



As Marists

Journeying Together | 2019 - 2021



Front Cover: The Icon of the Ascension, Michael Galovic 2014

This icon of the Ascension captures the kind of ecclesial community that we Marists seek to be – an expression of the ‘Marian principle’ of the Church.

**Centred on Christ and witnessing to Christ | As a leaven of unity and inclusion
Immersed in the world of today | With vision and hope of eternity**

A comment from our

Leader



Dear Marist Friends

We all know the story of our Founder, St Marcellin Champagnat. Born in 1789, raised in a neglected part of rural France, surviving the trauma of the revolution, receiving a very limited education; despite these potential limitations, he was still able to identify a pathway and commit himself to his vocation as priest and pastor. He was a man of his time and place, and his personal experiences shaped his outlook and fired his ambitions. In this lies the origin of our Marist mission. In his history, *From Marlies to the World*, Brother André Lanfrey describes Champagnat's principle aim as "the teaching of catechism and the relief of poverty". He cites Champagnat's own words to his followers: "I want the first fruits of your zeal to be dedicated to the children who are the most ignorant and deprived. My proposal, therefore is that you go and teach in the hamlets of the parish".

Like St Mary MacKillop, St Marcellin was able to identify needs and take effective action in response. They were both impelled by the love of Christ and the love of others. Today we are called to do likewise. As people of the 21st century, living in a vastly different socio-economic situation and in a nation far removed from Europe, our conclusions will naturally be different. But as Marists we need to know our reality, identify the areas of need and take action.

This is the process we began at last year's National Assembly. The Council has continued it, and we are pleased to present the distillation of our deliberations. This document is not a set of directives, it's not a detailed action plan. For such a diverse community, that would be too prescriptive. It is a set of Guiding Principles that can be used to animate our mission wherever we are: in schools or offices, families or religious communities, local Association groups or other ministries. It is up to you to continue the discernment as individuals and communities. It is up to you to make your own commitments in the footsteps of St Marcellin.

Champagnat lived and laboured most of his short life in a limited geographic region. He didn't travel far and he certainly had only rudimentary communication with places beyond his region. He was dependant on foot, horse and letter. It's therefore extraordinary that he had such an expansive vision of Marist mission. While still living, he sent Brothers to the Oceania Missions. He would love to have undertaken the work himself. He said that Marists were for every Diocese of the world. His outlook was broad and inclusive. He was never parochial or insular. We are to be the same. We must go beyond the confines of our own geography and experience and explore the vista beyond ourselves. This is what Champagnat did; this is why he is a symbol of how the ordinary becomes extraordinary.

I invite you to take up this document, to reflect on it, discern with it and give life to the principles it espouses. In this way, we will follow Champagnat as contemporary witnesses of faith and disciples of Jesus Christ.

Br Peter Carroll

Leader, Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat

Who we are

We **Marists** are a vital faith community, an expression of Church that embraces **God's mission** with Marian joy, hope, and audacity.

Our **discipleship** of Jesus Christ and the priorities of all of our ministries are inspired by the **Gospel passion** and compassion which fired **Saint Marcellin**.

We remain **attentive** to the God of all life, and we are **committed** to nurturing our spirituality through **ongoing formation**.

We draw on both Marist **tradition** and **imagination** to be game-changers for young people, particularly those most on the **peripheries**.

We foster connectedness and **communion** among ourselves as an Association, with the Marist **spiritual family** around the world, and with the **wider Church** of which we are part.

'We Marists', 2015





Commitment

As Members we Commit to:

- engaging in the joys and challenges of my daily life as a Marist
- living out our mission as Marists within the context of my life and work
- nurturing my personal prayer life and faith journey
- fostering community and Marial spirit where I live or work
- engaging whenever possible in the necessary dialogue and discernment that shapes and envisions our mission and life
- becoming informed about the various ministries which are part of the life of the Association
- sharing my gifts to the extent that I can to help lead and animate the life of the Association
- encouraging others to consider joining the Association
- participating in the election of the leadership council for the Association.

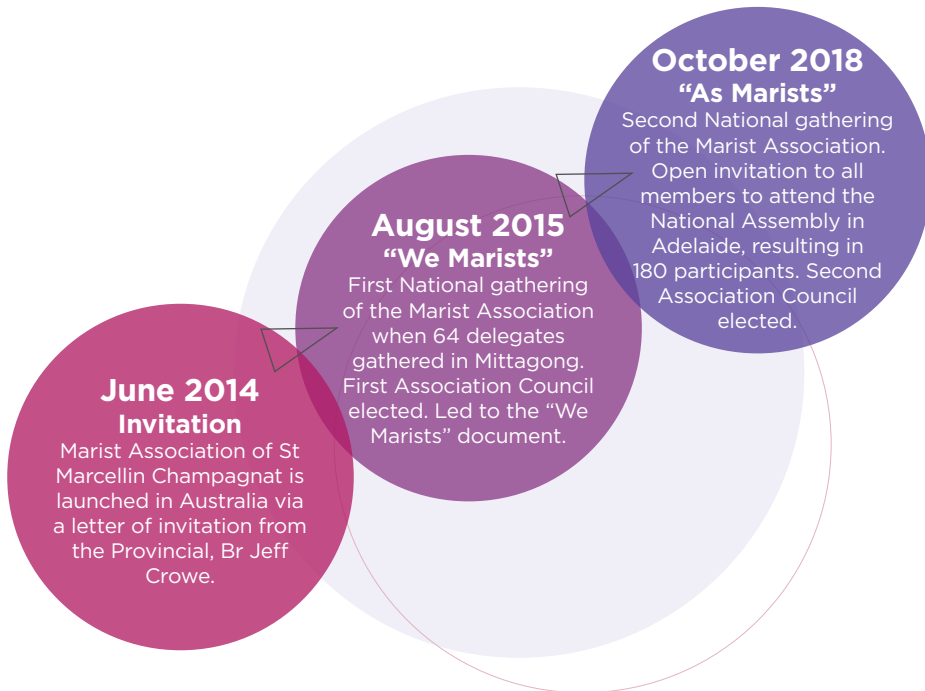
These are the commitments pledged by members of the Association



Our Approach

The Context

This document is the product of conversations, consultation and discernment leading up to, during and after the 2018 National Assembly of the Marist Association.



How to Work with this Document

As Marists, we participate in God's mission, making Jesus known and loved. We continue to draw on, personalise and interpret the tradition of Marcellin Champagnat and the earliest Brothers, as a way of being attentive and responsive to the call of the Gospel and what the Spirit is asking of us today.

The Guiding Principles that follow on the pages ahead will come alive with our imagination and creativity. We are encouraged to break them open together, discover and celebrate where God is engaging us individually and collectively, and ask the question: 'how do we want to grow this in the coming years?'

The three key areas of **spirituality** (mystics), **ministry** (prophets) and **spiritual family** (in communion) reflect what continues to be experienced and articulated by Marists globally, capturing who we are and what we do as Marists.

STEP 1 - OCT 2018

At the National Assembly of the Marist Association, October 2018, over 180 people gathered in Adelaide. The 'voice' of the assembly was captured in dreams and recommendations.

STEP 2 - FEB 2019

Based on the dreams & recommendations, the Association Council discerned Guiding Principles. The 'We Marists' document from the 2015 Association Assembly also informed this discernment.

STEP 3 - 2019 TO 2021

Members, local communities, schools, other ministries and project groups throughout the Marist Association creatively engage with the Guiding Principles according to their circumstances.

Principles

Our Spirituality

God works in us, with us and through us. When we gather, we pray, like Mary, with a deep sense of hope: listening, pondering, and compelled to act. Our prayer life is simple and deepens our relationships.

As Marists...

1

we engage in faith formation for mission and service in the Church and in the world.

2

we draw on the intuition, wisdom and grace of the Marist way of living the Gospel.

3

we nourish our spiritual life and deepen our personal relationship with Jesus through prayer and contemplation, Word and Sacrament.

Cultivate a spirituality of the heart, that fills us with joy and makes us inclusive.

Taken from Message of the XXII Brothers' General Chapter 2017 to the global Marist family.

Principles

Our Ministry

We are in relationship with young people, being attentive and responsive to their emerging needs and educating them to contribute to the building of a more just world – giving them a voice and inspiring hope.

As Marists...

4

we continue our commitment to evangelisation through education and care of children and young people in the realisation of a more humane world.

5

we identify and favour children and young people most in need so they can flourish and contribute to the common good.

6

we draw on our audacious hearts and a daring spirit in responding to the most urgent needs of children and young people.

Be present in more significant ways among the children and young people on the margins of the world.

Taken from Message of the XXII Brothers' General Chapter 2017 to the global Marist family.

Principles

Our Spiritual Family

We gather together in homes of faith that are hope-filled, where our welcome, homeliness and hospitality create spaces for people to feel a sense belonging, connection and inclusion.

As Marists...



we nurture relationships with the global Marist family and the wider Catholic Church.



we embrace our shared responsibility for promoting the vitality of our Association and its mission.



we develop ways of strengthening our spiritual family, creating opportunities for people to experience a sense of belonging and commitment.

Giving ourselves wholeheartedly to creating a family style of life that is open to all.

Taken from Message of the XXII Brothers' General Chapter 2017 to the global Marist family.

Council

Association Council

Leader
Deputy leader

Br Peter Carroll
Joe McCarthy
Nathan Ahearne
Jennifer Elvery
Carmelina Eussen
Kate Fogarty
Br Michael Green
Br David Hall
Ross Tarlinton

Executive Officer
Secretary

Frank Malloy
Sally Dillon



Committees

Professional Standards

Chair: Ross Tarlinton

Formation

Chair: Nathan Ahearne

Finance & Risk

Chair: Br Michael Green

Succession Planning

Chair: Kate Fogarty

MSA National Council

Membership to be advised

Working Parties

Canonical Petition

Chair: Br Peter Carroll

Governance

Chair: Frank Malloy

Marist Young Adults 25-35yrs

Chair: Joe McCarthy

Our

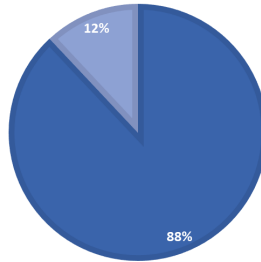
People

A Snapshot

As of February 2019

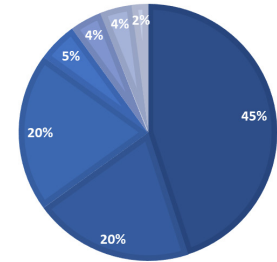
860 PEOPLE IN THE ASSOCIATION

■ Marist Laity ■ Marist Brothers



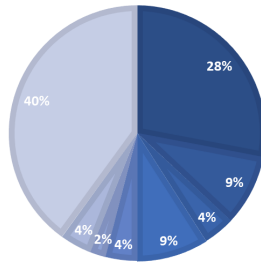
BY STATES & TERRITORIES

■ NSW ■ VIC ■ QLD ■ WA ■ ACT ■ SA ■ NT



BY CITIES

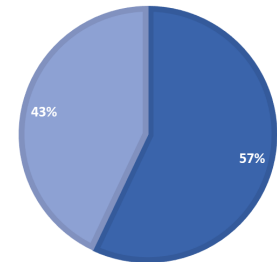
■ Sydney ■ Melbourne ■ Adelaide
■ Brisbane ■ Canberra ■ Alice Springs
■ Perth ■ Outside of cities



In addition: Macarthur – 8% Country Victoria – 10%

COMPRISES

■ Male ■ Female



Ministries

The Australian Conference of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat leads four broad areas of ministry in the life of the Catholic Church:



Draws together over 50 Catholic schools which shape their identity and mission through the spirituality and educational approach that was introduced into the Church by St Marcellin Champagnat in the early nineteenth century. The first priority of MSA is to nurture the faith and spirituality of today's Marists.



Covering school-based and post-school youth and young adults aged 15-25 across Australia, MYM is committed to engaging with young people, and forming a new generation of disciples with strong minds and gentle hearts; young men and women who desire to live the Good News of the Gospel simply and joyfully in their everyday lives.



The social welfare arm of the Marist Association providing a range of programs and services that connect with and support young people, so that they can achieve their own unique goals. These include providing education opportunities, engagement services, pathways to employment, out-of-home care and accommodation.



An agency for the aid and development work throughout Asia and the Pacific Islands. AMS works with the people in this region on a combination of long-term and short-term development projects. These projects aim to develop, or support, locally sustained education opportunities for the young people in these regions.

There is also a range of less formal ministries, responding to the needs of people, especially youth, who face social exclusion, economic hardship and other forms of disadvantage.

These exist, and are emerging, through the work and initiative of members of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat.



Administration Office

a: Marist Centre Melbourne
1 Dawson Street, Brunswick VIC 3056
p: 03 9389 3100
e: joe.mccarthy@marists.org.au
w: www.maristassociation.org.au



www.maristassociation.org.au/news

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