

LATIN AMERICA CONTINENTAL REPORT

Continental Presidents: Rosalinda and Jorge Carrillo
Continental Chaplain: Father Juan Marcos Granados Álvarez

I. Continental Membership

A. Current number of active ICCFM member countries in your Continent

At present time there are 18 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela.

B. Total number of active families in the Continent (Please count a solo parent or a widow, widower, etc., as one family)

Costa Rica	1,250
Cuba	210
El Salvador	18,500
Guatemala	2,650
Honduras	1,755
México	<u>58,000</u>
Subtotal Zone I	82,365

Colombia	2,650
Dominican Republic	150
Ecuador	70
Panamá	310
Perú	270
Venezuela	<u>102</u>
Subtotal Zone II	3,352

Argentina	1,400
Bolivia	300
Brasil	30,000
Chile	204
Paraguay	1,560
Uruguay	<u>140</u>
Subtotal Zone III	33,604

Total MFC Latin America 119,321

II. Report on Activities (July 2004 – June 2007)

We integrated the report by year for the reason that we assumed the Presidency in December 2005, therefore the report corresponds to the year 2006 and the first semester of 2007:

Year of 2006

1. 1st Meeting of the Full Latin American Secretariat (SPLA)

OBJECTIVE: "To manage the integration of total SPLA team to work in unity on the plans and programs that arise for the strengthening of the families and of the structures of the National Movements that integrate the MFC in Latin America in accordance to the Statutes."

DATE: 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 January 2006

PLACE: Convent of the order "Daughters of Santa Ana," Corregidora, Qro. Mexico.

PARTICIPANTS: The total SPLA team for the period 2006-2009 and the MFC Latin America Presidents for the period 2001-2005.

2. Attendance at the following:

"FIRST MEETING OF ECCLESIASTICAL MOVEMENTS AND THE NEW COMMUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA"

Bogota of Santa Fe, Colombia

9 - 12 March of 2006

Convenor: PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE LAITY
EPISCOPAL COUNCIL OF LATIN AMERICA (CELAM)

2.1. Panama, presentation of the project "Evangelical Solidarity"

8 March. Attendance of 28 people of the national and the diocesan teams.

2.2. - Colombia, Presentation of the project "Evangelical Solidarity"

11 March. Attendance of 40 people.

3. Attendance at the following:

"ENCOUNTER OF PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF THE FAMILY APOSTOLATE OF THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCES AND SOME LATIN AMERICAN DIRECTORS OF MOVEMENTS THAT WORK IN FAVOR OF THE FAMILY"

Theme: "The Family, First School of the Disciples of the Lord"

Bogota of Santa Fe, Colombia. From 2 to 4 May 2006

Convenor: LATIN AMERICAN EPISCOPAL COUNSEL - CELAM

With the purpose of taking advantage of the economic resources, we implemented two courses on sensitization to the change, on the project "Evangelical Solidarity."

3.1. - Panama, 29 and 30 April 2006.

Empowerment for the introduction of the project "Evangelical Solidarity"

3.2. - Colombia, 6 and 7 May 2006.

Empowerment for the introduction of the project "Evangelical Solidarity"

4. Pastoral Visit. This has been carried out taking advantage of our participation at the EZO Zone I and the countries that were visited that are indicated next:

4.1. Costa Rica. In this country we visited the offices of the MFC, which are very comfortable, since they use the area for empowerment training, Board meetings, for an office with a small warehouse and for services. In the conference room, the National Presidents Argerie and Víctor Castro did an excellent presentation to us, very clear on the situation of the MFC in Costa Rica. We presented the "Evangelical Solidarity" project to them.

4.2. Nicaragua. In this country we were received by the members of the Movement of the Marriage Encounter (MEC) since the Christian Family Movement does not exist as it is. Nevertheless we presented to the priest in charge of the Family Apostolate and to the members of the MEC of Nicaragua the "Evangelical Solidarity" project. We gave to them a CD of the project and a program of values for children and adolescents (for primary school and secondary school) that was prepared in Mexico.

4.3. Honduras. In this country SPLA Vice-Presidents Ceci and Raul Ortega assisted. The rest, Rosi, Jorge and Father Juan Marcos went to El Salvador with the purpose of taking advantage of the time. The SPLA Vice-Presidents were received by National Presidents of Honduras Ondina and Santos Roque. Ceci and Raul gave a presentation of the "Evangelical Solidarity" project to the national team and other members of the MFC, besides to listening to the situation of the MFC of Honduras on behalf of the Presidents. After the visit, the vice-presidents SPLA along with the other participants traveled from Honduras to El Salvador for "EZO I 2006."

4.4. El Salvador. In this country we were received by Ricardo Castaneda National President of the Marriage Encounter Movement of the MFC. Once we were located in our place of lodging, we dedicated ourselves to visit the site where "EZO I 2006" would be convened, and we had review meetings with the coordinators of the different services in the EZO, as well as with the coordinators of the different workshops. The site of the event is MEC property, including on chapel, a multiple-purpose hall for 600 people, independent rooms for the service team on duty, rooms for retreat participants, offices, parking space, etc. In summary it is an installation that fulfills what is necessary for an International Congress.

The vision and the leadership that MEC Presidents Nohemy (RIP) and Ricardo Castaneda had were the reasons that such on a worthy place was constructed, with all the facilities to hold marriage retreats, marriage formation and marriage encounters in El Salvador. They had the material support, mainly the work of an organized, affluent team, committed to the Kingdom. "Seek first for the Kingdom of God and its justice, and the rest will be given you in addition."

5. Encounter of Zone I: Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and México.

22, 23, 24 and 25 June 2006, in El Salvador, San Salvador.

Objective: That the members of MFC Latin America interpret the results of the XIII ELA and the pre-EZO's, evaluating them in the light of the sign of the times, to propose the actions necessary to adapt their structures, processes and methodologies so as to confront family disintegration.

All the countries attended except Cuba.

6. Encounter of Zone II: Panamá, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Dominican Republic.

29 June to 2 July 2006. Bucaramanga, Colombia.

Objective: That the members of MFC Latin America interpret the results of the XIII ELA and the pre-EZO's, evaluating them in the light of the sign of the times, to propose the actions necessary to adapt their structures, processes and methodologies so as to confront family disintegration.

All the countries attended except Cuba.

7. Encounter of Zone III: Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. 15, 16, 17 and 18 July 2006.

The development of this event was in the City of Curitiba, Brazil, which is in the south. The encounter was carried out in an atmosphere of incredible brotherhood, and the facilities of the Catholic University where it was held included all the expectations for success.

8. Visits:

8.1. Paraguay. We attended the National Encounter in the city of Villarrica at an invitation we received at the EZO III in Brazil: we propounded on the necessity of an organization such as the MFC to participate as a civic organization in the different countries where it is present and to influence in the decisions of the legislature with respect to the laws that affect the family.

Pastoral Visit in the Diocese of City of Este, Paraguay:

We had work meetings with the general membership and the coordinators of the formation team. We introduced the project "Evangelical Solidarity" and listened to the life experiences of the MFC Paraguay members.

We participated in two radio programs of radio, with the Bishop Emeritus of the City of Este in one of them. What beautiful efforts are being done in this diocese!

8.2. Ecuador. In this country we were received by National Presidents Jorge and Magdalena Merino. Jorge had been operated and was in recovery; nevertheless, this did not prevent him from being present in two meetings in his house: one for the presentation of the project "Evangelical Solidarity" and another one of coexistence. Other meetings were held the parish of Our Lady of Fátima. We participated in a meeting of the National Family Apostolate, at which the MFC participated.

Pastoral Visit to the Diocese of Ibarra: We participated at a meeting with MFC members of this diocese one afternoon. In this diocese one work carried out are study meetings with the children, which produce very rich results.

8.3. Chile. In this country only we only had one day for the meeting as the SPLA Presidents could stay only a single day. Nevertheless we had time to listen to the plans of the MFC Chile National Presidents Peter and Angelica Viertel and the result of its recent meeting resulted a Serenade with an attendance of 100 people. Its challenges among others are to double its membership and the number of Dioceses with MFC presence in Chile, and to restructure the MFC according to the times and to the geographic situation of the country. The request of the SPLA in face of the needs of incomplete families was

to develop formation materials specifically aimed at the reality of families of widows and widowers, a challenge that was accepted.

9. Pastoral Visit, Mexico. The participation in a pastoral visit to Mexico were carried out in the two following events:

Meeting of Full National Team in Mexico City on 4, 5 and 6 May 2006. This meeting aimed to evaluate the work of the regions and the bibliography of the formation material for "Mothers Responsible for the Family" and to define the basic cycle of formation of this service, as well as its processes of formation.

National Assembly for the Election of National Presidents of MFC Mexico. on 3, 4 and 5 November 2006

We participated in the Assembly for the election of National Presidents. The importance of these events is significant since the change in leadership brings an MFC renewal with leaders who arrive with new ideas and with new energy to work on them effectively. It was very emotional to see that 25 couples "leave" and another 25 couples "enter," showing MFC formation in action.

First Half of 2007

1. Second Latin American of Youth Encounter (ELAJO). It was held on 2, 3, 4 and 5 February 2007 in the City of Panama, Panama. The topic was on the young Christian and his vocation to the love. It was attended by 210 young people from 11 countries.

2. National Encounter of MFC Mexico. The change of MFC National Presidents was held in Oaxaca City, Oaxaca on 11 to 15 April 2007. Two thousand members attended.

3. Attendance at the "Second World Congress of Families" in Warsaw, Poland. We attended as the MFC Latin American representation in coalition with the Family Network of Mexico. The meeting promoted the natural family, the defense of the life from conception to natural death and the respect of human values.

4. Visit to Bolivia. We presented the project "Evangelical Solidarity" at the Santa Maria de Guadalupe Mission. The MFC accepted and initiated with this new methodology and spread it to the cities of Cochabamba and Santa Cruz.

5. Empowerment Retreat for the National Team of Panama on "Kerigma" on 22, 23 and 24 June 2007. It was held at the Retreat House Panama and was also attended by a couple from Costa Rica to present to their country, particularly the project "Evangelical Solidarity."

6. Empowerment and Retreat Qualification of the "Youth Kerigma," gathering young people for the MFC according to the project "Evangelical Solidarity." It was held from 29 June to 1 July 2007 and attended by young people of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala itself.

7. Participation in a meeting in Peru to present the project "Evangelical Solidarity" and to empower the National and Diocesan Team to initiate it. It was held from 28 June and to 1 July in Lima and on 6 July in the diocese of Cuzco.

PROMOTION OF RELATIONS AMONG THE MFC IN LATIN AMERICA

A. Frequency and intention of the communications with the countries

We sent to all the countries a CD with the complete report of the year 2006, by means of mail to make sure of its reception. We wrote all the countries every fifteen days sending them reports on relevant situations and motivating them. To the countries that have accepted the project "Evangelical Solidarity" we give permanent support as required.

B. Number of countries (MFC groups) visited and number of visits:

Bolivia 2	Brazil 1	Chile 1
Costa Rica 1	Colombia 3	El Salvador 1
Guatemala 2	Honduras 2	Mexico 3
Nicaragua 2	Panama 4	Paraguay 1
Peru 1		

TOTAL: 22 visits to the countries.

C. Continental Meetings

In accordance with the statutes we convened five meetings which are the following:
First Meeting of the Full Team, in Querétaro, Mexico, on January 2006, with the attendance of the complete team.

Meeting of Zone I with the countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico with the exception of Cuba in June 2006.

Meeting of Zone II with the countries of Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Republica Dominicana and Venezuela in June 2006.

Meeting of Zone III with the countries of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay in July 2006.

Second Latin American Youth Encounter (II ELAJO). It was held in Panama from 1 to 4 February 2007, with the attendance of 200 young people and 35 marriage counselors for the youth from 11 countries.

PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIFE AND THE SPIRIT OF THE MFC THROUGH THE NATIONAL TEAM

A. Actions were taken to fortify family spirituality throughout the continent. It was proposed to spend a Holy Hour once a month for the unity of Latin American families. This was not passed on the part of the countries.

B. Social actions committed to the family apostolate on a continental scope, including pre-marriage catechism and formation immediately before marriage.

TO REPRESENT THE CONFEDERATION ON A CONTINENTAL LEVEL

A. Frequency of communication with other continents is almost nil, except for official notices that we receive from the International Team.

B. Benefits acquired from communication on a continental scope: at the moment, there have been none.

TO REPRESENT THE MFC CONTINENT AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE CONFEDERATION

A. There were important resolutions at the last Continental Assembly, not at general level but all were internal to the countries.

B. Presentation of the progress of its implementation. It has been possible only to follow up the commitments of the countries.

TO PROCESS APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE CONFEDERACIÓN OF THE MFC LOCATED IN ITS GEOGRAPHIC AREA. THESE APPLICATIONS MUST BE SENT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL TEAM OF THE CONFEDERATION TO BE PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

There are no new member countries.
We visited Nicaragua but there was no answer.

TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS RELATED TO THE FAMILY, ESPECIALLY WITH THOSE ASSOCIATED OR SUPPORTED

A. We are affiliated with Federation of Continental Bishops Conferences. We attended two functions to which we were invited by CELAM: the first one to the meeting at Aparecida Brazil, relating to the action of laity; and the second to a meeting of family movements. We consider that the making connections with our Episcopal Conference of Latin America is beneficial and we tried to attend to its pastoral lineaments.

B. Connection with FIRES.
We do not have connections with this organization.

C. Connection with other family organizations. We are part of a national network of civic and social organization in Mexico known as the FAMILY NETWORK. In our official communications and visits to the countries, we motivate our members to integrate with this type of social and civic network in their countries. We support the initiatives in favor of life by means of letters of support sent by electronic mail to those countries that ask for it.

III. Sharing of Ideas

A. Funding strategies

- Effective system for membership contribution

The system for country contribution is appended to the decision made by the Latin American General Assemblies, which is not fulfilled by a 40% of the countries. A table of contributions is sent to the countries but there is no response.

- Sponsored projects

We count on the project "Evangelical Solidarity" Mission Santa Maria de Guadalupe, which consists of supporting countries that accept to adopt a change in their basic cycle of formation, with a new methodology, systematic and integral to the formation material realized as an organizational structure agreed in the proposed methodology. A great majority of the funds are provided by the MFC of Mexico. Our commitment is

to empower our members and to accompany them in the implementation of the project.

B. Continental actions for family spirituality (Continental Day of Prayer) and for social service.

We celebrate the MFC Latin America Day of Prayer every first Sunday of October with a Eucharistic Celebration and a fellowship among families. We put into practice, as an expression of solidarity with the SPLA, the giving of a free and voluntary contribution from the families of the dioceses of the countries.