



July 30, 2007

To our Brothers and Sisters in the Marianist Family,

The 30th General Chapter of the Marianist Sisters concludes today but before doing so we wish to send you warm greetings and our heartfelt thanks for your prayerful accompaniment during these important days. From the very beginning of the Chapter, you were with us in the persons of Tony Garascia, President of the Marianist Family World Council, Ana Blazquez, Regional representative for Europe, Agathe Senou, Representative of the Alliance Mariale, from the Ivory Coast, Fr. Manuel Cortes, SM, Superior General, Fr. Andre Fettis, and Bros. Jose Maria Alvira, and Ed Violet from the Society of Mary General Council, Fr. Antonio Gascon, Postulator of the Marianist Causes. During the first week of the Chapter we all shared our perspectives on the important graces, calls and challenges facing us as a worldwide Marianist family. We are deeply grateful for your presence and your prayers.

As we have listened to all that has been shared and looked at the realities in which we live in the light of the Word of God, it is clear to us that we are called to move forward as sisters within a larger family. We believe that just as Mary at Cana encouraged Jesus to recognize that it was time to reveal God's action, she calls us to recognize that "It is the Hour" for our Congregation. It is the hour for us to offer our gifts simply and yet with audacity, following Mary and Adele as women of both faith and action. We embrace our call to be educators in the faith and to follow that call, "to the ends of the earth," as Adele said. At the same time we are very aware that "the ends of the earth" are sometimes very near to us – it is wherever the Gospel needs to be heard in a language that can be understood. We commit ourselves with you, to collaboration in offering the special gifts of the Marianist Charism in the service of justice, peace and integrity of creation. As we move forward together, may we continue to find creative ways to "Do Whatever He tells" us and to witness to the world that it is not only possible but a great gift to be united as a family that extends beyond national and cultural borders.

With heartfelt Affection,
Your Marianist Sisters,
gathered in Rome at the 30th General Chapter