

99. Starting from the sociological and theological foundations laid out in the preceding chapters, we will now focus on our understanding of Marist Youth Ministry. We will begin with a broad definition to then specify our particular understanding as Marists.

Youth ministry, a privileged place for evangelizing the young

100. Youth ministry is the Christian community's response to the needs of young people, as well as a sharing of the unique gifts of youth with that same community.³⁷ "What is called for nowadays is a Church that knows how to respond to the hopes of the young. Jesus wants to enter into dialogue with them, and by means of His Body that is the Church, to propose to them the possibility of a decision oriented to a vital commitment. As Jesus did with the disciples at Emmaus, today the Church should become the traveling companion of the young."³⁸
101. Youth Ministry tries to continue using a process with young people similar to the one used by Jesus with His disciples:
- It is a place where the personal and spiritual growth of young people is promoted, helping them to take a leading role their human development and offering them opportunities to build a life plan for their personal fulfillment as well as get involved in transforming the world.
 - ◆ It is a place where young people can come into contact with the wider Christian community and make their faith journey together with other youth.

³⁷ UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS. *Renewing the vision*, 1997, p. 1.

³⁸ JOHN PAUL II. Meditation during the prayer vigil with youth at World Youth Day 1995 in the Philippines, 1995.