

Association
spirituality

We Marists....

OUR HOPES AND PRIORITIES 2016-2018

community
family
passion
faith
Mission



An Invitation.....

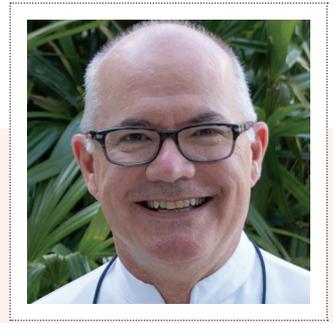
Dear Marists

I am delighted to present to you this publication, which is the fruit of significant deliberation and dialogue. While it is a concise product, I hope it will have an expansive impact on our Marist life and ministries.

When the Association Council met to review the plentiful material gleaned from the Mission Assembly and the regional gatherings that followed, we started with an identification process. We focused not on the long list of possibilities and strategies, but on what these actions embodied: the deep yearnings and heart-felt desires of Association members. It was a very encouraging process because what we observed was how well these aligned with the intuitions of our Marist founders and the priorities of our larger Marist world.

As you know, our Association is now the community that sponsors and governs Marist works in Australia. It is the 'mother' that must nurture and shape Marist life and mission. Such documents remain just words unless they are taken up and given life in practical expression. For this reason, the Council invites you to consider carefully the vision and priorities elucidated here. It is an invitation for all of us:

- individual members and local groups,
- Principals and leaders of Ministries,
- Boards, Councils and Committees that have stewardship of our works,
- Brothers and their communities,
- those who serve and enable our mission through the teams based at our Centres.



Our hope is that the aspirations presented here will guide us individually and corporately. This should ensure there is clarity of vision, unity of purpose and cohesion of action. The vision and hopes of the Association will be given expression in its ministries and communities, and through them, lives of young people will be affected positively.

To assist with your reflection and planning, I offer these questions:

- Which of the priorities resonates most strongly with me?
- Which of the strategies are most applicable to me and my place?
- How could I/my community/place of ministry be '*game changers*'?
- How can I/we give local expression to these priorities?
- How can I/we be the change that is described here?
- What am I/we ready to commit to in order to respond to these challenges?

The invitation and the challenge are there. On behalf of the Council, I encourage you to take them up individually and as communities. To do so will ensure our Association moves forward confidently, faithful to its Marist tradition, in the service of the Church and for the benefit of the young people to whom we minister.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Carroll'.

Brother Peter Carroll FMS

Leader of the Marist Association (Australian Conference)

4 April 2016, Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Markers and Pointers

2014	International Marist Mission Assembly <i>New Marists in Mission – Prophets and Mystics in Communion</i>	
2015	Australian Marist Mission Assembly <i>See I am doing something new – Prophets and Mystics in Communion</i>	
2016	Formal Canonical establishment of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat	
2017	Marist Bicentenary <i>Dawn of a New Beginning for Marists</i>	
	National gathering of the Association (tbc)	
2018	Next Assembly of the Australian Conference of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat	

A Context

These pages have grown out of a rich process of reflection, dialogue and dreaming by Marists across Australia, particularly those who are members of the *Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat*. We have emphasised creativity and listening together, in order to tap into our deepest longings. Unsurprisingly to God's Spirit, we have discovered that our longings today echo those of Marcellin and the first Marists: to be a people who are Christ-centred, mission driven and community orientated; and to be this presence in the life of the Church in Mary's way.

The Australian Conference of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat is being established at the time when many shoots of new Marist life are budding across the world. We Australian Marists seek to be part of that movement and to contribute to its momentum. The Association is part of a Church-wide Marist spiritual family that has grown from the Marist Brothers, to include all who understand that their chosen way of being Christian is to share in the ways of Marist life and mission, inspired by St Marcellin. We exist to take part in Mary's work of bringing Christ-life to birth in people, and to nurture our own faith journeys in the Marist way.

In August 2015, the first representative gathering of the Australian Conference of the Association – called the *Australian Marist Mission Assembly* – was held at Mittagong, NSW. Its sixty-five participants received the imperatives that had been identified at the 2014 *International Marist Mission Assembly* in Nairobi, Kenya, calling Marists to be “mystics and prophets, in communion with one another”. Responding to this call, they generated ideas and hopes for the Association in Australia over the next three years, and they nominated an Association Council to lead them during this time. Later in 2015, regional meetings were held around the country to discuss the directions and proposals that emerged at the *Australian Mission Assembly*.

In February 2016, the Association Council met to consider all that had emerged during the previous two years, and to shape the strategic priorities for the life and mission of the Association and its works in Australia until the next Assembly in 2018.

Our Vision

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.



ICON OF THE ASCENSION

CALLED TO *mystical* ATTENTIVENESS

Like Mary, we listen for God's invitation within us and among us to bring Christ-life to birth.

OUR PRIORITIES 2016-18		SOME STRATEGIES
M1	Deepening in members their commitment in Christian discipleship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of Marist daily prayer book and app from 2016, personally and communally, as a way of fostering a distinctively Marian way of praying.• Annual contemplative retreats and twilight retreats.• Personal accompaniment and support for members.
M2	Nurturing a culture of spiritual formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local application of the global formation framework (being developed by the Marist Secretariat of the Laity in Rome).• Introduction of the 6-module initial formation programme.• Introduction of second-phase formation programme.
M3	Enhancing a sense of Marist identity in individual members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of the <i>Marian Lecture</i> series from 2017.• Dissemination of reading and resources.

our future



CALLED TO *prophetic* ACTION

Like Mary, we set out joyfully and in haste to the hill country of the lives of young people with transformative news of the faithfulness, mercy, peace, and immanence of God.



OUR PRIORITIES 2016-18	SOME STRATEGIES
<p>P1 Sustaining and growing Marist education for young people in need</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance, in existing MSA schools, strategies for inclusion of students at risk: eg refugee youth; indigenous youth; students with mental/emotional health issues; special programmes/annexes. • Plan for new Marist schools in areas of social-economic and ecclesial need. • Support the establishment of a new Marist school in East Timor. • Explore and support emerging projects in areas of need (eg Lavalla Community Project, Santa Teresa; Heidelberg West).
<p>P2 Nurturing a unified vision and interconnectedness in the strategic directions of the Association's areas of ministry (MSA, MYM, MYC, MSol)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish strategic local partnerships between MYC and several MSA schools. • Regionalise MYM and integrate school-based programmes with MSA schools. • Alignment of strategic planning of individual schools and ministries with the Association's hopes and priorities.
<p>P3 Exploring new and sustainable avenues for Marist youth ministry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider establishment of young Marist residential communities in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. • Explore possibilities for income-supported youth ministry, to act as hubs for MYM (eg school-sponsored and school-based MYM assistants; university colleges; university campus ministry). • Continued expansion of Remar with ongoing renewal of resources and content. • Support and facilitate initiatives being taken by Young Marists.

CALLED TO BE PEOPLE OF *communion*

Like Mary, we build and lead communities in ways that are Christ-centred: relational, inclusive, hope-filled, and invitational.



OUR PRIORITIES 2016-18		SOME STRATEGIES
C1	Strengthening in members a sense of belonging to the Marist spiritual family at the local, regional and national levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical support for Local Coordinators, Principals, Ministry Leaders, and Brother Community Leaders in their animation of the Association. • Two regional gatherings each year. • Active awareness-raising through newsletters, e-streaming of messages, social media. • Refinement of imaging and branding.
C2	Being a leaven of the Marian principle of the Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witnessing, at all levels and in all ministries, a leadership model that is Marian. • Ongoing invitation to potential new members of the Association to ensure generativity and growth. • Participation and partnerships within the broader Church community. • Growing each of our areas of ministry – MSA, MYC, MYM and MSol.
C3	Nurturing integration with the wider Church and with the Marists internationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of the Canonical Statutes once approbation received from Holy See; finalisation of Civil Constitution; and formalisation of arrangements with Marist Brothers Province. • Continued dialogue with Australian Bishops, CEOs/ CSOs, and other Church bodies to strengthen partnerships. • Support for regional and global Marist initiatives and projects.

Our fields of ministry....

The Australian Conference of the Marist Association acts in the name of the Church in **4 broad areas** of ministry.



Marist Schools Australia

... is a family of 54 schools which draw on Marist spirituality and Marist educational practice to help them to shape their identity and mission as Catholic schools. Of these schools, 13 are solely governed by the Association and the rest are conducted in various partnership arrangements with dioceses and parishes. MSA schools, which help to educate over 40,000 young Australians, are grouped into three geographical Regions. Each Region is led by a Director who is advised by an MSA Regional Council. The MSA National Office is in Melbourne.

Marist Youth Ministry

... is a ministry aimed at young people aged between 15 and 25. MYM supports school-based and post-school programmes. The principal school involvement is through the three-year Christian leadership programme known as *Remar*. A suite of post-school opportunities include prayer and worship, service and solidarity, forums and festivals, campus ministry, and a university college. MYM operates in the same three Regions as MSA, with three Regional Coordinators and a number of part-time MYM Assistants and volunteers.

Marist Youth Care

... is the social welfare arm of the Association. It has a range of programmes and projects for young people and families in most critical need. It is headquartered in western Sydney with a concentration of its programmes there, but it has a growing presence across the country. It currently serves up to six thousand young people each year, with a staff of over three hundred. It has settlement and support services for refugees and migrants, foster care and out-of-home care programmes, educational and skills-training centres, services for indigenous and homeless youth, and it also auspices the Association's Advocacy Office. MYC is incorporated and under the stewardship of a Board.

Marist Solidarity

... is the Association's agency for aid and development work through Asia and the Pacific Islands. *Australian Marist Solidarity*, a registered NGO, works with the people in this region through projects that empower local communities to take their own path to development, with an emphasis on redressing poverty through the provision of education. It also offers educational and support services for MSA schools involved in solidarity and immersion projects, and is the base for *Marist Volunteers Australia*. Its national office is in Brisbane. AMS is incorporated and under the stewardship of a Board.

These ministries are currently supported by a number of Association-level teams and services: the MSA Leadership Team, the Mission and Life Formation Team, the Marist Association Pastoral Team, the Business Services Office, the Professional Standards Office, Marist Music, and The Hermitage at Mittagong – the national Marist retreat and conference centre.

MARIST ASSOCIATION COUNCIL 2015-2018



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