LINES OF WORK
- Organizational Manual
- Virtual meetings between two MLCs from different countries.
- Commitment to young people
- International meeting
- Representation of the MLCs
- Unification of economic follow-up. Report
- CLM Census
- Regions

March 2024
Commitment to young people
We want to keep the link with young people alive and allow them to continue to actively participate in the international dimension with their ideas, experiences and opinions. Thus, the group that participated in August 2022 in the International Encounter in Madrid has been maintained and other young people from regions that were less represented have been invited.

On July 18, a virtual meeting was held between this team of young people and the international team, where, above all, it was a time to be with them and to listen to them.

Virtual meetings between two CLMs from different countries
An exciting initiative has been launched so that two communities from different countries can hold a virtual meeting and get to know and recognize each other as MLCs. The technological support was prepared to launch the initiative and that the CLM of all countries could sign up.

It is a very good opportunity to grow in the feeling of international family. That a community from one continent meets a community from another continent. That they make a little prayer together, that the people who make up the community introduce themselves, that they tell each other what dynamics they do in the community, and above all, that they share life.

In this first round, 30 communities from all continents have signed up and are having their virtual meeting in this first quarter of the year.

It is a living initiative, where every 6 months, we will put two different CLMs in contact with each other for their meeting, so... keep registering your communities in this initiative at: Virtual Intercommunity Meetings (clm-mlc.org).

Organization and Management Manual
An internal manual has been created, with all the practical, economic, organizational and management issues related to our communities.

After a previous compilation of all the information, and starting from the existing documents in the CLM (statutes and international documents, agreements collected in minutes) a Manual has been unified and elaborated with the different points that define who we are and the existing structure in the CLM, where the associative, operative, economic and logistic functioning of the Association is detailed.

- This Manual was approved by the International Team on May 13, 2023 and sent to the national managers so that they could make contributions. These contributions were reviewed at the face-to-face meeting of the International Team held in Rome on November 1 and 2, 2023.
- In any case, it is intended to be a living document, which will be aligned with the needs of the moment.

International Meeting 2026
We are already working on the preparation of the 9th International Encounter. It will be held the first week of August 2026 in the surroundings of Bogota -Colombia-.

We appreciate the tremendous work being done by the regional responsible for Latin America, Liliam Valle, and above all, the team formed in Colombia and coordinated and pushed by Amparo Cortez.
Unification of economic monitoring
A single model has been created and approved for the economic monitoring of the income and expenses of each region, so as to allow the periodic presentation of results in a unified way.
One of the obligations of the International team is to report annually on the Association’s financial situation. The creation and follow-up of this standardized model for all the regions that compose the association will allow us to comply with this obligation.

Census of the members of the MLCs
A model was prepared in Excel to be able to unify the data of all the people who belong to the MLCs of the world (name and surname, community to which they belong, email, ...) that was sent to the national managers through their Regional managers.
It is a slow process, but we have already obtained more than half of the countries; we hope at the end of the year to have practically all the lay people who belong to the MLCs in this international census.
The objective is none other than to promote and improve communication from the international level. The visibility of what is done from this area of the organization is a must, and it is usually the furthest from the day-to-day life of the people who make up the MLCs. To get closer, we need to reach directly, to be able to send one or two communications per year by the International team or the president directly.

With the Marianist Family
We had the privilege of participating in the Horizons program held in July 2023 in Berriz; specifically, Ana Cris Corrales (advisor to the CLM Presidency) and Boris Giambanco (CLM President) participated from July 10 to 14, during the week of the program proposed as “Listening to the Marianist Family”.
There, we had the opportunity to live together with Marianist religious men and women, and to exchange experiences about the family.

With the Church
On November 10, 2022, we had the pleasure of sharing a face-to-face meeting with the representatives of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, Lisa Ghisoni - Under Secretary of the Dicastery - and Giovanni Buontempo - responsible for the Department of Relations with Movements and Associations-, where, besides presenting ourselves as the new international team and giving a summary of the conclusions of our international meeting of August 2022 in Madrid, we had the opportunity to answer the questions they asked us with interest about the reality of our communities, our dynamics, the situation of young people,....
Moreover, on Thursday, June 22, 2023, we were invited by the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life to the Annual Meeting of the Ecclesial Movements and New Communities 2023, at the General Curia of the Jesuits in Rome and addressed to the general moderators of the lay associations, movements and new communities and attended in person by the president of the CLM International. The meeting was presided over by Cardinal Kevin Farrell and guided by the theme “In mission with Peter”.
The following are the aggregate accounts of the Association for the period 2022-2025. The years 2022 and 2023 are years already closed, and the following two years show the forecast according to the expected income and expenses.

As a general note, we can highlight the following:
- They are budgets that are governed by the basic principles on which the use of assets in the Association is based:
  
  - Austerity: The minimum necessary means will always be used in all activities and actions.
  - Non-accumulation of goods: The necessary dues will be requested to cover the necessary expenses, together with the rest of the foreseen income, without accumulating money or goods in any case.
  - Solidarity: The MLCs as such should show solidarity in situations of need. The contributions should be distributed in proportion to the possibilities of each Region or each Country. Means of financial support may be articulated between Regions or between countries within a Region.
  - There is a balanced budget for each four-year period, with a small surplus to allow the Association to function normally.
The major expenses we face are:

- The international meeting every four years. For this reason, we must make a provision every year to be able to face the expenses that it supposes.

- There are a series of expenses that are faced from the international team, as the own attendance of the Team, to cover the expenses of the guests to whom we ask for their participation to share their experience and to inspire us, as well as a small amount for scholarships to the countries with less resources, according to the principle of solidarity and co-responsibility with which we work from the CLM.

- The annual face-to-face meeting of the International Team in Rome. Once a year the International Team meets in Rome in person, taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in the World Meeting of the Marianist Family and with the principle of austerity very present in the trips and displacements.

On the other hand, other expenses are as follows:

- Regional expenses, corresponding to trips of each person in charge to their countries, which as can be seen are very limited due to not having enough resources to be more present in each country.

- Regional meetings; in 2024, for example, two are scheduled: the European meeting in France and the Latin American meeting in Brazil.

- And finally, a small part of the trips of presidency in representation of the International CLM, emphasizing the participation in the annual Meeting in Rome in the Dicastery of Laity, Life and Family of all the international lay movements recognized by the Church.

Regarding the Income, we have on the one hand the quotas of the countries, the annual contributions for the financing of the expenses of the international team, as well as for the constitution of a fund that allows to sustain the quadrennial Assembly (2026 in Colombia), and the subsidies are contributions to the regions with less income to be able to cover their expenses, attending to the established principle of solidarity.
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**PROVISIONES PARA GASTOS PLURIANUALES (dato acumulado al final de cada año)**

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**SUPERAVIT FINAL**

$25.822,04 $26.833,74 $15.307,74 $14.257,74
Togo

Mass of sending to the mission of the leaders of the CLM of Togo, gathered from August 11 to 14, 2023 at the Chaminade College of Kara in the framework of their national meeting. Jean Eudes LAWSON (SM), assisted by Fr. Jonas KPATCHEA (Régional SM Togo-Benin), 10 members renewed their consecration to Mary.

The development of the meeting was:
- A reflection on the quote: "He who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of Heaven" Lk 9, 62.
- A round table on the dynamism and renewal of the CLM of Togo.
- A formation

These three days were rich in encounters, exchanges and the emotion of sharing life.

Malawi

CLM after completing the 14 stages of the Way of the Cross up the hill, during their retreat at St. Francis Shrine in Chitipa, Karonga Diocese. The retreat is held every year as a way to give the faithful time to reflect, meditate and renew their faith in Christ through our movements. The retreat is organized by the diocese of Karonga.

Zambia

Above is a photo of the Marianist family (comprising the Society of Mary and members of the Marianist Lay Community) in Zambia, celebrating the Marianist World Day of Prayer in October 2023.
Kinshasa
MLCs in the Catholic meetings of the Archdiocese of Kinshasa to promote knowledge of their charism and their founders.

Kenya
Marianist Lay Community of Kenya gathered to celebrate the Marianist World Day of Prayer 2023 and the new Adoration Chapel in their parish, St Martins de Poress in Mombasa.

Ivory Coast
Eucharistic Communion with the Christian Community of ÉBOUÉ at St. Mary's Chapel.

Benin
Ten years of existence of the CLM
REGION LATIN AMERICA

Brazil
It is with great joy that I inform you that in Campinas/Brazil we had the formation of a new LMC; a group that for more than a year was accompanied by the fraternal brothers LMC VIGOR Paulo and Sheila, and sister Fatima from FMI. In a two-day retreat in early December, a retreat of reflection, discernment and decision, this group accepted the path of establishing a new LMC.
A sign of hope for the whole family with this new community, which appears after many years without this awakening and commitment.

Colombia
The highlights in the C.L.M. of Colombia, the previous year were the visits we made.
The National Committee formed by the Priest, the Sister, the Coordinator of each city where there is a Marianist lay presence and the National Coordinator.
A visit was programmed with each community, and in a first moment we evaluated Positive Aspects of my Community and Aspects to Improve.
And in a second visit, we came to the conclusion that we lack FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION.
In the month of November the National Meeting of the C.L.M. was held and the theme of the Retreat day was Forgiveness and Reconciliation.

Cuba
The Marianist family in Cuba is celebrating, the three fraternities: Mary of Pentecost, Mary Evangelizer and, the most recent, the Fraternity of the Pillar in the celebration of the Immaculate Conception made consecrations of the Laity for the first time, renewals for a year and for the first time in Cuba definitive consecrations.
Argentina
The year 2023 was a time of intense work and reflection in terms of thinking and praying about the journey of the Marianist Lay Communities within the Marianist Family of Argentina. How to motivate and spread the Marianist charism, the spirit and legacy of our founder, Blessed William Chaminade in the different places where we develop the mission.

On December 8, feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Consecration to Mary and renewal of the Covenant with the Blessed Mother took place in schools and parishes of our country where there is a Marianist presence. Each community prepared this celebration in a special way and with the imprint of each place, emphasizing the meaning of consecrating, making sacred, separating something to give it to God and convinced that we Marianists are like the Virgin's helpers in the mission of giving Jesus to the world.

Chile
Sometimes we see with regret the fact that we do not manage to infect more people to become lay people committed to Christ, in the style of Mary.

A new Marianist lay community is emerging in Melipilla. It was born from a Marianist school (Our Lady and Mother of Mount Carmel) and has been formed and accompanied since its inception several years ago by Maria Eliana Rebolledo of the Alianza Marial, who serves as rector of that house of study. The town is located west of Santiago and is part of the Metropolitan Region.

We thank María Eliana for being a sower in her own environment (the school), and of course, for her perseverance! Yes! It has been almost 3 years accompanying this group of nine women, young women, mothers, school parents, craftswomen, who joyfully share life in each meeting. For Maria Eliana it has been "a very enriching and joyful experience. A beautiful opportunity to deepen our Christian commitment today".

The community is called "Artisans in Faith".
"We are making our way together, with the weaving, the little cakes, the broken underwear, olives, whatever each one can carry; with shared reflection and prayer, we talk about life, with its lights and shadows. We keep in mind our families, neighbors, the country and the world. We want to follow Jesus incarnate, with simplicity and joy".

We welcome again Mariela Abarca, Denisse Araneda, Claudia Camus, Carolina Flores, Pía Muñoz, Vanessa Muñoz, Marianela Peralta, Elizeth Reyes and Mariela Contreras.

Mariela Contreras. The latter is a Carmelite nun Vedruna Sister. Sharing with her is a real richness for the Marianist community.

for the Marianist community, because Mary invites us to open ourselves to the world! to open ourselves to the world!
Matt Dunn (IO-MLC) and Margy Lisjak (MLC-NA) were guests of the Society of Mary at its 2023 Assembly and the installation of its new Provincial Council. Also in attendance was Sr. Gretchen Trautman, FMI. MLC-NA held its triennial assembly also in 2023. There were 130 people in attendance, including young families with children. Childcare was provided. An important aspect of the Assembly is that it was planned by young adults (between 20 and 30 years old). The theme was "Encounter, Embrace, Commitment".

The keynote speakers were lay theologian and musician Tony Alonso and Fr. Brian Massingale. Each built on the theme and challenged Marianist Laity to be present and engaged with the margins of the Church and society. Marginalized people were often identified as people of color, LGBTQ+, women, poor and youth.

There is a growth of the Lay Branch in Texas and New Jersey. A new community was also recently engaged in Dayton, Ohio.

Jose Julian Matos-Auffant is the new National Officer.
REGION NORTH AMERICA

Canada

Four new CLMs have begun.
Lay Marianists and a Brother direct the Marianist Center. Programs include catechesis, counseling, prayer services, Mass, family and youth activities, retreat, Adoration Chapel, men's and women's programs, and much more.

https://www.centremarianiste.org/

Australia

0 MLC
2 Marianist Laity
One of the Lay Marianists is in an international virtual community.

Ireland

0 MLC
2 Marianist Laity
One of the Lay Marianists is in an international virtual community.
Before summarizing the three Asian countries, a brief overview of the Asian region as a whole is in order: the pandemic threat has not disappeared after 2022, but social trends have gradually improved since about March 2023. However, some countries did not completely lift restrictions, and half of them are still in place today.

In summary, as a Marianist family, the first founding meeting of the Marianist Family Asian Council was held in May 2023 in Seoul, Korea, where SM, FMI and MLC met. The major accomplishment was the adoption of the draft Bylaws, which is currently being finalized and reviewed by the subcommittee. It was also decided that the Council will hold a meeting of the participating countries every two years, and that the next meeting will be decided by one of the countries, but this has not yet been decided.

Another trend is that, starting in 2013, a symposium will be held in the Asian region every three to five years, at the initiative of India. The 2013 one was held in Bangalore (India); a second symposium was held in Ranchi (India) in 2018, on the occasion of the bicentenary of the Congregation. A third symposium has just been held in Bangalore in January 2024. The theme will be “Marianist Education in the Asian Region” and will report on the basic principles of Marianist Education in the different cultures of Asia. Finally, we would like to inform you that we are about to establish a missionary foothold in Vietnam with FMI as the center. We are in the process of applying to the government to open a kindergarten, but we still need more time for approval.

South Korea
MLC activities are mainly in Inchon and Seoul. Inchon is supported by FMI and Seoul by SM. There is a school in Mokpo run by SM, but this school is the only one that provides missionary work through education. The members meet at the Seoul Marianist Center Cathedral for monthly Sunday Mass. We are currently considering the possibility of having Japanese members attend Mass, circumstances permitting. This would allow for a permanent exchange between Korea and Japan. We would very much like this to happen.
Japan

In summary, the pandemic continues to affect the district. covid19 was officially considered under control in May 2023, but even after that, it is still difficult to enter places where people gather (supermarkets, hospitals, etc.) without wearing masks and without disinfecting hands and fingers with alcohol at the entrance. Compared to major global trends, in the Asian region, especially Japan, etc., there has been a time lag. The summary for 2023 is that the church movement and activities are finally returning to their pre-pandemic state, and the activities of church members are also starting to return to normal. As for CLM, we have to start from the bottom of the list, as our activities have been impaired over the past three years or so and we have hardly been able to do anything on our own. Japan is known worldwide as the world's most aging society, and CLM is no exception, with the average age of its members hovering around 60. How to solve this situation depends on education and missionary work. In Japan there are four Marianist schools for boys and one for girls. Unfortunately, it is not well understood that these schools, including MLC activities, are a way to achieve Marianist education. The pandemic has brought this point to light, and MLCs should work with SM and FMI to help advance Marianist education.

India

This is missionary work with a unique cultural background. We focus on missionary work through education, and currently reach out to street children in the slums, mainly in Bangalore and Ranchi. As far as regular schools are concerned, St. Joseph Chaminade Academy Bangalore is the largest and most influential organization in the society. The question that remains for the MLC to resolve is how to assume the responsibilities that come with Asian independence, an issue that requires more discussion and time. This is an issue common to all three countries and requires further contact. We hope to move forward on this point with the creation of the Asian Regional Council of the Marianist Family.
France-Belgium
For the national leader of France, a highlight in September 2023: the meeting of the fraternities of Corsica in Ajaccio. A real moment of discovery and sharing, led by the head of the Corsica region, Monique, and the AS, Marie-Lys.
Fraternal exchanges in a paradisiacal setting...
The Island of Beauty lives up to its name...

Germany-Austria
We share moments lived in 2023, moments of joy and of being in Marianist Family.
Excursion of the family to a show about Jakob Gapp (a Marianist priest beatified by John Paul II) in his native village. Performed by a theater group from his native village of Wattens, Tyrol.
Celebration of Jakob Gapp Day in Greisinghof.
Family days at Greisinghof

During the month of October 2024 we will celebrate the European Meeting.
We will meet at AGEN
We thank CLM France for welcoming us.
"GOT UP AND LEFT".

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Italy

The moments we like to remember are the encounters experienced and shared as a family. Sharing stimulates, gives strength and enriches. For the Fraternities in Rome it is easier to have certain possibilities, because in Rome there are the General Administrations of both the Company of Mary and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, the regional and provincial administrations, now there are two CLM, "Faustino" and "Eva Novella", so the Family can find at least in the three Feasts chosen by the World Council of the Marianist Family beautiful moments of sharing. You can find testimonies with photos in the Marianist Fraternity magazine in issues 309 - February 2023 - Feast of the Founders; 311 - April 2023 - Feast of the Family and 318 - November 2023 - World Prayer.

We are very sorry that we have not yet been able to resume the beautiful experience of the CLM Convention days and the Marianist Three Days.

Poland

In June 2023 we thanked Father Emilio and Br. José Ignacio for the service in Poland. Holy Mass was celebrated in the parish church of Piastów with Father Emilio de Cárdenas, National Consiliary of the Federation of the Marian Congregations of Poland, presiding and giving the homily. Iñaki Sarasua SM, Provincial of the Marianist Province of Spain, and Fr. Marek Wolniewicz, our parish priest, from the parish of Our Lady of Częstochowa in Piastów, concelebrated.

After Mass, we gathered for a meal together with members of the CML and a small group of close friends of Emilio and José.

Switzerland

Mercedes visited the Swiss CLM in January, she was in Sion and it was a moment of celebration, meeting, sharing and getting to know each other a little more. Both the reality of Switzerland to approach as the reality of Europe and the international.

Every month they do an online Lectio Divina. They are discerning and trying to be more visible, they have contacted a parish to make a prayer there, the project is going ahead and they have already made some.
Spain - Zaragoza

One of the lines of action of the Assembly that the fraternities of the Province of Saragossa (July 2022) agreed upon was to work these next years on "recreating our fraternities". We have started from an analysis of our current situation and during this year we will work on the intuitions of Father Chaminade in the Congregation of Bordeaux and the first oratories; the main lines and calls of our international documents and the analysis of the current situation of the world and the Church to glimpse certain signs of the times.

From the Province Council of the Fraternities of the Province of Saragossa we are invited to discover in our origin, in those enthusiastic lay people of the first years of Bordeaux, an invitation to be more faithful to the Gospel of Jesus based on the intuitions of Chaminade. It is the creative fidelity to such a rich charism that always moves us to look for new ways, from where we are invited to give answers to the demands of today's society.

Spain - CEMI

Last Saturday, October 7, our brother Diego Tolsada Peris died in the Marianist community of Siquem, being Religious Councilor of the CEMI communities. With his search for simplicity, his commitment to truth, his passion for the radical nature of the Gospel, his eagerness to clericalize the Church and, above all, his conviction that the Kingdom of God is here and now, he was one of the clearest inspirers of our association. He has left us a great emotional orphanage, but at the same time, his departure has highlighted the evidence that in CEMI a real shared priesthood is lived and, the empty space left by Diego, and his memory, do nothing but leave evidence of the weight that the laity have in the future of the Church.

Spain - Madrid

There is a climate of hope, little by little the youth-adult communities are increasing, which are strengthened thanks to the meetings prepared by FORTES.

Little by little the laity are consecrating themselves to God in covenant with Mary, this is how they call what in other countries is called consecration to Mary. Before the Provincial Assembly of 2021 nothing had been done since the change was approved in the Provincial Assembly.