

## **Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat**

**Submission to the Plenary Council, March 2019**

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This response is the fruit of a series of conversations that took place at the Marist Association National Assembly, held in Adelaide in October 2018.

The life and work of the members of the Marist Association is one way that people are participating in God's mission and contributing to the life of the Church in Australia.

### **What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?**

That we, as Marists and People of God, discover new ways to embark on our missionary vision

That we, as Marists and People of God, be strategic and planned for how we want to continue to live out our mission

That we, as Marists and People of God, develop the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat as a one of the emerging expressions of ecclesial life and ministry, and work in communion with other communities of the Church

That we, as Marists and People of God, consciously build the contribution and leadership of lay people, particularly women, across the life of our organisation and take risks to enact this.

That we, as Marists and People of God, provide opportunities and pathways that bridge young people from school life to parish connection

That we, as Marists and People of God, deliberately call on, invite and involve, young adults in our mission and community life

That we, as Marists and People of God, contribute to parishes in a way that fosters inclusiveness, participation, and lay leadership

That we, as Marists and People of God, encourage each other and those we influence to continue to have a preferential option for the poor and those most distressed and marginalised

That we, as Marists and People of God, grow and contribute to a culture of spiritual formation that reaches widely, that nurtures faith journey and inspires lay people to lead and serve the Church of the future

That we, as Marists and People of God, invest in people so that leadership and facilitation of our faith communities happens locally and organically.

That we, as Marists and People of God, provide spiritual accompaniment that enriches lives, inspires mission, and grows purpose and belonging among our faith communities.

That we, as Marists and People of God, are imaginative and creative in the ways we pray and celebrate together, and that we build capacity for lay people to lead such celebrations effectively

That we, as Marists and People of God, are generous and thoughtful in the sharing of our resources to serve people who live in more remote and isolated circumstances.

That we, as Marists and People of God, we invest in young people and provide pathways for them to feel included in parish life and other expressions of ecclesial life.

**We, as Marists and People of God are being drawn into local faith community where there is:**

- Collaboration and interconnectedness with other groups
- Participation and lay leadership
- Encouragement and enabling of sustainable local initiatives
- Shared responsibility for the direction and development
- A culture of collaboration and collegiality, particularly among lay people

**We, as Marists and People of God are being drawn into an ecclesial experience that is:**

- Inclusive
- Collaborative
- Connected
- Ecumenical
- Prayerful
- In *communion*

**We, as Marists and People of God are being drawn to particularly work alongside young people where:**

- Resources are created and shared
- Leadership is encouraged and empowered
- Inspirational opportunities are made available
- There is strategic attention given to the post-school demographic

**We, as Marists and People of God are being drawn towards a culture of spiritual formation where:**

- Opportunities are accessible and affordable
- Lay leadership is promoted
- New and effective ways to mentor and accompany are sort out
- Vocational pathways for lay people are expressed and nurtured

**We, as Marists and People of God are being drawn into mission engagement where:**

- We are part of an inclusive spiritual family
- Jesus is known and loved
- We are bridge builders
- We share and grow story – based on the past; looking to the future
- Our actions and approach communicate true co-responsibility with Church structures
- We actively seek at those most marginalised and distressed
- Create opportunities for further participation
- We collaborate, build bridges, and develop partnerships
- We understand the value of, and promote the importance of, parish as a key operating unit for effectively living out God's mission

**We, as Marists and People of God, name who we are by saying:**

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.

**Marist Association Council**

In collaboration with, and on behalf of, all members of the Marist Association  
February 26, 2019

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