

**Marist Association
Of
St Marcellin Champagnat**

**INTERNATIONAL
CANONICAL STATUTES**

CANONICAL STATUTES

Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat

Preamble

Marcellin Champagnat, canonised in 1999, was ordained a priest in Lyon, France in 1816. Within a year of his ordination, he founded the Marist Brothers, a Religious Institute under the name of Little Brothers of Mary.

“Today, **we are inspired by the vision and lives of St Marcellin** and his first disciples as we journey to God”.¹

“The core of St Marcellin Champagnat’s vision of mission was **to make Jesus Christ known and loved**. He saw education as the way to lead young people to the experience of personal faith and of their vocation as ‘good Christians and virtuous citizens’”.²

The XXI General Chapter of the Marist Brothers held in Rome in September 2009 named a “**new relationship between Brothers and Lay Marists**, based on communion, searching together for a greater vitality of the Marist charism for our world”.³

Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat was established by the Institute of the Marist Brothers of the Schools. It was granted canonical status as Public Association by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, constituted a Juridical Person and its Statutes approved in accordance with canons 312 §1 1°, 313, 314 by Decree of the Congregation dated ...

1. Name and Office

- 1.1 The name of this public association is **Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat (the Association)**.
- 1.2 The central office of **the Association** is located at Casa Generalizia dei Fratelli Maristi, Piazzale M. Champagnat, 2, 00144 ROMA, Italy in the Diocese of Rome.
- 1.3 **The Association** carries out its activities in the civil sphere as a Church entity incorporated under and in accordance with these Statutes and the Canonical By-Laws adopted by the Central Governing Council of **the Association**.

2. Purposes

- 2.1 **The Association** provides a spiritual family within the Church for people committed to living the Gospel of Jesus, with Mary as their inspiration, in the style of St Marcellin Champagnat.
- 2.2 **The Association** seeks to continue the core mission of the Institute of making Jesus Christ known and loved, in the way of Mary, and bringing hope to the youth of today.

¹ *Water from the Rock*, Marist Spirituality flowing in the tradition of Marcellin Champagnat, 2007, 15

² *In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat*, A Vision for Marist Education Today, 1997, 69

³ Document of the XXI General Chapter, 2009

- 2.3** As a public association, **the Association** conducts the religious and education ministries of the Institute as the Institute decides, with the right to establish and suppress apostolic works in accordance with canon law and these Statutes in the name of the Church.
- 2.4** The Association brings together a group of vocationally minded people who will support formation and animation activities within the wider group of people who are in some way connected to Marist mission and life across the Institute: all the Brothers and their affiliates, people who self-identify as Marists, people who work in Marist ministries, members of the Champagnat Movement of the Marist Family, people who volunteer in or contribute in other ways to Marist ministries.
- 2.5** **The Association** seeks to ensure vitality and viability for all Marist ministries, through a body of faith-filled people who embrace the Marist expression of Christian life in the Church. It is imbued with the values, spirituality and charism of St Marcellin Champagnat as nurtured and passed on by the Institute today as in the past.
- 2.6** **The Association** seeks to provide and bear witness to an experience of Church community that is Marian, Eucharistic, faith focused, mission driven, and inclusive.

3. Members

- 3.1** The following may be members of **the Association**.
- 3.1.1** A professed member of the Institute with the consent of the Brother Provincial of his Province (the Brother Provincial);
- 3.1.2** A baptised Christian who identifies with the mission and embraces the spirituality and charism of **the Association**.
- 3.2** In applying for membership, a person is choosing to:
- a. follow Jesus, with Mary as inspiration, in the style of St. Marcellin Champagnat, by joining the spiritual family within the Church known as Marists
 - b. live out the Marist charism within the context of one's life and work
 - c. nurture one's personal prayer life and faith journey
 - d. foster community and marital spirit among family, friends and colleagues
 - e. take part in formative programmes organised by **the Association**⁴
 - f. engage in the necessary dialogue and discernment that shapes and envisions the mission and life of **the Association**
 - g. share one's gifts to help lead and animate the life and mission of **the Association** locally, regionally and nationally.
- 3.3** All members are co-responsible for the life and mission of the Association.
- 3.4** Members are admitted into, and cease to be members of, **the Association** in accordance with the Canonical By-Laws. These provisions include:
- 3.4.1 Admission**
- a. A person is admitted to **the Association** by the relevant **Conference Council**.
 - b. A Brother needs the approval of the Brother Provincial before admission.
- 3.4.2 Resignation or dismissal**

⁴ See Formation Annex

- a. A person is free at any time to resign membership of **the Association**.
- b. A person who is subject to canonical censure (Can. 316), or is guilty of a crime or other behaviour judged by the **Conference** Council to be unacceptable, ceases to be a member without prejudice to their right to have recourse to the Brother Superior General.

3.5 Marist Brothers who are Members of **the Association** remain subject to the exclusive authority of the Brother Provincial with respect to their community and ministry assignments.

3.6 Members commit to a growing relationship with other Marists. This community dimension has local, regional and national expressions that offer a sense of belonging and unity, of welcome and hospitality, and mutual support in living their call to be mystics and prophets and to build up the marian face of the Church.

4 Formation

4.1 Each **Conference** will draw up a plan of initial formation for intending members. This plan will include a period of discernment prior to a person's acceptance as a member and a suitable comprehensive program in Marist spirituality and the ministerial practice of St Marcellin Champagnat.

4.2 Each **Conference** will provide ongoing formation programs for members.

4.3 The members of the **Conference** Council will take part in a specific formation program that ensures committed, informed, knowledgeable and skilled people to serve in the governance, leadership and animation of the **Association**.

5. Structure of the Association

5.1 **The Association** is made up of **Conferences** each animated and governed by a Leader and **Conference** Council under the supervision and direction of the Central Leader and the Central Governing Council.

5.2 A **Conference** is composed of a lawfully established community of Members directed by a **Conference** Leader and **Conference** Council to whom has been entrusted canonical responsibility for the ministries and apostolic works of a Province or group of Provinces.

5.3 **Conferences** are set up at the request of a Province or group of Provinces by a decree of establishment of the Brother Superior General, issued after consultation with the Central Governing Council and with the consent of the General Council.

5.4 **Conferences** have public juridical personality in canon law.

5.5 **Conferences** acquire civil law status appropriate to the country in which they operate.

6. Central Governing Council

- 6.1 The Central Governing Council of **the Association** supervises and directs the activities of the **Conferences**.
- 6.2 The Councillors meeting together to carry out their responsibilities according to this Statute and Canonical By-Laws are called the Central Governing Council of **the Association**.
- 6.3 The Central Governing Council constitutes a College and the regulation of the proceedings of the Central Governing Council is specified in the Canonical By-Laws.

7 Central Councillors

- 7.1 The minimum number of Central Councillors is five, including the Central Leader, and the maximum number of Central Councillors is determined by Brother Superior General after consultation with the **Conferences**.
- 7.2 At the time of its inauguration the number of Central Councillors of **the Association** is seven.
- 7.3 The Brother Superior General is *ex officio* a Councillor.
- 7.4 At least one other member of the General Council of the Institute shall be appointed to the Central Governing Council of **the Association** by the Brother Superior General.
- 7.5 To be appointed as a Central Councillor a person must:
 - 7.5.1 be active in faith and Church life as a member of the Roman Catholic Church,
 - 7.5.2 embody Marist spirituality, witnessing to a Marist expression of Christian life and mission,
 - 7.5.3 have an adequate understanding of the teachings, discipline and laws of the Roman Catholic Church,
 - 7.5.4 comply with any other requirements including formation and other competencies specified in the Canonical By-Laws.
 - 7.5.5 have been a Member of **the Association** for at least four years, unless he is a professed Marist Brother.
- 7.6 The processes for nomination of Councillors, appointment and removal of Councillors, the term of office of Councillors and regulation of the proceedings of Councillors, are specified in the Canonical By-Laws. These include:
 - 7.6.1 **Nomination**

Conference Councils of **the Association** may nominate members who are qualified in accordance with Article 7.5 above and who have consented to their being nominated for election as Central Councillors of **the Association**.
 - 7.6.2 **Appointment**

- a. The Brother Superior General appoints suitably qualified members of **the Association** to the Central Governing Council.
- b. Should it be necessary, for whatever reason, the Central Governing Council can propose the appointment of a person to fill a casual vacancy as Councillor.

7.6.3 Resignation and removal

A Councillor's position becomes vacant if such a person:

- a. ceases in accordance with Article 3.3.2 above to be a member of **the Association**;
- b. resigns by notice in writing to the Brother Superior General;
- c. is removed by notice signed by the Brothers Superior General to such Councillor and to the Central Governing Council.

8. Powers and Duties of the Central Governing Council

8.1 The functions of the Central Governing Council include, without limitation:

- 8.1.1 to direct **the Association** in accordance with its purposes,
- 8.1.2 to ensure that all apostolic works and administration of **the Association** are conducted in a manner consistent with the teachings, discipline and laws of the Roman Catholic Church.
- 8.1.3 to oversee the fidelity of **Conferences** to the charism,
- 8.1.4 to advise the Superior General in relation to the establishment and suppression of **Conferences**,
- 8.1.5 to advise Brother Superior General on the appointment or removal of Leaders of **Conferences**,
- 8.1.6 to approve and sponsor such international formation programmes as they decide,
- 8.1.7 to sponsor such international gatherings as they decide,
- 8.1.8 to advise Brother Superior General on any transfer of assets from a Province of the Institute to a **Conference**,
- 8.1.9 to approve acquisitions, by gift, purchase, transfer or otherwise for **the Association** in accord with canon law and the Civil Constitution.
- 8.1.10 to foster the establishment, growth and development of **Conferences** throughout the Marist world,

- 8.1.11** to make proper norms for **the Association** in accordance with canon and civil law,
- 8.1.12** to determine in accord with canon law the acts of administration which go beyond the limits and manner of ordinary administration,
- 8.1.13** to approve the alienation of temporal goods of a Conference of a value determined as in 8.1.12.
- 8.1.14** to guarantee that the civil law status of a **Conference** (cf. 5.5) conforms to this Statute and the Canonical By-Laws,
- 8.1.15** to prepare the annual report to the Holy See required by Article **22.1**.

9. Central Office-bearers

- 9.1** The Office-bearers of the Central Governing Council of **the Association** are a Leader, Deputy Leader, and a Treasurer.
- 9.2** The term of office, duties and powers of the officers are specified in the Canonical By-Laws.
- 9.3** Chaplains of **the Association** are chosen by the appropriate Governing Council in consultation with the Chaplain's Ordinary. The appointment must be confirmed by the appropriate major superior - Brother Superior General or Brother Provincial.

10. The Central Leader

- 10.1** The Central Leader of **the Association** is one of the Central Councillors and is either the Brother Superior General or a person appointed by the Brother Superior General of the Marist Brothers (the Brother Superior General) with the consent of the General Council after consultation with the **Conferences** of **the Association** in accordance with the Canonical By-Laws. At the time of appointment the Central Leader must be a Roman Catholic, at least thirty-five years of age and, unless a professed Marist Brother, shall have been a Member of **the Association** for at least six years. The Leader is appointed for a term of three years and is eligible to serve up to three consecutive terms.
- 10.2** The Leader ensures that the animation and formation of the Members and the conduct of the apostolic works and ministries of **the Association** are nurtured and developed in accordance with the spirit of **the Association** and canon and civil law.
- 10.3** The Leader is the Chair of the Central Governing Council and convenes and conducts meetings of Central Governing Council in accordance with the Canonical By-Laws and the Civil Constitution.
- 10.4** An appointed Central Leader of **the Association** may be removed by the Brother Superior General in accordance with canon law.⁵

⁵ cf. canon 318

11. Temporal Goods of the Association

- 11.1** The **Association** and the **Conferences** have the right to acquire, possess, alienate and administer temporal goods according to their respective powers.
- 11.2** The Temporal Goods of **the Association** and **Conferences** are ecclesiastical goods and are regulated by canon law, this Statute and the Canonical By-Laws.
- 11.3** The Central Governing Council shall appoint a finance committee to assist the Central Treasurer in the administration of the temporal goods of **the Association** in accord with canon law.
- 11.4** The Central Treasurer shall preside at meetings of the finance committee on behalf of the Central Governing Council. The Central Governing Council may appoint another member of the finance committee to chair its meetings.
- 11.5** The Central Governing Council may appoint a financial administrator to assist the Central Treasurer with the work of the finance committee.

12. Sponsors

- 12.1** The Sponsors of **the Association** shall be those persons elected from time to time as the Brother Superior General of the Marist Brothers and his Council in accordance with the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers.
- 12.2** **Duties and Reservation of powers of the Sponsors of the Association:**
- 12.2.1** The Sponsors shall ensure that the works of **the Association** operate in accordance with the teaching, discipline and laws of the Roman Catholic Church and with the charism of St Marcellin Champagnat.
- 12.2.2** The powers of the Sponsors shall include, without limitation, the following, to:
- a. define and authenticate the philosophy and mission of **the Association**.
 - b. approve proposed amendments to these Statutes for presentation to the Holy See.
 - c. approve proposed amendments to the canonical by-laws of **the Association**.
 - d. amend the civil Constitutions of **the Association** if a legal entity is established internationally.
 - e. approve the annual report to the Holy See.
 - f. appoint and remove the Central Councillors of **the Association** as in Article 7.6.2a and 7.6.3 (Superior General acting alone).
 - g. Approve the transfer of property and investment funds from a Province to a Conference as in 20.4 and 20.5.

13. Relationship to the Holy See

- 13.1** The Holy See shall receive an annual report which gives evidence that the integrity of faith and morals is preserved, and that the use of temporal goods and the apostolic activity of **the**

Association are in accord with its purposes. The audit report is included with the financial statements.

- 13.2** The Holy See may request a meeting with **the Association** to discuss its apostolate.
- 13.3** The Holy See accepts no financial responsibility regarding **the Association** and its affairs.
- 13.4** The approval of the Holy See is required for the following:
 - 13.4.1** Any changes to the purposes of **the Association**
 - 13.4.2** The amendment of this Statute
 - 13.4.3** The authentic interpretation of this Statute
 - 13.4.4** The dissolution or suppression of **the Association**
 - 13.4.5** The sale, disposition, or other forms of alienation of the stable patrimony of **the Association** in excess of the amount established by the Holy See from time to time.

CONFERENCES

14. Conferences

14.1 **Conferences** are established by the Brother Superior General and Central Governing Council in response to a request from a Province or group of Provinces.

14.2 A **Conference** is governed by a Leader and **Conference** Governing Council.

15. Conference Council

15.1 The **Conference** Councillors meeting together to carry out their responsibilities according to this Statute and the Canonical By-Laws are called a **Conference** Council of **the Association**.

15.2 A **Conference** Council constitutes a College and the regulation of the proceedings of the **Conference** Council is specified in the Canonical By-Laws.

15.3 A **Conference** Council of **the Association** is responsible in canon law for the ministries of **the Association** entrusted to it.

16. Conference Councillors

16.1 The minimum number of **Conference** Councillors is five, including the Leader, and the maximum number of Councillors is determined from time to time by a general meeting of **Conference** Members.

16.2 The Brother Provincial or his permanent delegate is *ex officio* a Councillor.

16.3 Should no other member of the establishing Province be elected the Brother Provincial has the right to appoint a Marist Brother as **Conference** Councillor.

16.4 To be appointed as a **Conference** Councillor a person must:

16.4.1 be active in faith and Church life as a member of the Roman Catholic Church,

16.4.2 embody Marist spirituality, witnessing to a Marist expression of Christian life and mission,

16.4.3 have an adequate understanding of the teachings, discipline and laws of the Roman Catholic Church,

16.4.4 comply with any other requirements including formation and other competencies specified in the Canonical By-Laws,

16.4.5 have been a Member of **the Association** for at least four years, unless he is a professed Marist Brother.

16.5 The processes for nomination of **Conference** Councillors, appointment and removal of Councillors, the term of office of Councillors and regulation of the proceedings of Councillors, are specified in the Canonical By-Laws. These include:

16.5.1 Nomination

Members of the **Conference** may nominate Members who are qualified in accordance with Article 16.4 above and who have consented to their being nominated for election as Councillors of the **Conference**.

16.5.2 Election

- a. All registered members of the **Conference** are entitled to vote for the election of Councillors.
- b. Councillors are elected for a fixed term.

16.5.3 Appointment

- a. The Brother Provincial(s) of the Marist Brothers in that **Conference** appoints the duly elected members to the **Conference** Council.
- b. Should it be necessary, for whatever reason, the **Conference** Council can propose the appointment of a person to fill a casual vacancy as Councillor.

17. Powers and Duties of Conference Council

17.1 The powers and duties of the **Conference** Councillors include, without limitation, the following:

- 17.1.1** To ensure that the purposes of **the Association** are realised and fulfilled in their **Conference**.
- 17.1.2** To contribute to the community and generative aspects of the local life and ministry of the **Conference** of **the Association**.
- 17.1.3** To ensure that all apostolic works and administration of **Conference** of **the Association** are conducted in a manner consistent with the teachings, discipline and laws of the Roman Catholic Church.
- 17.1.4** To make norms for the **Conference** of **the Association** in accordance with canon and civil law.
- 17.1.5** To approve acquisitions, by gift, purchase, transfer or otherwise for **Conference** of **the Association** in accord with canon law and the Civil Constitution.
- 17.1.6** To approve the alienation of temporal goods belonging to the stable patrimony of the **Conference**, by gift, sale, transfer or otherwise for **Conference** of **the Association** in accord with canon law and the Statutes and By-Laws of **the Association**.
- 17.1.7** To prepare an annual report to the Central Governing Council for transmission to the Holy See as required by Article **21.1**.
- 17.1.8** Such other duties as set out in the Canonical By-Laws.

18. Conference Office-bearers

- 18.1** The Office-bearers of a **Conference** Governing Council of **the Association** are a Leader, Deputy Leader, and a Treasurer.
- 18.2** The term of office, duties and powers of the officers are specified in the Canonical By-Laws.

19. Conference Leader

- 19.1** The Leader of a **Conference of the Association** is one of the **Conference** Councillors and is appointed by the Brother Superior General of the Marist Brothers (the Brother Superior General) after consultation with the members of the **Conference of the Association** in accordance with the Canonical By-Laws. At the time of appointment the Leader must be a Roman Catholic, at least thirty-five years of age and, unless a professed Marist Brother, shall have been a Member of **the Association** for at least six years. The Leader is appointed for a term of three years and is eligible to serve up to three consecutive terms.
- 19.2** The Leader of a **Conference of the Association** may be removed by the Brother Superior General in accordance with canon law.⁶

20. Powers and Duties of the Conference Leader

- 20.1** The **Conference** Leader is the Chair of the **Conference** Council and convenes and conducts meetings of the **Conference** Council in accordance with the Canonical By-Laws.
- 20.2** The Leader ensures that the animation and formation of the **Conference** Members and the conduct of the apostolic works and ministries of **the Association** entrusted to the **Conference** are nurtured and developed in accordance with the spirit of **the Association** and canon and civil law.

21. Conference Temporal Goods

- 21.1** The **Conference** Council shall appoint a finance committee to assist the **Conference** Treasurer in the administration of the temporal goods of the **Conference of the Association** in accord with canon law.
- 21.2** The **Conference** Treasurer shall preside at meetings of the finance committee on behalf of the **Conference** Council. The **Conference** Council may appoint another member of the finance committee to chair its meetings.
- 21.3** The **Conference** Council may appoint a financial administrator to assist the Treasurer with the work of the finance committee.

⁶ cf. canon 318

- 21.4** The transfer of property from a Province or District to a **Conference** of the Association must be approved by the Superior General acting with the consent of the General Council.
- 21.5** The transfer of investment funds or capital reserves of a Province or District to a **Conference** of the Association must be approved by the Superior General acting with the consent of the General Council.

22. Sponsors of a Conference

22.1 The Sponsors of the **Conference** shall be those persons elected from time to time as the Brother Provincial(s) of the Marist Brothers and his Council in accordance with the Constitutions of the Marist Brothers.

22.2 Duties and Reservation of powers of the Sponsors of a Conference:

22.2.1 The Sponsors of a **Conference** shall ensure that the works of **the Association** in their **Conference** operate in accordance with the teaching, discipline and laws of the Roman Catholic Church and with the charism of St Marcellin Champagnat.

22.2.2 The powers of the Sponsors of a **Conference** shall include, without limitation, the following, to:

- a. approve the civil Constitution of the **Conference of the Association** consistent with these Statutes.
- b. amend the civil Constitutions of the **Conference of the Association**.
- c. appoint the Councillors of the **Conference** as in Article 15.6.3 (Brother Provincial acting alone)

23. Relationship of the Association with the Local Church

23.1 **The Association** and its **Conferences** collaborate in the pastoral action of the Local Church and maintain contact with the diocesan Bishop of each diocese in which the apostolic works of **the Association** are located.

23.2 **The Association** and its **Conferences** recognise the right of the diocesan Bishop to visit the schools and other apostolic works for which **the Association** has canonical responsibility.

23.3 **The Association** and its **Conferences** strive to ensure that the Catholic faith is respected and communicated in all the apostolic activities of **the Association**.

23.4 **The Association** and its **Conferences** recognise that the diocesan Bishop accepts no financial responsibility for **the Association**, its **Conferences** or their affairs.

23.5 **The Association** and its **Conferences** enjoy autonomy of governance in accordance with canon law and this Statute.

24. Suppression

24.1 **The Association** may be suppressed by the Holy See:

24.1.1 in accordance with canon law, for failure to act in accordance with this Statute; or

24.1.2 upon request by at least a two-thirds majority of the **Conferences of the Association** as determined by **Conference** Members assembled in **Conference** General Meeting **PROVIDED THAT** such request is supported by the Brother Superior General acting with the consent of the General Council.

24.2 Upon suppression or extinction of **the Association**, its temporal goods, patrimonial rights and obligations shall be allocated as determined by the Brother Superior General acting with the consent of the General Council with due regard for the will of the Institute at the time of the establishment of **the Association** and of donors, and in accordance with the requirements of canon law and civil law.

24.3 A **Conference** may be suppressed:

24.3.1 in accordance with canon law⁷, for failure to act in accordance with this Statute; or

24.3.2 upon request by at least a two-thirds majority of the Members of a **Conference** assembled in a **Conference** General Meeting **PROVIDED THAT** such request is supported by the Brother Superior General acting with the consent of the General Council.

24.3.3 by a decision of the Superior General acting with the consent of the General Council after consulting the Central Governing Council.

24.4 Upon suppression or extinction of a **Conference**, its temporal goods, patrimonial rights and obligations shall be allocated as determined by the Brother Superior General acting with the consent of the General Council with due regard for the will of the Province(s) at the time of the establishment of the **Conference** and of donors, and in accordance with the requirements of canon law and civil law.

25. Amendment of this Statute

25.1 Amendment of this Statute is reserved to the Holy See upon request by at least a two-thirds majority of the **Conferences of the Association** as determined by **Conference** Members assembled in **Conference** General Meetings **PROVIDED THAT** such request is supported by the Brother Superior General acting with the consent of the General Council.

⁷ cf. canon 320

Interim Regulations:

- 7.7** For six years after the canonical approval and formal inauguration of **the Association** the Brother Superior General may appoint as Central Councillors, Members who do not satisfy the qualification of **7.5.5** above.
- 9.4** For six years after the canonical approval and formal inauguration of **the Association** the Central Treasurer may be the Brother Econome General for the time being of the Institute.
- 10.5** For six years after the canonical approval and formal inauguration of **the Association** the Central Leader shall be the Brother Superior General for the time being of the Institute or a General Councillor appointed by him.
- 15.6** For six years after the canonical approval and formal inauguration of the **Conference**, the **Conference** Leader shall be the Provincial for the time being of the Province.
- 15.7** For six years after the canonical approval and formal inauguration of a **Conference of the Association** the **Conference** Councillors shall be appointed by the Provincial for the time being of the establishing Province, acting with the consent of the Provincial Council.
- 15.8** For six years after the canonical approval and formal inauguration of **the Association** the Provincial may appoint as **Conference** Councillors, Members who do not satisfy the qualification of **14.4.5** above.
- 21.6** Initially the major assets are retained in the ownership of the Province which has sought the establishment of the **Conference of the Association**.
- 21.7** Financial arrangements to cover the costs of the life and mission of the **Conference** are subject to an agreement between the Province(s) which has sought the establishment of the **Conference** and the **Conference** Governing Council.