MARIST ASSOCIATION OF ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Regional Gathering - Melbourne

Responses to:

3 Imperatives for growing Marist life and mission over the next three years

- Marists: fostering & discerning the presence of God in their lives individually and in communion
- Marists: celebrating and sharing the conviction of faith with joy and compassion
- Being true to our values and charism
- Service in and for communion
- Need to IDENTIFY those on the peripheries (in schools and elsewhere), then HAVE A CLEAR PROGRAM of assistance/nurturing of those identified. And INCLUDE RETIRED brothers and lay Marists in the above. Appreciate their circumstances.
- Connect and welcome one another in prayer and friendship. Constantly seek out where each of us can most effectively serve. Show our young people that they are loved and valued for who they are: God's children.
- GOD IS MISSION. Essence of what, why and how we do it – POTENTIAL to draw out self and others – GOD IS MISSION
- Marists as a strong COUNTER CULTURAL VOICE for the NEEDY based on Gospel values
- Continual spiritual formation with Jesus at the centre
- Community (us): Open – welcoming. Regular gatherings. A project to do together
- The peripheries: where we are now and where we need to be
- Be the Gospel
- Formation
- TOGETHER we….
- Responding to the urgent needs
- COMMUNITY VISIBILITY: engagement, witness, transforming
- Growing new expressions of Marist life

Group Responses:

PINK:

- Find out where we (as individuals) can most effectively serve
- Have a clear, tangible program of assistance/nurturing to those on the peripheries, once they have been IDENTIFIED
- Retired brothers and lay Marists: must be included in this; identification of needs and program of assistance appropriate to them
- Need to identify those on the peripheries, in schools and elsewhere (eg: neglect, young 'carers', emotionally hurt/vulnerable etc)
- Challenge of self, others: draw out potential
- Connect and welcome one another in prayer and friendliness
- God is Mission: to create opportunities for children/self/others to recognise God and possibly accept God as an essence of <u>what</u> we do and <u>why</u> we do it and <u>how</u> we do it
- Show our students, young people, that they are loved and valued for who they are

RED:

- Prayer and Marian spirituality: being centred in God – Marcellin's dream was to make Jesus loved and known
- Formation: knowing what it is we are trying to do and why
- Risk: renewal – articulating the Marian Face of our Church for the community of our time
- Nourishment: formation opportunities/prayer/celebration/challenge
- Prayer: to commit to 10 minutes of personal prayer each day
- Renewal: Prayer/nurturing/theology/sustainability
- Prayer: opportunities to encounter God through formatin/communion
- Together: we are better/more
- Community: building *our* family spirit – using our own gifts to make a difference and strengthen relationships
- Partnership: relationships/community/connectedness/Brothers/lay/dignity of all
- Collaboration: between – ministries/Brothers & lay/areas
- Mission: shared understanding; working together;collaboration
- Be the Gospel: do not shy away from what is hard
- Move out – risk
- Purpose: action/witness/being/calling/mission

PURPLE:

- Advocacy: renewing the focus for the marginalised? Where do we find the Marist voice and where else should we be?
- Marist schools: how do we ensure that our students continue to understand the Marist vision for the future
- Lower our eyes: what is going on in our own backyard?
- Know your neighbour and what they NEED
- Faith in action: whether this be teaching in a classroom, serving soup on a Wednesday or in mission overseas – as Marists we are called to use our hands and feet to journey with the poor and most neglected
- Simplicity of heart: be ourselves! Open our heart to all people!
- Communities: work with whole communities
- Current needs in local community: how do we ensure that the Marist community is continuing to serve those in need in our local community
- Spiritual 'internal'
- Talk it up: Why serve? Jesus, eg: among teachers
- Community and communion
- Celebrate: our Marist hearts
- Fidelity: be true to our values and charism
- Service in communion

GREEN:

- Faith in self
- Marists as a COUNTER-CULTURAL VOICE for the needy based on Gospel values
- Belief in self-worth
- Marists being the presence of a compassionate Jesus today
- Discuss and discern: what are we doing well now?
- What's next? Build together – mission - formation – prayer – spiritual life
- Service through Gospel values
- Marists celebrating faith and sharing
- What makes it ('Marist' way) work and why? Celebrate and share

ORANGE:

- Faith development: for ourselves/for our schools/for our ministries. Medium: education
- Continual spiritual formation
- Support our Parish works, eg: Mass, literature, projects
- Be the Gospel: the messenger is the message/to make Jesus known and loved is to make ONESELF known and loved
- Work locally: grow and nurture those who will do the work in the future/ help the disadvantaged
- Action: faith in action – being the hands and feet of Christ is truly the Marian way/not just praying, talking and lauding…but DOING
- "God is Love": Gospels and Paul's writing in Mass, reading and study, etc. Helping our fellow Marists
- Keep faithfully to Core Marist values
- Community: regular meetings/open and welcoming for new members to join/minister through community (presence)/family
- Ministry: be an active presence at the frontiers/find a specific 'new tent' ministry that the association take up as their own
- How do we respond to the needs in "Modern Australia" – by communication/by our simplicity and presence. Medium: connecting with people
- Play to our strengths: do not forget and stop doing the things we are doing well/get the best people for the particular job
- Encouraging young Marist to go overseas Mission projects
- Our community extends to our overseas neighbours by immersions, by projects. Medium: living their life – walking with them
- Peripheries: looking at where we are truly needed and where we can feasibly help. There are always peripheries within our reach

BLUE:

- Build: on the foundation and fill in the framework/relationships/family
- Personal openness like Mary
- Communal engagement
- Collaboration and community: across the Marist Association
- Communal discernment
- Together – we are better!
- Authentic dialogue – at all levels of Marist life
- Action: live out the Gospel with action rather than words