

# TO THE RHYTHM OF THE SPIRIT

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These pages want to collect the lay process lived in the Institute through the proposals arising from the General Chapters and of the major international meetings, from 1985. Want to be grateful memory to the Spirit of the Lord that has been guiding this process through the years. We have grown progressively in the conscience of perceive the Marist charism as a gift of God for brothers and lay people.

This story of communion that comes here remembered is driving us, both brothers and lay people, to new implications, which are to make possible a "new beginning" with new paradigms for the lay vocation, the common processes of formation of Brothers and lay people, the new way of being a brother, the possible forms of lay association, the experiences of communion, a new time for the Marist charism. The General Chapter of 2017 is a beautiful opportunity to consolidate and projecting these new paradigms.

*h. Javier Espinosa  
Secretariat of the Laity  
Rome, decembre 2015*

## GENERAL CHAPTERS AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS:

- 1985 XVIII GENERAL CHAPTER
- 1990 PLAN OF LIFE. CHAMPAGNAT MOVEMENT
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- 1999 IX CLAP EN AMÉRICA, COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA
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- 2009 DOC. GATHERED AROUND THE SAME TABLE. THE VOCATION OF CHAMPAGNATS MARIST LAITY
- 2009 INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF JOINT FORMATION OF ST. PAUL-TROIS-CHÂTEAUX, FRANCE.
- 2013 INTERNATIONAL FORMATION MEETING, LES AVELLANES. PROCESSES OF ACCOMPANIMENT AND GROWTH OF THE LAY VOCATION
- 2014 INTERNACIONAL MEETING ON LAY ASSOCIATION AND BELONGING TO THE INSTITUTE, ROME.
- 2014 MESSAGE FROM THE II MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION ASSEMBLY, NAIROBI.
- 2014 PROPOSAL FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL
- 2014 BASIC ELEMENTS TO DESIGN THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK OF A MARIST VOCATIONAL PROCESS FOR THE LAITY, BARCELONA.
- 2015 INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ABOUT THE INITIAL FORMATION, HERMITAGE.

1985

## XVIII GENERAL CHAPTER



- Constitutions:

### Champagnat Movement

164.4 The Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family is an extension of our Institute; it is a movement for people who wish to share more fully the spirituality and sense of mission inherited from Marcellin Champagnat. In this movement, affiliated members, young people, parents, helpers, former students, and friends deepen within themselves the spirit of our Founder so that they can live it and let it shine forth. The Institute animates and co-ordinates the activities of this movement by setting up suitable structures.

- Priorities for the Institute:

### The fostering of vocations

“The fostering of vocations in the broader and ecclesial sense, the involvement of lay people, while fostering Marist vocations with greater intensity”. (1)

1990

## PLAN OF LIFE. CHAMPAGNAT MOVEMENT



### Vocation as followers of Jesus

The Holy Spirit is stirring up lay people in the Church today, sparking a new response to their vocation as followers of Jesus and sharers in His mission of evangelising the world.

They want to share more fully in the spirituality and sense of mission which the Brothers have inherited from their founder, Marcellin Champagnat. (1)

### The basic unit of the Movement

A person who joins the Champagnat Movement becomes a member of a small Group, which is the basic unit of the Movement, Each Group is autonomous in its own internal organization.

It is Brother Provincial or District Superior of the Marist Brothers who officially recognises a Champagnat Movement Group in his region. (22)

1993

## XIX GENERAL CHAPTER

*Participation of 14 lay people*



### *Message*

The few days which fourteen laypeople spent with us during this Chapter were certainly an historic moment. With them, and thanks to them, we became more conscious that the only way for us to take on our mission in the Church is in close communion with them. (14)

#### **Communion with them**

Let's make real partners of everyone who wants to share in our spirituality and our Mission. Let's take the risk of losing a little power and be daring enough to collaborate freely with laypeople, not because there are far fewer of us now, but because we recognize their vocation and mission as baptized Christians. (19)

#### **To share in our spirituality and our Mission**

### *Mission*

#### **To bold and daring action plans to address these needs**

We recognize that there are urgent needs now among the People of God. We invite all, brothers and lay people who share our spirituality and mission : to commit themselves with us in our workplaces to bold and daring action plans to address these needs. (4)

#### **We share the charism of Champagnat**

We believe that we share the charism of Champagnat and are called to interpret it in today's world, wherever we are, together with lay people. (7) The original inspiration of Marcellin Champagnat and the first Brothers must be the basis for the reformulation of our mission for our times. (20)

#### **In the mission of the Church**

The importance of the Laity in the mission of the Church and in our own mission as Marist Brothers. (28).

#### **Involving lay people**

We commit ourselves to develop and deepen our "partnership" with lay people, both in our community practices and in our apostolic work. (34)

This implies: Involving lay people in all aspects of Marist works, including their direction;

#### **Systematic formation of lay people**

Promoting and accompanying a systematic formation of lay people: spirituality; Marist education, leadership, justice and solidarity;

#### **To be enriched ourselves by their way of living**

Communicating the Marist charism and spirituality to lay people and being open to be enriched ourselves by their way of living the Christian vocation.

#### **To promote the Champagnat Movement**

Each Administrative Unit will prepare and develop a project to promote the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family. (36)

In relation to the theme of solidarity of the Brothers with the laity, the XIX General Chapter approved these two proposals:

**To travel further along this path of communion** 1. The XIX General Chapter reaffirms the determination of the capitulants to share, ever more and more, their spirituality and their mission with lay people. The Chapter requests the Brother Superior General and his Council to invite the Brothers and communities of the Institute to travel further along this path of communion.

**A sure path for lay people who are seeking to live a Marist spirituality.** 2. The XIX General Chapter recognises that the Champagnat Movement Guidelines offer a sure path for lay people who are seeking to live a Marist spirituality.

**To assist the consolidation and the autonomy of the Movement** The Chapter asks the Brother Superior General and his Council to assist the consolidation and the autonomy of the Movement, particularly by encouraging the formation of its members and communication among the Groups.

#### *Marist Apostolic Spirituality*

**To our enrichment as well** The strong call to share our Spirituality and Charism with lay people, something that may lead to our enrichment as well; (10) Reliving this spiritual experience and sharing it with lay people, is a tangible way of continuing throughout time the gift which Marcellin is for the Church. (25)

**To enrich the spiritual heritage left to us by Marcellin** To enrich the spiritual heritage left to us by Marcellin, by sharing it with the laity. We ourselves stand to gain much by sharing with them the different forms of the presence of the Lord, the abundance of grace in each person, and the numerous ways of growing in faith. (33)

#### *Formation*

**Brothers and lay** Formation of lay people in Marist spirituality. (4)  
At Province level: Work closely with lay people in encouraging vocations to the service of the Church, particularly in the promotion of Marist vocations, both Brothers and lay. (8)

**1998**

## **DOC. A VISION FOR MARIST EDUCATION TODAY**



*International Commission of Marist Education (brothers and lay people)*

**Together in mission** Disciples of Marcellin Champagnat, Brothers and Laypeople, together in mission, in the Church and in the world, among the young, especially the most neglected, we are sowers of the Good News, with a distinctive Marist style, in schools and in other pastoral and social ministries.

**We share and continue Marcellin's dream** As contemporary Marist educators, we share and continue Marcellin's dream of transforming the lives and situation of young people, particularly the least favoured, through offering them an integral education, both human and spiritual, based on a personal love for each one. (30)

<b>Shared mission</b>	<p>We can all claim for ourselves Marcellin's dream. We have a shared mission. (33)</p> <p>We are invited as Christians to live out together our common baptism, our common call to mission. (34)</p>
<b>The Marist charism we have inherited from Marcellin</b>	<p>The experience of the love of Jesus and Mary for each of us personally and for others, openness and sensitivity to the needs of our times, and a practical love for young people, especially those most in need, are at the core of the Marist charism we have inherited from Marcellin. (37).</p>
<b>The charism in ways that are different but complementary</b>	<p>As sharers in Marist mission, we are invited to commit ourselves freely and generously to the same charism as consecrated religious or as single or married people, whatever our situation or culture. We identify with the charism in ways that are different but complementary. Together we witness to a unity of story, spirituality, mutual trust and common endeavour (38).</p>
<b>As Christians</b>	<p>Those of us who are Laypeople bring our own individual qualities as well as the fruits of our personal commitment, our professionalism, and our experience of family and social life. As Christians, we witness through our personal lives to the possibility of finding in Jesus Christ the ultimate meaning of life, and of living by His Gospel (39).</p>
<b>Brothers: a flexibility to move on</b>	<p>Those of us who are Brothers, we bring our freedom to be totally dedicated and bold in apostolic enterprise, and a flexibility to move on. (40).</p>
<b>We inspire one another to deeper fidelity to the charism</b>	<p>We inspire one another to deeper fidelity to the charism, discovering new insights into its spiritual richness and into its dynamic expression in ministry. The women among us, especially, bring a fresh perspective to Marcellin's charism and reveal new facets of it charism for all of us today (41).</p>
<b>Marist formation which bring together Brothers and Laypeople</b>	<p>Together with our Marist leaders at Provincial, inter-Provincial, and regional levels, we seek: to foster our growth in Marist identity through such means as programs of Marist formation which bring together Brothers and Laypeople, retreats, and publications. We focus especially on Marcellin Champagnat, his educational heritage, his spirituality and charism. (51)</p>
<b>Identity: love for all young people, and especially for the poor</b>	<p>We recognise in this love for all young people, and especially for the poor, the essential identifying marks of our Marist mission (55).</p>

1999

## IX CLAP IN AMÉRICA, COCHABAMBA, BOLIVIA.

*Participation of the Provincials and District Superiors of Latin America and a group of invited lay people.*



Among the lines of action:

- Create a Network of EAM for the provincial animation of Brothers and lay people (1).
- Broaden and deepen the collaboration with laypeople in the spirituality and in the mission (3):

### **Permanent formation for brothers and lay people**

- Developing in the Provinces projects of permanent formation for lay people, respecting the peculiarity of their vocation.
- Encouraging the participation, cooperation and co-responsibility of the lay people in the various instances of shared mission;

### **New forms of consecration of the lay people with the Marist charism**

- *Promoting new forms of consecration and commitment of the lay people with the Marist charism.*

- Restructuring the works with progressive involvement of the lay people in its animation and management (4).

2001

## XX GENERAL CHAPTER

*Participation of 17 lay people*



*Looking at our Marist reality*

We perceive among us many signs of life: (10)

### **Many laypersons who are attracted by his way**

- The Spirit is spreading the charism of Marcellin among many laypersons who are attracted by his way of making a difference for young people, and who share our mission, our spirituality and our life.



- An impressive number of Brothers and laypersons are enthusiastically committed to our Marist educational mission, in schools and in new projects with the most neglected. We are making significant progress in the area of solidarity.

There are however, some worrying aspects: (11)

**Their traditional roles have been taken over by** Now that their traditional roles have been taken over by others, a number of Brothers are questioning the meaning of their vocation, and even doubting the choice they made to be Brothers.

**Rather than with any sense of hierarchy** Like Mary, we belong to a Church of communion, relating to lay people as brothers and sisters rather than with any sense of hierarchy. (13)

*Brothers and Lay people together: "Widen the space of your tent*

**We experience the wealth of mutual support** We discover how enriching it is for Brothers and lay people to share life's journey. We experience the wealth of mutual support and the impact of the Marist charism that finds its expression in our various vocations in the Church. Hence we feel called to: Deepen our understanding of the specific identities of Brothers and Lay Marists, in sharing life: spirituality, mission, formation... (26)

**New signs of life in our partnership with the laity** We see new signs of life in our partnership with the laity. Real co-responsibility and mutuality are increasingly common. The presence of women among us brings a new dimension to our common mission. (27)

**A number of forms of association for lay Marists** A number of forms of association for lay Marists are being developed, such as the Champagnat Movement. Our experience in this regard is very diverse: from simply working together to a real sharing of lives; from some attracted to one or other aspect of Marist spirituality to those who feel themselves drawn much more deeply into a total communion of spirit. We also appreciate the presence of people of other faiths who actively share in our mission. (28)

**Programs of common formation** We are convinced that the life-giving Spirit is leading us along a common path. For this reason, while respecting our differences and the lifestyle of each person, we commit ourselves to work and spend time together, to reflect on what constitutes our Marist identity, and to clarify the different forms of belonging to the Institute. This will require programs of common formation for Brothers and Lay people. (29)

**We encourage the setting up of communities, open to lay people** We encourage greater mutuality and sharing of responsibilities between Brothers and Lay people in our existing ministries as well as in new projects. We need to involve Lay people in commissions and councils where decisions are shaped and taken. Where it is appropriate we encourage the setting up of communities, open to lay people or with them living in, to work among young people, especially the most neglected (30).

*Mission and Solidarity: "Fire upon the earth"*

**Go forward together** Go forward, Brothers and Lay persons together, in a clear and decisive way, drawing closer to the poorest and most marginalised of young people, through new ways in education, evangelisation and solidarity. (31)

**The initial and ongoing formation of Brothers and laypersons** We are searching for new projects to express our preferential option for the poor. Being open to the poor is a call to a prophetic life, for each of us personally and for each community. The initial and ongoing formation of Brothers and laypersons will constantly be attentive to the world of the marginalised. There is an appeal here for us to think about moving our places of living and working (34)

**To promote Marist vocations - Brothers and lay Marists**

The General Chapter encourages each of you, Brothers:  
To promote Marist vocations - Brothers and lay Marists (42.5)

The General Chapter recommends each Community:

**To invite young people and lay people to join you**

be creative in organising times of prayer and faith-sharing and to invite young people and lay people to join you (43.1)

The General Chapter recommends that the Brother Provincial and his Council (44):  
Foster communities that will strengthen the vocation of young Brothers, welcome youth and lay people, and provide accompaniment for those who are searching for their vocation. (5)

**Formation programs for Brothers and lay people**

Create and extend formation programs for Brothers and lay people. Such programs should have as their priority the deepening of Marist identity in all its aspects (anthropology, mission, spirituality, solidarity...). Brothers and lay people will draw up these programs together. They will include courses of spirituality, retreats, seminars, workshops and recollection days. They are intended to promote what is specific in each vocation and what is complementary in a Church of communion. Some Provinces may benefit from combining with other Provinces or other branches of the Marist Family to provide this formation. (6)

**Will draw up these programs together  
Specific and complementary**

**Promote innovative experiences**

Promote innovative experiences that require us to share our mission, spirituality and life with lay people. (8)

**The establishment of some communities including lay people,**

Give a favourable welcome to the establishment of some communities including lay people, with a view to responding to the needs of young people, particularly the most neglected. (9)

The General Chapter recommends that the General Council (47)

**To clarify the different ways of being a lay Marist**

Establish, in the next few years, a process and the necessary structures (studies, meetings, networks, Secretariat, International Commission ...) which will help Brothers and lay people to make their Marist identity more explicit – what they have in common, what is specific and what is complementary in our vocations - and to clarify the different ways of being a lay Marist. (1)

**Study various forms of belonging to our Institute**

Study various forms of belonging to our Institute, and to allow lay persons, in consultation with the Provincial and his Council, to live various types of Marist commitment *ad experimentum*. Based on these trial experiences, the General Council will make provision for the juridic structure which will enable a decision on this matter to be taken at the 21<sup>st</sup> General Chapter. (2)

**The juridic structure**

**Formation programmes for Brothers and lay people**

Create, as needed, structures to assist those Provinces or Districts experiencing difficulties in providing formation programmes for Brothers and lay people together (cf. 44.6).

**They can open up existing centres of spirituality to lay persons**

For this, they can open up existing centres of spirituality to lay persons. (3)

**To create structures where lay people can participate**

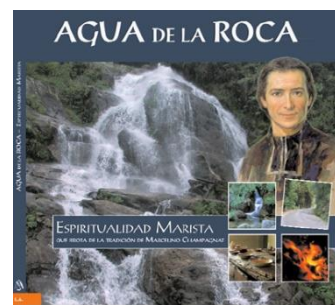
Propose lines of action and continue to create structures where lay people can participate in an appropriate way in bodies such as Commissions, Assemblies, Chapters within the Institute. (5)



2007

## DOC. WATER FROM THE ROCK

*Text addressed to Brothers and Marist lay people together*



**As Brothers and Lay  
Marists: to develop  
a quality of communion**

As Brothers and Lay Marists, we try to develop a quality of communion that allows families, religious communities and other forms of community living to become homes where the young are helped to mature, where we take care of those aging, and are especially kind to the weak; places where we forgive one another and heal wounds, where we joyfully celebrate the life we share together. (110)

**Share the same mission**

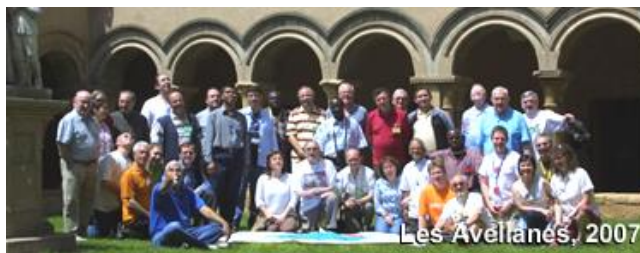
All Marists share the same mission: *to make Jesus known and loved*. As apostles we passionately centre our lives in Jesus. We allow ourselves to be captivated by him and his gospel. Close to him, we want to form our hearts. Learning from him the ways of the Kingdom, we communicate his message and his way of being and acting through our presence, our words and our deeds. (135)

**Our mission is communal**

Our mission is communal. The community of Marist apostles sustains and encourages us. In encountering fellow Marists, we experience affirmation of our faith and apostolic intuitions, and in joining with like-minded people, our apostolic activities are given renewed energy. (140)

2007

## FIRST REFLECTION ON THE PROCESSES OF JOINT FORMATION, LES AVELLANES



*Participation of Brothers and lay people.*

*Fundamental elements of common formation programmes for brothers and laypeople.*

- These formation processes aim to construct and recreate the Marist identity. The Marist vocation is a personal and community call. It is a participation in the charism that belongs to us all. Laypeople and brothers can have a charismatic vocation that is common and specific at the same time.
- A charismatic vocation that is common**
- The formation processes seek to enrich and develop our fundamental vocation as Christians, our common vocation as Marists and our specific vocations as laypeople, brothers, sisters, priests...
- The formation processes**
- In realising them jointly we mean that we laypeople and brothers need each other to recreate our common Marist identity and our specific identities.
- We laypeople and brothers need each other**
- These processes suppose a free, voluntary and responsible choice, to follow a formation itinerary that seeks to develop common values placed at the service of the mission and in accord with the discovery of a God who invites us to conversion, radicalism and witness.
- Formation itinerary**
- The meaning of process highlights the idea of pathway, itinerary... more than selective actions or programmes without vision.
- Process, pathway...**
- The community dimension of our vocation finds expression in the common search for a new meaning of our Marist charism for the present world, by discovering new pathways of vitality and renewal.
- The common search**
- God continues to call people to the Marist vocation. For that he invites us to meet young people and adults in our life by developing a vocations ministry that proposes our Marist charism in the specific vocations and in a vision of complementarity.
- In a vision of complementarity**
- The process of formation wants to start from formative communities and help build communities where communion is transformed into prophecy for our world.
- Formative communities**
- Such processes seek to deepen and to enrich this way of being Christian according to Marist spirituality, as well as experiencing the newness of a pathway of faith shared by laypeople and brothers with the originality proper to each identity.
- A pathway of faith shared by laypeople and brothers**
- Sharing time and spaces, communicating life, expressing faith experiences, praying together, enjoying each others' company... help in the understanding of the specific identity of laypeople and brothers, create profound links of communion and make the shared process grow and mature.
- Help in the understanding of the specific identity**

**Be designed by laypeople and brothers**

- The programmes must be designed by laypeople and brothers, through stages of personal experience and community life.

**Process with stages, boards, maps ... But flexible, adaptable.**

- The idea of a process remains united to that of a pathway, knowing that there are stages, indicator boards, maps... But despite that, the movement must be open, flexible, adaptable, in constant evaluation.

**Accompaniment is fundamental**

- Accompaniment is fundamental in this common formation experience. To accompany is to listen, to welcome, to respect rhythms, to give space to the singularity of the pathway of the person for meeting God.

**To be shared and according to baptismal identity**

- Common formation helps in refinding a constituent charism, to be shared and according to baptismal identity. This is equivalent to discovering ourselves above all as Christians with a determined perspective of the Gospel and a way of serving the Kingdom of God.

**2007**

## **I MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION ASSEMBLY, MENDES**

*Participation of Brothers and lay people.*



We need to ensure that our mission is shaped and informed by our rich spiritual heritage, and this will require transformational experiences that enhance our different yet complimentary vocations as Lay Marists and Brothers. In order to develop this spirituality, we believe that the following points are necessary:

**Particular and combined formation**

Particular and combined formation of Brothers and Lay people at provincial, regional and international levels. (1)

**The development of new resources to support formation programs**

The development of new resources and sharing of existing ones to support formation programs and activities, particularly in areas of the Institute most in need. (2)

**Personal accompaniment**

Personal accompaniment and vocational discernment for Brothers and Lay people. (3)

**Sense of partnership** In addition to existing groups and opportunities (e.g. Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, fraternities), the creation of new areas of participation to promote our Marist way of bringing the Gospel of Jesus to life, with a sense of partnership. (4)

### *CHAMPAGNAT MARISTS IN PARTNERSHIP*

As Champagnat Marists, we believe that God is calling us now to be partners, men and women, co-responsible for furthering the mission in a spirit of trust, understanding and mutual respect.

### *VOCATION*

<b>To share the charism of Marcellin, according to their personal call in life.</b>	We believe that God calls brothers and lay people in different ways to share and follow the charism of Marcellin, according to their personal call in life. (1)
<b>Vocational ministry and a combined formation</b>	We feel called to promote a new shared Marist vocational ministry and a combined formation, to deepen both our common and specific vocations. (2)
<b>To promote forms of association</b>	We wish to promote forms of association and ways of belonging to the Marist charism, so lay and brothers may hear the call to live their identity (3)
<b>The vision for lay Marist vocation and its organisational structure</b>	We need to articulate the vision for lay Marist vocation and its organisational structure. (4)

### *MARIST PRESENCE IN EVANGELISATION*

<b>Creating Marist communities of life</b>	As Marist Brothers and Lay Marists in partnership we affirm that evangelization is the focus and priority of our ministries. Each ministry proclaims Jesus and his message. Therefore we feel called by God to be courageous in: Creating Marist communities of life that visibly and effectively evangelise through their family spirit and commitment to mission
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2008

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF JOINT FORMATION OF QUITO, ECUADOR

*International experience of formation and charismatic vitality  
with groups of brothers and lay people together (11 lay people and 10 brothers).*



*Contributions from the international experience of combined formation.*

### **Walking together**

The road travelled during this month, has made us live the experience of the disciples of Emmaus: walking together, sharing life, feeling our heart on fire and being bread for others. This intensely human experience of community and of God brings us to express these convictions:

- The Marist vocation is a gift of God offered to people who are committed to different forms of life and who want to live the Gospel according to the Marist charism. The Marist vocation is shared by the Brothers. and the Lay people who have a vocation.

### **The Marist vocation is shared**

### **Sensing new roads of vitality and renewal.**

- The community dimension of our vocation is translated into the shared search for a new significance of the Marist charism for the current world, sensing new roads of vitality and renewal.

### **We lay people and Brothers feel reciprocally the need**

- Joint formation wants to express that we lay people and Brothers feel reciprocally the need to develop our common Marist identity and our specific identities. Complementarity enriches this gift of God to the Church and it is a sign of communion. Together we should discern the implications of this new road.

### **The formation presupposes processes**

- The formation presupposes processes, where we highlight the idea of itinerary, road, term, stages, systematizing... rather than detailed actions or programmes that lack vision.

### **The formation is mainly life experience**

- The formation to which we refer is mainly life experience; therefore we should prepare to share life, faith, mission, charism, community experiences, reflection... We believe in experience as the way towards growth; experience which is read, interpreted and shared.

### **Should be designed for Lay people and Brothers,**

- The processes that we envisage are community processes, since the Marist identity which we want to recreate is to be lived in community. At the same time, we understand that these processes should be designed for Lay people and Brothers, through an experiential and community journey.

### **The mission is the great goal of our formative**

- The mission of establishing the Kingdom of God is the great goal of our formative processes. The mission is what gathers us together in a common vocation. Within it we look at the children and young people especially in social commitment for the transformation of our world.

- We feel that the proposal of combined formation should be sustained in the **provincial Project**, which presupposes the preparation of formators' teams, to design and follow up strategies and accompaniment of the processes, to revise the current formation structures so that they can integrate Brothers and Lay people, to encourage local processes, to introduce appropriate methodologies...

**The preparation of formators' teams**

**2009**

## **XXI GENERAL CHAPTER**

*Participation of a group of lay people. The final document is directed to brothers and Marist lay people together*



### *Fundamental Call*

**New epoch for the Marist charism.** We feel impelled by God to go out into a new land, to facilitate the birth of a new epoch for the Marist charism. We know that this presupposes a willingness to move on, to let go of the familiar, and to embark on a journey of institutional and personal conversion over the next eight years. We go on our way with Mary as guide and companion. Her faith and openness to the will of God inspire us to undertake this pilgrimage.

**Change of heart** The "new land" of an authentic renewal of the Institute invites each of us to a genuine change of heart. The spirit of this XXI Chapter, the approach of the bicentenary of our foundation, and a greater consciousness of our internationality urge us to:

- A new consecrated life, with a strong Gospel identity, that will promote a new way of being Brothers.
- A new relationship between Brothers and Lay people, based on communion, for the sake of greater vitality of the Marist charism for our world today.
- A highly significant presence among poor children and young people

**A new relationship between Brothers and Lay people**

### *Future Horizons*

*A new relationship between brothers and laity, seeking greater vitality together*

## **BROTHERS AND LAY PEOPLE, IN A NEW SPIRIT OF COMMUNION**

### **PRINCIPLES**

**Vocation of the Lay Marist** We recognise the value of the vocation of the Lay Marist. (1)

**Marist future as a communion of people** We see our Marist future as a communion of people in the charism of Champagnat, where our specific vocations will be mutually enriching. (2)

**Priority to formation, both specific and shared** We give priority to formation, both specific and shared. (3)



### PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

To continue to support the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, and to work actively with other people attracted to our charism in exploring new ways through which their vocations can be recognised and supported in the life of the Church; (1)

#### Exploring new ways

#### Communities of Brothers and Lay people

To support the developing of local communities of Brothers and Lay people to share Marist life, spirituality and mission; (2)

#### To develop formation experiences

To develop, in the AUs and the regions, formation experiences (both specific and shared) which are inspired, amongst other things, by the documents *In The Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat, Water from the Rock, and Gathered Around the Same Table*; (3)

#### A guide for shared formation

To establish an international commission, composed of Brothers and Lay people, with the goal of developing a guide for shared formation, allowing for various cultural and regional differences; (4)

#### To enliven vocations ministry

To enliven vocations ministry through a co-operative effort of Brothers and Lay people. (7)

### MARIST MISSION IN A NEW WORLD

#### Having international horizon

As Marist Brothers and Lay Marists living in today's globalised world we are called to have hearts and minds that are international in outlook. (4)

### PROPOSALS FOR ACTION

#### To establish international communities

To establish international and interprovincial communities which will be open to Marists Brothers and Lay Marist and serve in the vanguard of new areas of mission; (5)

2009

## DOC. GATHERED AROUND THE SAME TABLE. THE VOCATION OF CHAMPAGNATS MARIST LAITY

*Document prepared by a Commission of lay people and brothers, and from testimonies of lay people around the world.*



And that is how it has also been with us, the Marists. The charism of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, present in the Institute of the Brothers, has put out shoots among the laity. To some of us, God has touched us and has given us a Marist heart. Certainly, more than our decision, it has been God taking the initiative. We cannot live any other way: We are Marists. (4)

#### God has touched us

<b>These are we, the Lay Marists</b>	A third group of persons exist who, after a personal journey of discernment, have decided to live their Christian spirituality and mission in the manner of Mary, following the insight of Marcellin Champagnat. These are we, the Lay Marists. (11)
<b>Have listened to the call of God</b>	We Lay Marists are Christian men and women, who in the course of our life have listened to the call of God to live the charism of Champagnat, and, from our lay state, we respond to it. (12)
<b>Discernment has different stages</b> (14)	The lay Marist vocation, like all vocations, originates and is developed by viewing one's life in the light of the Spirit. This discernment has different stages; and so each person should be accompanied while respecting his or her personal rhythm.
<b>Much more in common than particular in our vocation</b>	We Brothers and Lay people have much more in common than particular in our vocation: we both share the beauty and the limits of the human condition at this historical time, we live the same Christian vocation through baptism, and we have felt the call of God that drew us to the Marist charism. (16)
<b>Our respective vocations are mutually enhanced</b>	We hold the certainty that our respective vocations are mutually enhanced. So while we continue discovering who we are by relating with others, the specific identity of Brothers and Lay Marists is clarified and enriched <i>by sharing life: spirituality, mission, formation...</i> (17)
<b>Together we are responsible</b>	The vitality of a charism is shown when it is received, is recreated in the light of the signs of the times, and is passed on to others. Together with the brothers, we are responsible for promoting and extending this gift of God into the future. (29)
<b>To be followers of Christ in the style of Champagnat</b>	To be followers of Christ in the style of Champagnat today, means committing oneself to the three fundamental Christian and Marist dimensions: mission, shared life and spirituality. We consider these three dimensions to be inseparable: spirituality lives in and for the mission; the mission generates and encourages the shared life; the shared life is, in its turn, the source of spirituality and mission. (34)
<b>We are evangelizers of the world</b>	We are evangelizers of the world, living in the midst of the world. Like salt in food, we show the depth that is hidden in daily life and, immersed in it, we give witness to the three dimensions of Christ's mission: to consecrate the world to God, to be prophets of a different future and to be at the service of others. (37)
<b>In any work, we can share the Marist mission</b>	The Marist mission is unique, accomplished with a multitude of tasks, be it the professional life, volunteer work, family or prayer. The lay plurality means that the tasks are very varied. In any work, carried out through faith, we can share the Marist mission. (43)
<b>Together we look for new paths for the expression of the Marist mission.</b>	The tasks involved in the mission are, for lay Marists, wider than the works of the Brothers. There are some who feel that, at a certain point in their lives they should be devoted completely to the care and education of their children. Others live the mission being employed in educational works that depend on the State or other communities of the Church. And there are some who share their life and their time in other fields. In this diversity, characteristic of the lay life, we cultivate communion and together we look for new paths for the expression of the Marist mission. (47)
<b>Local communities, the heart of the mission</b>	We lay people can contribute a new way of animating Marist life in the work. Together with the Brothers, we can form local communities which are the heart of the mission and the guarantee of our Marist evangelizing identity. These communities can be the seed of a new vitality for the mission, which is not based solely on the number or presence of Brothers in any given place. (60)

<b>We need each other at our side</b>	The communion between Lay people and Brothers complements and enriches our specific vocations and different states of life. There is not only a place for both at the table, but we need each other at our side. (79)
<b>Communities exist where Brothers and Lay people share their life</b>	Today a significant number of Marist communities exist where Brothers and Lay people share their life around a mission. Some have come about as a to help young adults in vocational discernment; others through the work of social inclusion, others develop projects deriving from shared life and mission. Some are temporary, others of longer duration. They are all examples of shared wealth generated by people from different states of life. (90)
<b>Lay Marist communities</b>	Lay Marist communities are offering a renewed map of Marist life, a reference point for the charism that can endow new energy in the mission, although at this time the number of Brothers is diminishing. (96)
<b>Together, we can think of how we want the Marist future</b>	As long as we continue walking together, new forms of relationship will emerge more and more strongly and they will demand new structures that welcome and encourage vitality. Together also, we can think of how we want the Marist future to be, a large and shining home. (99)
<b>Unified around Christ in the three dimensions of the charism</b>	Our life becomes unified around Christ in the three dimensions of the charism: spirituality sends us to the mission and it engenders shared life; communion strengthens us in the mission and deepens spirituality; the mission discovers for us new facets of spirituality and makes us experience brotherhood. (123)
<b>In communion with the Institute of the Brothers</b>	The vocation of Lay Marists is a new expression of the charism of Champagnat. Therefore, we can only understand ourselves in communion with the Institute of the Brothers, the original form of the charism and the source from which we have discovered the treasure of our identity. (124)
<b>New structures</b>	Although the important part of our relationship is found in free interpersonal communication, there exists also, among Brothers and Lay Marists, an institutional dimension. Thanks to the rich process carried out in these last decades, the moment has arrived to encourage new structures that will allow the deepening of that institutional relationship even more. (134)
<b>The life communities of Brothers and Lay people</b>	The life communities of Brothers and Lay people suppose another type of relationship with the Institute. The lay people share life, spirituality and mission with the Brothers, and they figure explicitly in the organization of the communities of the province or of the district. (138)
<b>To be recognized by the ecclesiastical community</b>	All Christian vocation is born in and for the Church, and it is for the service of the world. For that reason, our vocation of Lay Marists, like that of the lay men and lay women who are attracted by other foundational charisms tend to be recognized by the ecclesiastical community. (140)
<b>The best ways to channel the vitality that is growing</b>	We are experiencing a moment of creativity which is interesting and complex. In some provinces new forms of welcoming the lay vocation are being carried out. We should discern together, Brothers and Lay people, the best ways to channel the vitality that is growing. The articulation of the initiatives instigated by the provinces will contribute to consolidating this recognition. (143)
<b>To rethink the institutional model</b>	The experience of sharing the charism directs us to rethink the institutional model that until now has embodied the Marist charism in the Church. Experience seems to indicate that we not only need to <i>widen the tent of the Institute</i> , but also to build together a new tent where everyone, Brothers and Lay people, may find our place. (145)

**Encouraging a joint and specific Marist vocation** We love our lay vocation as we love the Brothers' vocation, and we are committed to spreading both. Enthused by the charism, we participate in the responsibility of encouraging a joint and specific Marist vocation ministry that will increase the members of our family. (147)

**This implies putting in place a plan** It is necessary to invite lay people to set out on a vocational road open to the different charisms and ministries of the Church. For this, it is necessary to create gospel spaces that help them to grow in personal relationship with God. This implies putting in place a plan of human basic Christian and Marist formation, for all the lay men and lay women who are interested. (150)

**Process of discernment** In these spaces we meet with people who show interest in the Marist life in its different forms. We invite them to start a process of discernment. (151)

Like all vocations, the Marist life emerges from a process of discovery: we have been enchanted by Marcellin's Christian journey and that of the community of those who live his charism, and we understand that God sends us to be part of this family. (153)

**Process of discovery** To arrive at this point, there is a need for a discernment that presupposes three moments: being aware of one's own history by the light of God, separating the incidental from the essential in life and choosing decisively. (154)

In this process it is necessary to contrast our life with our companions on the road. Therefore, we live and offer personal accompaniment, helping others to make their own decisions, based on faith. So, just like standing in front of a mirror, they can find their true face, their vocation. (155)

**Processes of joint formation** Brothers and Lay people are responsible for the vitality of the charism; therefore, the processes of joint formation are indispensable. We design, carry out and evaluate these processes that mutually enrich us. The experiences lived in this field have been very fruitful and they invite us to continue being creative, generating new and better initiatives. (156)

**The formation processes should be lived in community** The formation processes should be lived in community. Others help us to grow. Without their shared wealth and their fraternal correction we are locked in ourselves and our vocation weakens. (159)

**Formative Marist plans at provincial and international level** Ongoing formation is supplemented with formative Marist plans at provincial and international level that make us look beyond our groups and discover new horizons for our faith. (164). These itineraries should be created and animated by people who stimulate and know how to accompany processes. They help us to question ourselves and they invite us to find our own answers. (165)

**New and daring initiatives in formation** We Lay Marists commit ourselves, together with the Brothers, to new and daring initiatives in formation. We have before us the challenge of *helping to bring about the dawning* of new Marist life and strengthening the one that exists, making it more creative, faithful and dynamic. The future depends on our answer. (169)

2009

## INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF JOINT FORMATION OF ST. PAUL-TROIS-CHÂTEAUX, FRANCE.



*For the long-term vitality of the Marist charism, we recommend that:*

- The General Chapter focus clearly on the development of ways of belonging and being coresponsible as well as on different models and/or levels of commitment for Lay Marists.
- Ways of belonging**
- Experimenting with and creating new models**
- Provinces and Districts take initiative and responsibility for experimenting with and creating new models of Marist life and mission that would support Brothers and Lay Marists in their common and specific vocations.
- Joint formation a priority across the Institute**
- Joint formation processes for Brothers and Lay Marists be made a priority across the Institute.
- Active role in creating and animating formation programs.**
- Provinces and Districts develop formation programs for those Brothers and Lay Marists entrusted with the leadership of forming others... Clearly, at all levels of the Institute there is a need to commit to and support financially the leadership necessary for the animation of these programs. In addition, the General Administration must continue to take an active role in creating and animating formation programs.
- Formation with the appropriate stages**
- Brothers and Lay Marists across the Institute continue to take responsibility together for the formation of those people who will be prepared to commit themselves to the vitality of Marist mission, making Jesus Christ known and loved among the young. Formation experiences should ensure there are adequate offerings and invitations as well as appropriate stages in which people can participate, including joint retreats, personal accompaniment and local fraternities, among many possibilities
- Formation programs that invite young adults**
- Provinces and Districts develop formation programs that invite young adults to begin or continue their Marist life. This could be achieved especially through solidarity and vocational discernment opportunities.



2013

## INTERNATIONAL FORMATION MEETING, LES AVELLANES. PROCESSES OF ACCOMPANIMENT AND GROWTH OF THE LAY VOCATION



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Create a group of people who, at the Institute level, would design a global framework of a process of growth and discernment of the Marist lay vocation that would keep in mind cultural and social realities  
**Would design a global framework of a process of growth and discernment of the Marist lay vocation** Form people who would be able to accompany, who would be formators in these processes and carry them forward.

### *DIRECTIONS FOR A PROGRAM:*

**A vocational program** A vocational program has to offer and to cultivate the personal relationship with Jesus, the center of our life, and assist in deepening the riches of living one's faith out of the Marist charism in its spiritual, communal and mission-oriented dimensions. (1)

**Living in community should be the heart of the program** Living in community should be the heart of the program; a community is the source and means of growth in which faith is lived with others in moments of prayer, of sharing life, of seeing ourselves as brothers and lay Marists in communion. (3)

**Be kept very much in mind is personal and familial reality** Being a program for the lay vocation what should be kept very much in mind is personal and familial reality... proper to the layperson at the moment of carrying out the plan in its content and in its format. (4)

**Process should have stages** Every process should have stages that respond to the different vital moments and to personal commitments from which one can access a program and that contemplate the different environments of the person. (5)

### *MEANS*

- Accompaniment, community life**
1. Formation: Anthropological – evangelical – social – Marist foundations.
  2. Personal and community accompaniment.
  3. Community life.
  4. Discernment and personal prayer. Retreats.
  5. Use of documents, testimonies, preparation of materials.
  6. Prepare persons for accompaniment.
  7. Joint formation experiences, mission, solidarity... all shared.
  8. Spaces and means for them. Financial resources.



## *COMMITMENT AND BELONGING.*

*What needs to happen now and in the coming years?*

<b>Secretariat of the Laity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The Secretariat of the Laity to follow up, to disseminate and inform the Institute about what has happened here. To encourage Marist Lay and Brothers to explore and develop appropriate structure for belonging and commitment.</li></ul>
<b>New structure to the Lay Marist vocation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To develop the belonging to the new structure to the Lay Marist vocation providing guidelines that may offer a process of growth.</li></ul>
<b>Develop appropriate structure for belonging</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To encourage Marist Lay and Brothers to explore and develop appropriate structure for belonging and commitment.</li></ul>
<b>To evaluate the experiences and the structures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To evaluate, check and accompany the experiences and the structures that already exist.</li></ul>
<b>Experiences and processes which support communion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To continue to develop and live experiences and processes which support communion of Brothers and Lay together at all levels.</li></ul>
<b>Formation process for identified lay leaders</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deliver a formation process for identified lay leaders in regional commissions targeting the under 40s.</li></ul>
<b>International lay forum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To have an international lay forum to reflect more deeply on the issues raised here.</li></ul>

## **2014**

### **INTERNACIONAL MEETING ON LAY ASSOCIATION AND BELONGING TO THE INSTITUTE, ROME**



*Participation of Brothers and lay people.*

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## *RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL*

<b>Organize Marist Assembly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organize a previous Marist Assembly (representative of Brothers and Lay people together) to the General Chapter, offering proposals to it as real communication channel.</li></ul>
<b>New forms of association</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• New forms of association, legal aspects. Explore definitions and implications of some canonical form of international recognition within or in communion with the Marist Institute.</li><li>• Explore the recognition of a Marist public association for 2017.</li></ul>

<b>International civilian structure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To see the possibility to create an international civilian structure.</li> </ul>
<b>Framework that provides criteria for bonding or belonging</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To outline a framework that provides criteria for bonding or belonging of an association to the Institut.</li> <li>• Carry to the General Chapter a proposal for the formal commitment (promise) for lay people that wish it.</li> </ul>
<b>Connect the reflection on the new management of the models</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect the reflection on the new management of the models of apostolic works with the actual charismatic thinking of the future.</li> </ul>
<b>Develop a way of lay linking to the charism. And at the same time a management system of apostolic works</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a way of lay linking to the charism/institute. And at the same time a management system of apostolic works; and articulate both to be mutually reinforcing. And to distinguish in order of not to confuse the Carism and the apostolic work.</li> </ul>
<b>Common formation guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop common formation guidelines.</li> </ul>

#### *VOCATION AND BELONGING*

<b>Common criteria for the process of vocational discernment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide common criteria for the process of vocational discernment and lay vocation recognition.</li> </ul>
<b>Levels of connection and belonging</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a basic document on levels of connection and belonging (including developing criteria and more EMM No. 11)</li> </ul>
<b>Design a comprehensive framework for vocational process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That a team design a comprehensive framework for vocational process of Marist laity.</li> <li>• To have a Marist framework as reference for an itinerary for a link to the charism and / or the Institute. Through: 1. Review of the constitutions, 2. Marist Formation</li> </ul>

Guide.

**2014**

**MESSAGE FROM THE II  
MARIST INTERNATIONAL  
MISSION ASSEMBLY,  
NAIROBI.**



*Participación de hermanos y laicos.*

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*Dreams:*

**Charismic family**

- We are a charismic family with new and diverse expressions of community

**New ways of associating  
and belonging**

- We are implementing processes and structures to accompany our different ways of responding to this call to be Marist, leading to new ways of associating and belonging within the Marist charism.

*Challenges:*

**To generate strategies**

- To generate strategies that promote and accompany the vocational journeys of all Marists, personally and comunally.

**To imagine new structures**

- To imagine new structures that will be required for enhancing vitality in the Marista charism.

*Opportunities:*

**The processes that  
accompany and develop**

- The processes that accompany and develop new Marist vocations.

2014

## PROPOSAL FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL



Designing the global framework of a Marist vocational process for the laity, which can offer common criteria for both a process of vocational discernment/development, and a procedure of lay bonding and belonging to the charism or the Institute. Such framework should include:

### Designing the global framework

#### Criteria for a vocational process

- Fundamental criteria for a *vocational process*;

#### Charismatic formation itinerary

- a *formation itinerary* aimed at transmitting the charism;

#### Possible ways of bonding and belonging

- possible ways of *bonding and belonging*;

#### Possible ways of organization

- and possible ways of *organization* for the laity that are connected to the charism.

2014

## BASIC ELEMENTS TO DESIGN THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK OF A MARIST VOCATIONAL PROCESS FOR THE LAITY, BARCELONA.



*Prepared by laymen.*

### *Purpose of the global framework*

It aims at offering common reference criteria regarding the identity of the lay Marist through the proposal of a formation itinerary, specifying guidelines, content, experiences and resources to foster a vocational process of charismatic bonding and a possible canonical link.

#### **Common reference criteria regarding the identity of the lay Marist**

The common criteria would be like a big umbrella enabling a diversity of lay people to mirror themselves as Marists, as well as offering a sense of belonging at the international level, leaving enough elbowroom for the concrete expressions of regional or cultural sensitivities.

### *Level of specificity*

The framework should offer guidelines for the entire Institute, which should be also suitable at the provincial level. It aims to specify the final canonical or legal implications of the process, as well as the practical aspects in terms of organization and operation as an international group.

#### **Guidelines for the entire Institute**

### *Formation itinerary*

The contents and experiences, tools and means enabling a process of personal growth from a vocational perspective. The itinerary meets and assists each person's vocational process at different stages: discovering, discerning, choosing, and developing the Marist vocation as a fundamental choice in life. We live this process as a personal itinerary, walking together, however, with other people who are looking for a thorough relationship with the Marist charism as a way to answer God's call more deeply.

#### **A personal itinerary, walking together**

### *Bonding/belonging*

Bonding to the charism and belonging to an organization or association or, in other words, bonding and belonging to the charismatic family, with some kind of public sign and formal acknowledgment. This bonding has to do with the vocational process the person undergoes. It also expresses a charismatic and canonical link.

#### **This bonding has to do with the vocational process**

#### **Process through four pedagogical stages**

The vocational process moves through four pedagogical stages. Evolution from one to the other is gradual and nuanced.

The present formation itinerary must adapt to the reality and circumstances of each person in their vocational process. The following clues can help us identify what are the person's actual needs and the kind of formation proposal we may suggest. We present them here from the perspective of the person leading the itinerary. Four stages.

#### **Formation itinerary must adapt to the reality of each person**

2015

## INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ABOUT THE INITIAL FORMATION, HERMITAGE.



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### Communion with brothers and lay people

- To make sure that the candidate has experiences of communion with brothers and lay people.

### Joint formation

- To make sure that along the itinerary we provide joint formation opportunities (brothers and lay people) that strengthen the identity of each person.

### *CONVICTIONS*

#### *Joint formation (brothers –Lay)*

### The future of Marist life lies in sharing and in communion.

The Marist charism is a gift for the people of God and whole of creation. It is a common element for both brothers and lay people and it is manifested in the different vocations. (1)  
The future of Marist life lies in sharing and in communion. (2)

### *ORIENTATIONS/REALITY*

### Dialogue that shares many common elements

The relationship between brothers and lay people is a growing dialogue that shares many common elements, recognizing each specific vocation. (1)

### Diversity of Marist Vocations

Promote a change of mentality that takes into account the richness and diversity of Marist Vocations (Brothers and Lay People) and other Vocations. (2)

### *RECOMMENDATIONS*

### Experiences of joint Marist formation starting at the initial stages of formation

Promote diverse experiences of joint Marist formation (formation, life, mission), starting at the initial stages of formation for both that include discernment, accompaniment (mentoring), etc. (1)

### Write a preamble to the Formation Guide

Write a preamble to the Formation Guide that presents the common aspects of the charism for all Marist vocations, this document will also include an explanation of terms that will guarantee a common understanding of the context and meaning of these terms. (2)

### Explore various pathways of Marist life

Explore various pathways (eco-systems) of Marist life that promotes vocations in its different forms. (Discernment process, first steps, etc.) (3)

### Internationality

- Generate expectation. Each brother (each Marist) knows that they are members of an international institute and so prepares themselves to live their life and mission in global availability.



<b>International formation communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brothers, lay Marists, and international formation communities to accompany and welcome the brothers (and laity) of other cultures.</li> </ul>
<b>Be necessary to prepare this accompanying person</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There needs to be a person in the community who accompanies a young Brother, perhaps the community leader or another brother or a lay Marist, who is able to accompany the young Brother. It may be necessary to prepare this accompanying person for the role. This person should have a good understanding of the personal reality of the young Brother.</li> </ul>
<b>Together work and assist young people to discern their vocation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brothers and Lay Marists together share life, work and assist young people to discern their vocation either as a Brother or as a Lay Marist. Together they contribute to the formation of the young person.</li> </ul>
<b>Communities of Champagnat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To dedicate at least one community in each A.U. to receive young brothers and welcome young people. These communities may have different formats: ex. including Lay Marists.</li> <li>We believe in having communities of Champagnat Marists that by its witnesses, attracts young people to live the charism, thus strengthening the vitality of the institute.</li> </ul>
<b>Marist Vocation Ministry needs harmonization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marist Vocation Ministry requires appropriate formation and training of brothers and lay vocation animators, at the various levels of the institute (vocation animation, accompaniment, etc...).</li> </ul> <p>There is a need for an Institute's Guideline on Vocation Ministry that is clear and bold in order to offer itineraries to convoke, to discern and to accompany all vocations in the current context, particularly Marist vocations.</p> <p>Marist Vocation Ministry needs harmonization at all levels of the Institute (processes connected with Brothers and Lay), thus linking Vocation Ministry with Initial Formation (e.g. The Vocation Director coordinating with the Postulant Master).</p>
<b>Vocation Promotion is a priority for the Institute</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vocation Promotion is a priority for the Institute therefore we work in a Team Approach including Brothers and Laity having co-responsibility to promote all vocations, especially Marist Vocations.</li> </ul>
<b>Communion with Lay Marists.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our communities are committed to living experiences of communion with Lay Marists.</li> </ul>
<b>Initial formation, in partnership with Lay Marist formators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formation houses will provide interprovincial and intercultural experiences in initial formation, in partnership with Lay Marist formators. Priority will be given to fraternal dialogue and appropriate accompaniment.</li> </ul>
<b>Joint formation opportunities for brothers and lay Marists.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-going formation inclusive of joint formation opportunities for brothers and lay Marists.</li> </ul>