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News Release

Marianist Family Council of North America

Meeting of the Family Council:

The Marianist Family Council of North America met on Saturday and Sunday, November 10 and 11, 2007 at the Marianist Sisters Residence in San Antonio, Texas. 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 Ms. Kay Stone
- Marianist Sisters: Sr. Evangeline Escobar and Sr. Gretchen Trautman
- Society of Mary: Bro. Steve Glodek and Rev. James Fitz

Our time together included shared prayer, reception and discussion of reports, and reflection on issues facing the Marianist family in North America. Included in these discussions were:

- reports on its two major initiatives;
- updates on significant developments in the respective branches of the Family;
- reflection on the relationship of the affiliates of the Society of Mary to the two other branches;
- reflection on the growing initiatives for young adults in the Marianist family and how these initiatives can be networked into the wider Marianist Family.

Since our last Family Council meeting, the Marianist Lay Formation Initiative has been moved under the umbrella of the North American Center for Marianist Studies. Carol Ramey, Director of NACMS and Pati Krasensky, the Director of the Initiative, joined the Family Council by phone and gave a report on progress. Two cohorts of lay leaders have been trained and a third cohort will begin in April 2008. 30 people have shown some interest in the leadership training in the next cohort.

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, the Family Council was joined in a conference call by Fr. Ted Cassidy, chair of the Collaborative Steering Committee; Mr. Jim Vogt, Director of the Collaborative; and Sr. Leanne Jablonski and Ms. Brenda Fitzpatrick, members of the Collaborative Steering Committee. The Family Council commended the Collaborative for its many initiatives for the sake of social justice and discussed some key issues for its future.

The next face-to-face meeting of the Family Council will be November 8-9, 2008 in St. Louis, Missouri. The Family Council continues its business during the year between meetings by periodic conference calls.

Encouragement in common prayer:

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 has been sent to the members of the Marianist Family of North America via the normal communication vehicles of each of the branches. More copies are available and the prayer will be posted on websites.

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)
- March 7-11, 2008—Marianist Province of the United States, Provincial Chapter
- May 17, 2008—Society of Mary—first profession in Dayton, Ohio
- June 17-19, 2008—Marianist Sisters, Provincial Assembly, San Antonio, Texas
- June 21, 2008—Marianist Sisters—first profession, San Antonio, Texas
- August 23, 2008—Society of Mary—ordinations in St. Louis
- September 14, 2008—Anniversary of the death of Venerable Marie Thérèse de Lamourous
- October 4, 2008—Society of Mary—perpetual vows—Cincinnati, Ohio
- October 12, 2008—Marianist World Day of Prayer
- November 6, 2008—first annual celebration of the Blessed Marianist Martyrs of Madrid
- August 2-8, 2009—International Meeting of Lay Marianists—Nairobi, Kenya
- July 22-25, 2010—Marianist Lay Network of North America—Continental Assembly, Chaminade University, Honolulu, Hawaii