

dreams. We go out to meet them with the heart of an educator born of love for the human person and a firm commitment to accompany “life” as a privileged place to come together. So, as Jesus did with Zacchaeus (Lk 19, 1-10), we place greater emphasis on the processes of life and faith than on results. We approach the young using words that affirm, unite and send forth. We accompany them on the road of love, the love we have for one another (Jn 13, 34-35), a love exemplified by Jesus, one that when put into practice shows the world that we are His disciples.¹⁴

54. Our charism urges to listen carefully to the calls in our day, to people’s yearnings and anxieties, especially those of the young. We welcome them with gladness, and living our Marist fraternity, together we go about planting hope. Our desire to be with young people in their own situations propels us to come up with new approaches in education and evangelization. In a very rich way the words “sister” and “brother” express our Marist style of relating to one another: a way that affirms others and fills them with hope and self-confidence. Thus, our way of living out our Marist apostolic spirituality and putting flesh and blood on our mission: being brothers and sisters to everyone we meet on our journey through life.¹⁵
55. All this being said, we feel a need to revise our perceptions with regard to youth. This to avoid advancing simplistic diagnoses and look into this space where we encounter God using a scientific and faith-based approach. Indeed, going forth to encounter young people is a key element of our mission’s “theological loci”; that’s the way it was for Marcellin and that’s the way it continues to be for great numbers of his followers.

¹⁴ MARX & ORTIZ. *Formar a los jóvenes según etapas de vida*, 2006, pp. 43, 67-70, 90-91.

¹⁵ MARIST BROTHERS. *Water from the rock. Marist spirituality flowing in the tradition of Marcellin Champagnat*, 2007, n. 119, 120, 128, 139, 141, and 147.