PREAMBLE

The Brothers of the 2nd Chapter of the Province of Australia have reflected on and discerned the emerging directions for our Province for the coming three years.

The growth and development of the Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat marks a new epoch in the Province’s history. A new communion of Marists has evolved allowing us, as consecrated men, to reposition ourselves within the Marist project. This reality provides us with fresh opportunities to respond to the call of Jesus and the Gospel.

We are endeavoring to embrace the invitations of the International Mission Assembly to be mystics and prophets in communion with each other and with all creation. We are drawn to reach out to young people most in need, to live in life-giving, prayerful communities aspiring to be the Marian face of the Church.

In light of this, the Chapter has focused on these five directions:

- Marist Association
- Mysticism
- Present to the Peripheries
- Brotherhood in Community
- Internationality

Direction One
MARIST ASSOCIATION

To generously nurture the growth and vitality of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat.

Rationale:

We desire to respond enthusiastically to the invitations of the Holy Spirit mediated through:

- The desires of the broader group of Marists.
- The calls of the Institute to a new communion.
- The needs of the world and Church as identified by Pope Francis.

The establishment of the Marist Association is a contemporary realisation of the original Marist intuition of a broad Marist family, and our support of its growth ensures the continuing vitality and viability of Marist Mission.

Direction Two
MYSTICISM

To grow in our openness and availability to the active presence of God in our lives.

Rationale:

- We aspire to deepen our relationship with God.
- Our authentic prophetic action flows out of our mysticism.
- The signs of the times, and the calls of the Pope, are urging people to attend to our being as well as our doing.
- Our fellow Marists are looking to us to be a leaven of spirituality in our ministries and in the Association. As Brothers we can have a shaping role here.
• Our communities need to nurture our faith life by participation in the sacramental life of the Church and a culture of prayer and contemplation in our community life.

• Our stage of life as a Province calls us to be spiritually generative, and joyfully so, especially in our interpersonal contacts.

• The spiritual health of the Brothers is as important as their physical health, and deserves similar attention and resourcing.

• Our Marian identity calls for us to be joyful contemplatives in action, with a particular place in our hearts for Mary herself.

Direction Three
PRESENT TO THE PERIPHERIES

With other Marists, to respond to the needs of young people most at risk.

Rationale:

• As consecrated men, we are reading the signs of the time around us.

• The urgent needs of disadvantaged young people – indigenous, refugees, the educationally at-risk, homeless and those with a mental illness – compel us to act now.

• The call of the gospel impels us to be present to young people most at risk; to educate, to advocate for, to encourage, and to stand in solidarity with them.

• The formation of the Marist Association affords us opportunities – the time is right to be present to the peripheries.

• There is a window of opportunity for us as Brothers given the limited availability of human and material resources.

• This could capture the vocational imagination of young people.

Direction Four
BROTHERHOOD IN COMMUNITY

To live community in a way that is nurturing of each other and welcoming to visitors.

Rationale:

• Seeking to be marvellous companions to each other, we wish to build communities that are enlivening for Brothers.

• We need to state the reality of the quality of community life and accept it as our current circumstance – through that acknowledgement we can move forward and choose something new.

• We have the opportunity to embrace our brotherhood as life-giving and hope-filled.

• Openness and hospitality to others enriches and enlivens our community life.

• In addition to traditional rituals, customs and practices, we need new and creative forms of community life which enhance its meaning and relevance for all.

• It is urgent to act now.
Direction Five
INTERNATIONALITY

To engage actively in the reimagining of the Institute as one international body.

Rationale:

- In our fractured society we wish to model and witness to Brotherhood that crosses cultures and faith.
- We want to be Brothers in solidarity with Marists throughout the world.
- This is a clear response to the call of the XXI General Chapter and the vision that developed at the General Conference in 2013.
- This will help to develop our consciousness of the dramas playing out for young people in the world today - educational, political, social, economic, ecological...
- One of the signs of our times is globalisation – global consciousness is one way of expressing the interconnectedness of us all.
- We want to continue contributing to the Oceania region and developing relationships with our Brothers in Asia.
- Internationality opens doorways for young people to Marist Life and global consciousness – many are involved in overseas immersion and already enjoy connection with other Marists.
- Our Province has a long history of Brothers being involved internationally.
- This could capture the vocational imagination of young people.

CONCLUSION

The Chapter delegates firmly believe, that by following these directions, we will be faithful and responsive to the calls of the Holy Spirit, the Church and the Institute at this particular time of history. As Brothers, let us go forward with confidence into the future.