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### **News Release**

#### **Marianist Family Council of North America**

The Marianist Family Council of North America met on Saturday and Sunday, November 4 and 5, 2006, at the Provincial Offices for the Marianist Province of the United States in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose of the Family Council is to encourage the implantation of the Marianist Family in North America and to facilitate the cooperation of all its members in implementing the mission of the Marianist Family in North American culture. At present, the Council supports two major initiatives: the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative and the Marianist Lay Formation Initiative.

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

- Marianist Lay Network of North America (MLNNA): Ms. Marge Cavanaugh and Mr. Daniel Jordan
- Society of Mary: Bro. Steve Glodek and Rev. James Fitz
- Marianist Sisters: Sr. Evangeline Escobar and Sr. Marcy Loehrlein

During the meeting, the Council shared prayer; received reports on its two major initiatives; updated each other on significant developments in the respective branches of the Family; discussed the annual prayer experiences for the Marianist Family of North America; reflected on the transition for young adults from Marianist institutions (LIFE, universities, etc.) to ongoing commitment in the Marianist Family; and celebrated Eucharist and enjoyed a meal with the conversation group from the North American Center for Marianist Studies, which also held a meeting in St. Louis that weekend.

Joan McGinnis Wagner, Director of the Marianist Lay Formation Initiative, submitted a written report and was present at the meeting to answer questions and clarify aspects of the report. Since she has taken a full-time position in the Office of Rector at the University of Dayton, Joan regrets that she must step down from the position as Director of the Initiative. She is, however, continuing to work with the Initiative until the Family Council finds a new leadership. The report on the Initiative included comments on the first group of lay leaders who completed their training in October 2005 and on the beginning weekend for the second group of lay leaders that was held in October 2006. The Family Council thanked Joan for her dedicated service over the past several years.

The Family Council also received the annual report of the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative, which included a report on the Adèle Social Justice Project for young adults and reports from the MSJC issue teams (the Death Penalty Team, the Environment and Ecology Team, the Anti-Racism Team—Marianist Mosaic, the Sweatshop Labor Team, and the War and Peace Team). During the discussion of the report, Fr. Ted Cassidy, chair of the Collaborative Steering Committee, and Mr. Jim Vogt, Director of the Collaborative, joined the Council by phone. Sr. Leanne Jablonski, a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Collaborative, also joined the meeting in person. The Family Council commended the Collaborative for its many initiatives for the sake of social justice and discussed some key issues for its future.

Each year the Marianist Family celebrates its foundation during January and early February (January 10, the anniversary of the death of Venerable Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon; January 22, the anniversary of the death of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade; and February 2, the anniversary of the foundation of the Marianist lay communities in Bordeaux). Often these celebrations involve all the branches of the Family. The Family Council has therefore created a common prayer that can be used by its member organizations during these celebrations, especially when the various branches gather together for prayer. This material will be sent to all the members of the Marianist Family of North America via the normal communication vehicles of each of the branches.

The next face-to-face meeting of the Family Council will be November 10-11, 2007, in San Antonio, Texas. The Family Council continues its business during the year between meetings by periodic conference calls.

Finally, the Family Council wants to communicate to all the members of the Marianist Family some important upcoming Family events. Members of the Family are encouraged to remember these events in prayer:

- January 10, 2007—Anniversary of the death of Venerable Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon
- January 22, 2007—Anniversary of the death of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade
- February 2, 2007—Anniversary of the foundation of the Marianist Family (foundation day of the Bordeaux Sodality)
- February 17-19, 2007—Marianist Sisters, Provincial Chapter
- March 2-6, 2007—Marianist Province of the United States, Provincial Chapter
- June 25-July 1, 2007—Marianist Province of the United States, Province Assembly
- July 8-30, 2007—Marianist Sisters, General Chapter
- October 14, 2007—Marianist World Day of Prayer
- September 14, 2007—Anniversary of the death of Venerable Marie Thérèse de Lamourous
- July 2009—Marianist Lay Network of North America—Continental Assembly