming this message and the marvelous collaboration of all, which derives from what we are, sisters and brothers, and from what we are committed to become: "men and women of faith."

The Capitulants of the XXXV General Chapter  
of the Society of Mary