



## MESSAGE FROM THE MLC INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Dear Marianists Laity,

We are currently facing the Covid-19 pandemic. How can we commit ourselves in this difficult circumstance? How can we love in Mary's way?

The answers to our commitment are not alien and for some time now the Holy Spirit has given us inspiration to walk in our lives with the Marianist charism, which we can find in the different documents of the IO-MLCs, such as the document in Alliance with Mary, the result of the fourth (04) International Meeting, held in Bordeaux, in 2005. (<http://www.clm-mlc.org>).

The document is very inspiring because it reminds us of our free will to collaborate with Mary in her mission to make Christ present in our world. So, as we face the current pandemic, how do we live our Covenant with Mary? How do we make Christ present? It can be difficult. And yet, it is very simple: to live her attitudes.

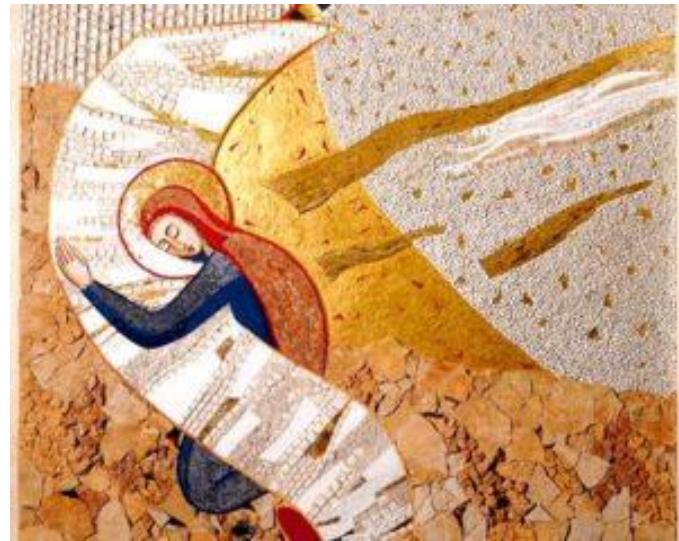
**- Mary, a woman of faith:** always willing to do God's will, even if at times she did not understand the Lord's plan, she humbly kept it in her heart. With her attitude she encourages us to be men and women of prayer, who present every situation of our life to God with the confidence that we are not alone.

We find it difficult to understand the loss of human life, the restrictions that changed our lifestyle, the isolation. The invitation is that like Mary, we be strong in faith, that we be present to the Lord in prayer all our thoughts, feelings and reactions to the present situation, confident that the Holy Spirit will know how to give us the Lord's response in an attitude of hope.

**- Mary, woman of service:** attentive to the needs of others at every moment and confident in her Son (Wedding of Cana). Willing to offer the best to others (The Visitation). In solidarity with the poor, the afflicted and the marginalized (The Magnificat).

How are we supporting our neighbor in the midst of the pandemic? How are we supporting our family, friends, co-workers, community members? Are we light? Like Mary, let us be attentive to the needs of our brothers and sisters and trust in Jesus to be the helping hand that the world needs.

**- Mary, woman of community:** at Pentecost Mary is with the disciples of Jesus, praying, sustaining their faith and trusting in the coming of the Holy Spirit.



Community is a source of innovation; together we reinvent ourselves in the face of hardships. The invitation is to use technological applications and tools to ensure the closeness of our meetings, "to new times, new methods." The important thing is that in the face of the pandemic we remain united, praying and strengthening our faith following the example of Mary at Pentecost.

**Let us rejoice and be filled with hope, Jesus and Mary are with us!**

**Mary, Loving Mother,  
help us to live our lives fully  
and be God's answer to the hardships.**