

PERU

CHILE

BOLIVIA



LIVING THE MARIST CHARISM TOGETHER

Shared Communities
Santa María de los Andes

I. MOTIVATING DOCUMENT

COMMUNITIES OF BROTHERS AND LAITY / SHARED COMMUNITIES

Profile

I. Identity:

We feel that the initiative to establish communities made up of brothers and laity is an answer to the XXI General Chapter's call to the Marist Institute, that is, to build "a new relationship between Brothers and Laity based on communion, seeking together a greater vitality of the Marist charism for our world". It is also a response to the call that lay Marists have felt – and continue to feel in different ways – to live the Gospel more deeply, according to Father Champagnat's charism. In unison, there are brothers who are motivated to expand the horizon of traditional community life, and wish for a shared life with lay people within their religious community.

We believe that these communities can be a privileged way to live this new relationship requested by the Chapter. They do not arise from the lack of vocations for the brothers, or from the difficulty in keeping up their communities, as it might seem at first glance, but from the Spirit, who is inviting us to multiply the ways of living this communion and mutual enrichment between religious and laity in the Church. Basically, these communities reveal a new way of being Church.

As brothers we bring to these communities the gift of our religious vocation and charism, together with our spiritual journey and community experience; and as laity, we bring the gift of our lay vocation, our homely and familial style, our experience as Christian lay communities, and our specific experience of the charism. Different but complementary, we can and want to enrich each other.

II. Ways to constitute these communities:

There are different ways to set up these communities. In our Province there are two modalities:

1. **Shared community of brothers and laity living together under the same roof with a common mission.**

Within them, community members can share everything or only some aspects of life. The Community Life Project (CLP) indicates the scope and goals of this sharing.

The communities of Puerto Maldonado (Peru), La Pintana (Chile), Roboré, and San José de Chiquitos (Bolivia) belong to this group.

2. **Shared community of brothers and laity under different roofs.**

They are united basically by the CLP, and also by a common mission at times. Brothers and laity live in their own houses, and carry out their mission in the same place or elsewhere. They meet according to what the CLP establishes.

In this group we find the communities of Santa Cruz, and Comarapa (Bolivia), Alto Hospicio, La Serena, and Los Andes (Chile), and Sullana, Huacho and Surco (Peru).

In both cases, we believe that the following attitudes are important:

- a) Sharing life and mission on equal terms, adapting the CLP to the personal characteristics of the community members in the best way possible.
- b) Cultivating acceptance and openness in order to explore new possibilities together and make decisions in community.

- c) Exercising discreet attention to what the other members of the community may be living, and to the basic collective needs in all areas.
- d) Accepting the fact that our vocations are different and complementary.

III. Criteria to be considered in the constitution of these communities:

1. The candidates, both brothers and laity, believe in such communities, and are willing to live in them with a spirit of joy, hoping that the experience may stimulate both vocations.
2. If possible, the lay members should be already engaged in the vocational itinerary as Marists of Champagnat, and the brothers will have at least five years of religious profession.

They should all give signs of human and Christian maturity, allowing them to establish healthy interpersonal relationships, undertake a significant spiritual journey, and develop the capacity to discern and seek for God's will, both at personal and community levels.

3. The community is constituted for one year, with the possibility of renewing that term.
4. Brother Provincial – directly or through a link person he may assign – appoints the laity participating in these communities, who will expressly manifest their desire to join in, after a period of discernment and preparation.
5. The links established in the community should be symmetrical and fraternal.
6. Marist simplicity should prevail in the community, permeating relationships, the sharing at table, outings, expenses, etc.
7. Communication and mutual acceptance among members is essential.
8. The role of each member regarding the mission will be clearly established within the community, and the work will be evenly shared, respecting the specific contribution of each person.

IV. Community dynamics:

As a minimum standard, we propose the following community dynamics for both the aforementioned types of community:

1. It is essential to develop a CLP that includes a number of basic aspects: community integration and interpersonal relations; spiritual growth according to each person's vocation and stage; mission, and celebration.
2. The members pray together and share a meal at least twice a week. In model 2, the meetings are held in the brothers' house and in the houses of the laity by turns.
3. They celebrate the Eucharist together at least once a week, preferably on Sundays.
4. In addition, it is desirable that they have a community meeting every two weeks.
5. Once a month, they dedicate a day to the community: a time for shared formation, prayer, celebration, and recreation.
6. The community periodically gets in touch with the families of its members.
7. They celebrate together the anniversaries and feasts contemplated by the CLP.
8. At least twice a year, they share a community outing or tour.

9. Once a year they participate in a retreat session. Perhaps the community could mark the beginning of their living together with a retreat session.
10. They are attentive to one another's needs regarding health or personal situations that may arise. They look after each other.

V. Other aspects to keep in mind:

1. These communities require special support from the Provincial, the Delegate in Charge of the Brothers, the Vice Provincial, and the Coordinator of the Spirituality and Laity Team.
2. The Provincial – in coordination with the Delegate in Charge of the Brothers, the Vice Provincial, and the Coordinator of the Spirituality and Laity Team – evaluates the progress of each community at least once a year. He could implement this through a meeting with at least two members from each community: a brother and a lay person.
3. Providing materials to support prayer life and reflection in the community would be necessary, especially at the beginning.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMUNITIES

**61 people living the experience in the Province:
20 in Bolivia
21 in Chile
20 in Peru**

**28 lay people and 33 brothers.
15 women and 13 men in the lay group.**

The description of these communities will include some elements from their CLPs, which portray their experience regarding the three key areas proposed by the Province for this project: the new relationship between laity and brothers, mission lived in community, and vocations ministry.

COMMUNITIES OF BOLIVIA

SANTA CRUZ

Br. José Antonio López
Br. Melchor Díez
Br. Antonio Peralta
Br. Tomás Pérez

Laity:

Karlos Aguirre and Bertha Tejerina
Rossio Ávila C.



The laity live in a different house. A married couple. Three years. Shared mission. Meeting: twice a week, in the different houses by turns. Prayer, meeting, dinner. Rossio teaches Psychology, Philosophy, Religion, Civic Education, and is the Pastoral Animator in the Marcellin Champagnat School. Bertha María animates the technical education workshops and the Youth Center in the Marcellin Champagnat School. Karlos teaches Math in high school, besides being the Administrator of the Sector and of the Marist School.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

We want to be an open community, a mixed community where brothers and lay people really are “equal”, and feel like a family. Our community includes brothers José Antonio, Melchor, Tomás and Antonio; the laity are Rossio and a married couple, Bertha María and Karlos, with their sons Luis Fernando and Nicolás.

1. Moving towards a new relationship with the laity

- a. Looking after each other in moments of weakness, illness, and difficult situations.
- b. Our prayer time includes sharing our experience of the day, and the situations we are facing.
- c. We meet twice a year to share our community life at a deeper level in a relaxed way.

2. Living out our mission as a community

- a) We want to clearly express the fact that we are a Marist community by caring for each other's health, birthday celebrations, and family situations.
- b) We want to give an apostolic dimension to our community by inviting other members of the educational community to join our meetings.

3. Vocations ministry

- a) Vocations ministry for us means living life fully and spreading it.
- b) The spirit of faith encourages us to center our lives on Jesus. Mary is our companion.
- c) Giving witness with our lives.

Tuesday: prayer and shared dinner at Karlos and Bertha's place.

Thursday: Eucharist and shared dinner in the house of Barrio Lindo.

We usually share the Eucharist on Sunday in the Marist School.

Community Day: we meet twice a year to share our community life at a deeper level in a relaxed way.

SAN JOSÉ DE CHIQUITOS

Br. Francisco Ruiz

Br. Fernando Mayor

Laity:

Eloísa Choque

Andrés Eulate

Faviola Mérida



Young married couple. Under the same roof. In the hands of the Provincial, available for the mission.

Mr. Andrés Eulate: pastoral work and teaching.

Ms. Eloísa Choque: library and pastoral work.

Miss Faviola Mérida: psychology and counseling.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

1. Moving towards a new relationship with the laity

“Caring for community life”: Sharing the meals. Community outings. Dialogue with all the members of the community.

“Sharing our experience of God”: Well-prepared and organized morning prayer. Participating in the Eucharist on Fridays and Sundays as a community.

“Caring for each other's work”: Using a notice-board to see each community member's daily routine, in order to know where he/she is and where to find him/her.

Community meeting every three weeks.

2. Living out our mission as a community

Participating in retreat sessions. Caring for the activities which take place at the school (retreats, gatherings, camps, pastoral activities).

3. Vocations ministry

Accompany the young people who show vocational interest.

ROBORÉ

Br. Vidal Bretos
Br. Pablo Martínez
Br. Jesús Ortega

Laity:
Mario Araya

Under the same roof.
Mario is a Chilean young man working as a volunteer.



COMMUNITY PROJECT

We gladly accepted, with faith and hope, to live in this new Marist Community, made up of three brothers, Pablo, Jesús, and Vidal, and a lay man, Mario.

We want to share our lives, walking together, supporting each other in our efforts to renew the Marist charism inherited from Saint Marcellin Champagnat, which has been lived out by the Marist Congregation for almost two centuries. We want to achieve a deeper understanding, through reflection and meditation, of our specific identity as lay people and brothers.

1. Moving towards a new relationship with the laity

“Strengthening the relationship between brothers and laity”.

- Uniting our mixed community in life, spirit and mission.
- Fondly welcoming those who visit us, attending their needs, especially regarding the volunteers.
- Having regular meetings with the management team of the school, the Marist Fraternity, and the Marist lay groups.

2. Living out our mission as a community

- Community support and animation of the Eucharist in the Parish.
- Community meetings with the management team, the committed lay Marists, and the Fraternity.
- Weekly community meeting.
- Meetings to share readings and reflection of topics proposed by members of the community.

3. Vocations ministry

TICTI NORTE (Cochabamba)

Br. Adolfo Fuentes C.
Br. Claudio Alberti
Br. Saturnino Alonso

Laity:
Mary Luz Quiroga

Extended community.
Mary Luz works as a catechist in the school.



COMMUNITY PROJECT

1. Moving towards a new relationship with the laity

- Marist Fraternities' monthly meeting.
- Retreat session in Santa Monica Parish twice a year.
- Inviting the lay Marists of Champagnat to pray and share with the community.

2. Living out our mission as a community

- Youth ministry animation in the Bolivia Sector (Mary Luz).
- Teaching in the Marist School (Mary Luz, Claudio and Adolfo).

3. Vocations ministry

- Contact with the novitiate formation house.
- Pastoral animation of the Marist alumni (Mary Luz).

COMMUNITIES OF CHILE

ALTO HOSPICIO

Br. Pedro Herreros
Br. Fernando Pino

Laity:

Liliana Aguilar
Marlena Vargas
Gustavo Adolfo Carvajal



Under the same roof.
Shared mission. Marlena is the Rector of the school.
Liliana: pedagogical coordinator.
Gustavo: class tutor. Animation of the MARCHA youth group.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

1. Spirituality

“To think, feel, and act as Marists called to live a vocation”.
Sunday Eucharist. Evening prayer (Wednesday). Retreat session every two months.

2. Fraternity and laity

“Living out and witnessing fraternity, prioritizing hospitality”.
Monthly community meeting. Community outings. Celebrating birthdays and religious profession anniversaries.

3. Vocations ministry

“Proposing the brother's vocation to young men, and accompanying them”.
Inviting young people to share in our community.

LA COMPAÑÍA ALTA (LA SERENA)

Br. Pedro Marcos
Br. Agustín Carazo
Br. Luis Sanz

Laity:

Lorena Astorga
Nelson Jofré
Marcela Mella



Shared mission. Not under the same roof.
Nelson: High School Director in the Marist School.
Marcela: Elementary School teacher.
Lorena: Elementary School teacher, and pastoral work.

COMMUNITY PROJECT 2013

Project guidelines:

1. Moving towards a new relationship between brothers and laity

Three commitments:

- A. Committed to deepening our formation through shared prayer and study texts.
- B. Committed to “prioritizing” the time scheduled for community meetings.
- C. Committed to having a day-long retreat session once a year.

2. Living out our mission as a community

3. Vocations ministry

Time to share in community

1. Every Friday, at 1:15 p.m., lunch together at the Brothers’ house.
2. Day-long retreat session for the community.
3. Outing with the community members’ family.
4. Visiting a Nursing Home.
5. Community meetings to share prayer, reflection, formation, and life: in the different houses by turns, every two or three weeks.

For its part, the Community of Brothers has a complementary Community Project.

LOS ANDES

Br. Andrés Tello C.
Br. Humberto Carrasco B.
Br. Rufino Martín M.

Laity:

Florencia Arqueros
Angelina Dabovic
Javier González



Not under the same roof. Shared mission.
Angelina: Director of the Marist School.
Javier (her husband): teacher and catechist.
Florencia: retired teacher, but still teaching music and working as a catechist in the Marist School.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

1. Community and fraternal life

- Strengthening our fraternal experience through daily sharing
Sharing life experiences (twice a week). Celebrating each member's meaningful life events (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.).
- Growing in the experience of God as a community
Participating in the Eucharist. Creating spaces for community prayer by taking turns among all the members. Organizing a spiritual retreat session twice a year.
- Deepening our identity as brothers and laity
Analyzing and reflecting on the Congregation's documents (twice a month).

2. Living out our mission as a community

- Experiencing God's loving presence together with others
Inviting other members of the educational community to share our meetings (once a month). Be willing to accompany the people who request it.

3. Vocations ministry

- Promoting hospitality, and sharing prayer with the children and young people of our area.
Willingness to welcome young people who request counseling.

LA PINTANA

Br. Alvaro Sepúlveda
Br. Cruz Alberdi
Br. Patricio Pino

Laity:

Arturo Latorre

Under the same roof. Arturo is a former student.
Engineer.
Solidarity project in the house. They share life.



COMMUNITY PROJECT

1. Sharing with the laity

- Regularly inviting close people – or groups with whom we share life, mission and/or spirituality – to the Eucharist (or community celebrations) in order to consider if they can be interested in being part of a “stable shared community”.
- Accompanying the experience of the volunteers who join our community, and promoting youth volunteering in the Sector.
- Remaining in touch with the needs or situations the neighbors are living, and becoming present as a community outside the house.

2. Living out our mission as a community

3. Vocations ministry

- Remaining in touch with the needs or situations the neighbors are living, and becoming present as a community outside the house.
- Promoting the vocation to Marist service among the adolescents and young people of the Sector who participate in volunteering activities.

COMMUNITIES OF PERU

SULLANA

Br. Bernardino Pascual

Br. Félix Saeta

Laity:

Mary Rodríguez (single)

Luis Eleno Juárez (married)



Different roof.
They share the mission as teachers in the Marist school.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

1. Renewed relationship between laity and brothers

“Living in community: the joyful fruitfulness of faith”.

Life-sharing meeting on Fridays.

“Accompanying the laity who are called to a vocation”.

Community day.

Shared outing. Twice a year.

2. Our experience of God: community prayer. Eucharistic celebration. Community life testimony.

3. Vocations ministry lived in faith (apostolic dimension)

Opening our community to the young people who are following a vocational process.

Personal accompaniment for these young people.

HUACHO

Br. José Luis Marcos

Br. Gregorio Acero

Laity:

Ángel Meneses and Cecilia Montes

Married couple: Ángel and Cecilia



COMMUNITY PROJECT

1. Our experience of fraternity

Here in Huacho we dream with a new way of living in community: brothers and laity sharing in the same mission, and the privilege of serving others under the same conditions.

We dream of a welcoming and fraternal community, which remains open and creates an inviting space, so that more lay people can become committed to service and to the Marist charism.

We dream of a community which is willing to celebrate life: re-creation, shared leisure time, and parties that enhance our fraternal bonds.

- Community meeting three times a week.
- Daily sharing at work in the school, and within the mixed community, freely using the different spaces of the house, which become an informal meeting place in day-to-day life.
- Meeting with relatives of the community members.
- Celebrating each community member's birthday.
- Community outings.

2. Our experience of God

We dream of a community which is open and welcoming, living a God-focused life through common prayer, reflection, and by participating in the sacraments.

We dream of an apostolic community supporting the evangelization projects in our school.

- Praying together with the presence of the entire community.
- Participating in the Mass as a community.
- Participating in the school pastoral duties.
- Welcoming the Marist Apostolic Spirituality communities (MAE), integrated by the school employees, providing them with a space for meditation and prayer.

SURCO (LIMA)

Br. José Ticó
Br. Juan Manuel García
Br. Pablo González
Br. Rafael Herrero

Laity:

Alfredo Gutiérrez
Juan Carlos Pellón
Sara Sánchez



Not under the same roof. Shared mission: solidarity, pastoral work, coordination in the school.

COMMUNITY PROJECT

1. Moving towards a new relationship between brothers and laity

- Visiting the brothers' community in Las Garzas.
- Creating opportunities for reflection on the new relationship between brothers and laity.
- Sharing the Eucharist in community, inviting our families.

2. Living out our mission as a community

Taking time during our community meetings, according to a schedule, to share about the mission developed by the community members, so as to include it in our prayer, and prepare a monthly calendar with the most significant activities of each member. If possible, we will participate in some of these activities.

3. Vocations ministry

We believe that laity and brothers enrich each other and grow together by sharing their vocation.

- Participating in the Vocations Week activities of some of the Marist works, to share our presence and our witness to Marist life.
- Being in touch with the community of Chorrillos, which welcomes young aspirants to the brothers' life.

PUERTO MALDONADO

Br. Jesús Marcos
Br. Barsen García

Laity:

Ronald Pastor
Doris Castillo
Bertha García



Under the same roof. Many years as a mixed community, with the presence of Doris, a Salesian lay woman.
An important place for volunteers.
The three of them work with the children in the boarding school.

COMMUNITY PROJECT 2013

We are a community of brothers and lay Marists sharing life and mission. We realized that we experienced fraternity and sought the will of God together while preparing the CLP.

1. Fraternity in our community

We want to share our lives through fraternity and mission. We will all strive to abandon ourselves more deeply in God, who loves us and works in us, generating a fraternal life.

- Giving more depth, intensity, and meaning to what we normally do.
- Personal prayer will be enhanced by each member, and community prayer will be more participative, serene, and creative.
- We will live our weekly meeting on Sundays as a very important means for our community.

2. Living mission in community

Our apostolic activities belong to the entire community, whether carried out by a single member or by the group. We believe each of us carries out his/her work on behalf of the community, and we present our work this way.

- Serving the people of “Casa-Hogar Marcelino Champagnat” (shelter for abandoned and abused children) is the most important mission of the community. We will evaluate this pastoral work every Thursday.
- Supporting Christian initiation groups, adult groups, and other activities in the Parish.

III. EVALUATING THE EXPERIENCE

CHILE SECTOR (2013)

1. In general, the experience is quite naturally welcomed by the brothers in the Sector.
2. It is a frequent topic in the monthly Community Animators Meeting, as it comes naturally in the sharing which takes place in this meeting.
3. The communities directly involved in the experience show vitality, customary sharing of life and faith, the testing of new forms of prayer and formation, and a progressive engagement of their extended families. The fact of preparing the CLP has developed in them an attitude of discernment and innovation. Several ghosts have been dispelled, such as that of complete availability, leadership in the meetings, heavy religious contents absorbing the meetings, and others. The experience has evolved into freedom of spirit, warmer meetings, and mutual knowledge in all areas.
4. The process is underway. The most emblematic community is that of *Las Compañías Altas* because of the experience they have accumulated: it resulted from a young brother's initiative; new brothers came to the community; rethinking the experience became necessary; then it cooled down; there was mutual questioning, etc.
5. The other communities are rather in an early stage, living the enthusiasm of something vital that is just beginning.
6. The quality of the volunteer lay member makes a difference in the community of *La Pintana*. This is his last year, for he needs to make some autonomous life decisions, and we are motivating him to do so. He has been working on social projects in town for years, but always under the shade and support of the Congregation.
7. Community Animators have been key to establishing the experience. For this reason, we have noticed certain weakness in *La Serena* last year, and they are aware of the fact.
8. What fruits is this experience bearing for the brothers who participate? There are different positions in this regard, which go from an attitude of acceptance, without being really touched, to a joint search of the way, trying to respond together to a common calling. We need to share more about this process, and accompany each brother through it.
9. Motivations in the Sector have been different, and consequently the communities have different projects and ways.
10. Although there are only four in the Sector, the integration between laity and brothers has improved.
11. These shared communities are accepted in a positive way. They are perceived as something normal within the Province. In fact, *La Pintana* regularly welcomes lay people who eventually become part of the community.
12. The rest of the teachers in the school appreciate the experience, although some of them wonder: Why them and not us? This has led to considering extending the experience. Some shared communities have occasionally invited other laity to share with them (Los Andes).