



XXXVI  
GENERAL CHAPTER  
SOCIETY OF MARY

## MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY

Rome, July 27, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Marianist Family:

On behalf of all the members of the Society of Mary, we, the Marianist religious gathered in General Chapter, wish to fraternally greet the Marianist Sisters (FMI), the members of the Alliance Mariale (AM) and the members of the Marianist Lay Communities (MLC). As we did at the end of our previous Chapter in 2018, we wish to share with you the most significant results of what we lived and worked together on during our days in Rome.

The experience of these weeks of meeting and reflection has undoubtedly been constructive and fruitful. For 21 days, 34 brothers from 18 countries, speaking different languages, have been trying to listen together to the voice of the Spirit. In addition to electing a new General Council and making a series of common decisions for the next six years, most of our time was dedicated to the principal theme we had set for this Chapter: our ministry with and for young people. From the beginning, the way of working and communicating has been clearly synodal, following the dynamics of spiritual conversation and always seeking to discern together the calls and ways of God for us today. The groundwork was well prepared by previous synodal work in the different places, having gathered the reflections of the brothers and communities, of many young adults themselves, and of people who accompany young people, many of them belonging to the Marianist family. We have also had the joy of having the presence of some members of our different branches, with experience in youth ministry, who shared with us for a few days and enlightened us with their vision.

We have gathered the main intuitions for advancing our ministry with young people in the coming years into four pathways: we need to foster more and more a culture of encounter; we feel called to take special care of the spiritual accompaniment of young people; and we clearly perceive the importance of looking at young people with mercy. Finally, it seems essential to us to give voice, protagonism and responsibility to young people in all types of evangelizing initiatives and in improving the world around us.

We thought it important to share these reflections with you, our sisters and brothers in the Marianist Family, because we are called to share not only faith, but also more and more, life and mission together. The evangelizing mission to young people is not only a priority for the Society of Mary, but also of the entire Marianist Family, as the World Council of the Marianist Family emphasized in 2022. In fact, this priority is

fundamental to our common charism from the beginning. We will certainly be very pleased to receive your insights on this matter, which will enrich our collaboration in the Marianist Family as we minister together with and for young people.

Thank you in advance for your attention. We entrust ourselves to the help of Mary, our Mother, to journey together, with audacity and creativity, along the paths that the Holy Spirit will indicate to us.

With fraternal affection,

The Brothers of the XXXVI General Chapter of the Society of Mary