



# Sharing

THE LAY  
MARIST  
VOCATION

N. 01 | 30 APRIL 2021

## Dear friends, Marists of Champagnat

**I**t is with great joy and hope that we send you the first issue of the Sharing Bulletin. This is a resource that we have created especially to stimulate and accompany the Marist life of the laity and to collaborate in promoting the future of communion to which the Holy Spirit is inviting us. We have been dreaming about this project for some time and today we have found the possibility of developing it under the auspices of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation.

This newsletter will be characterised by the following: it will be a monthly edition; it will be addressed to brothers and lay Marists; it will not

be a news bulletin (for we already have Marist News); it will contain reflections, formation texts, personal and community experiences, life testimonies and whatever will help in the development of the vocation of lay Marists and communion with the brothers.

This first issue opens with the theme of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation, an initiative on which we in the Extended Secretariat of the Laity are currently working at the request of the General Government. As the Forum progresses, the newsletter will report on some of the highlights of the Forum.



From the second issue onwards, each edition will focus on one of the Marist regions, taking turns as we go along. For this, people from the one region will be in charge of writing some of the content. This will give greater visibility to the rich and wonderful diversity that makes up our global charismatic family. In addition, it will touch on other issues of the Institute related to laypeople that we hope will be of interest to all.

The publication will be produced in PDF format and will be sent by e-mail to all those who [subscribe to Marist News](#).

Along with this initiative, we will also be using social media to share our Marist vocation. For example, to increase awareness of our global

family, we have created a facebook group open to all, to which [we invite you to subscribe](#). Also, with the intention of strengthening our communion, we propose the use of the hashtag #MaristLayMarist-Vocation in the posts we put on the net.



We hope that this newsletter will contribute to enriching our vocation as lay Marists, both personally and as a community, and will help us to be in greater communion and harmony as a Global Charismatic Family. May our Good Mother and Marcellin accompany us on our journey.

Raúl Amaya, Director of the Secretariat of the Laity



To set out, conscious of our need for one another, was the main call of the 22nd General Chapter: *let's journey together as a global family!* This is the context in which the initiative of an INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION is being launched in the Institute. The process seeks to encourage us in WELCOMING, NURTURING, LIVING AND SHARING OUR VOCATION. A number of initiatives are currently underway throughout the Institute that are focused on strengthening each of these vocations (Br. Ernesto)



INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON  
**THE LAY MARIST  
VOCATION**

WELCOMING, NURTURING, LIVING AND SHARING OUR VOCATION.  
"YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHESY" (JOEL 3,1)

# International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation

The International Forum will be a beautiful four-year journey of reflection and shared discernment among laypeople, laywomen and brothers. The themes of the Forum are pertinent current and future issues related to the vitality of the charism and our journey of communion as a Global Charismatic Family

Our aim is to carry out a process of reflection and shared discernment among lay people and brothers on the **vocation, formation and accompaniment, formal commitments to the charism and possible juridical structures** for Marist laypeople; relevant current and future issues related to the vitality of the Marist charism and growing in communion as a Global Charismatic Family.

The four objectives of the Forum:

1. To deepen our understanding of the **Marist vocation** with particular emphasis on the **lay Marist vocation**
2. To review and offer **formation and mentoring processes and pathways** for laypeople to grow in their vocation.
3. To reflect on and propose **possible forms of bonding and belonging** to the Marist charism.
4. To know, reflect, explore and propose **possibilities of juridical structures (civil and canonical)** for Marist laypeople

The invitation of the General Government is to all lay Marists throughout the world who are involved



The General Administration, through the Extended Secretariat of the Laity, has chosen the 19<sup>th</sup> March to launch the process of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation, coinciding with the feast of Saint Joseph, patron saint of Marists and also a beautiful model for laypeople, from whom we can learn so much.



in some vocational process, members of the CMMF or other lay movements, Brothers involved in vocational accompaniment or who live out a spirit of communion between all Marists, brothers and lay, members of lay Marist associations, lay vocation pastoral teams and Provincial/District Councils to participate in the reflection and discernment of this Forum.

For those administrative units that do not yet have programs related to the lay Marist vocation, one or more groups of lay people and brothers who want to know more about the topic and participate in the process may be created. The members of the Extended Secretariat will be available at all times to support the Provincial or District Teams in leading the process.



## MAJOR TOPICS AND QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE PROCESS

Below are series of questions that are associated with the objectives we want to achieve in this process. They can be described as the big inspirational questions that will guide us in our quest. At the end of this shared process of reflection and action, we hope to find answers to these questions, with everyone's contribution. Activity sheets related to these questions will be sent to you starting from May 2021. They will contain more specific questions to be used for dialogue and discernment in the groups or communities.

### **Question 1: The Marist vocation and the lay Marist vocation**

Objective: To deepen our understanding of the Marist vocation with particular emphasis on the lay Marist vocation.

### **Question 2: Pathways and processes of formation and accompaniment**

Objective: To review and offer formation and mentoring processes and pathways for laypeople to grow in their vocation.

### **Question 3: bonding and belonging to the Marist charism**

Objective: To reflect on and propose possible ways of bond-

ing and belonging to the Marist charism.

### **Question 4: possible legal structures for Marist laity**

Objective: To know, reflect, explore and propose possibilities of juridical structures (civil and canonical) for Marist lay people.

## PHASES

This path of reflection and discernment has several stages which will be characterized mainly by a participative process of dialogue, involving meetings in small reflection groups. In the AUs where there are no lay communities, we suggest organizing groups that are not too big so that they can adequately address the issues.

It is very important that Marist Brothers involved in the formation and accompaniment of the vocation of laypeople participate in these groups or communities.

### Phase 1: Official start of the process and organization within AUs: March 2021 to June 2021

This phase is the time to get to know the overall process of the

International Forum and to organize the local and Province/District gatherings.

### Phase 2: Local and Province/

### District gatherings: July 2021 to June 2022

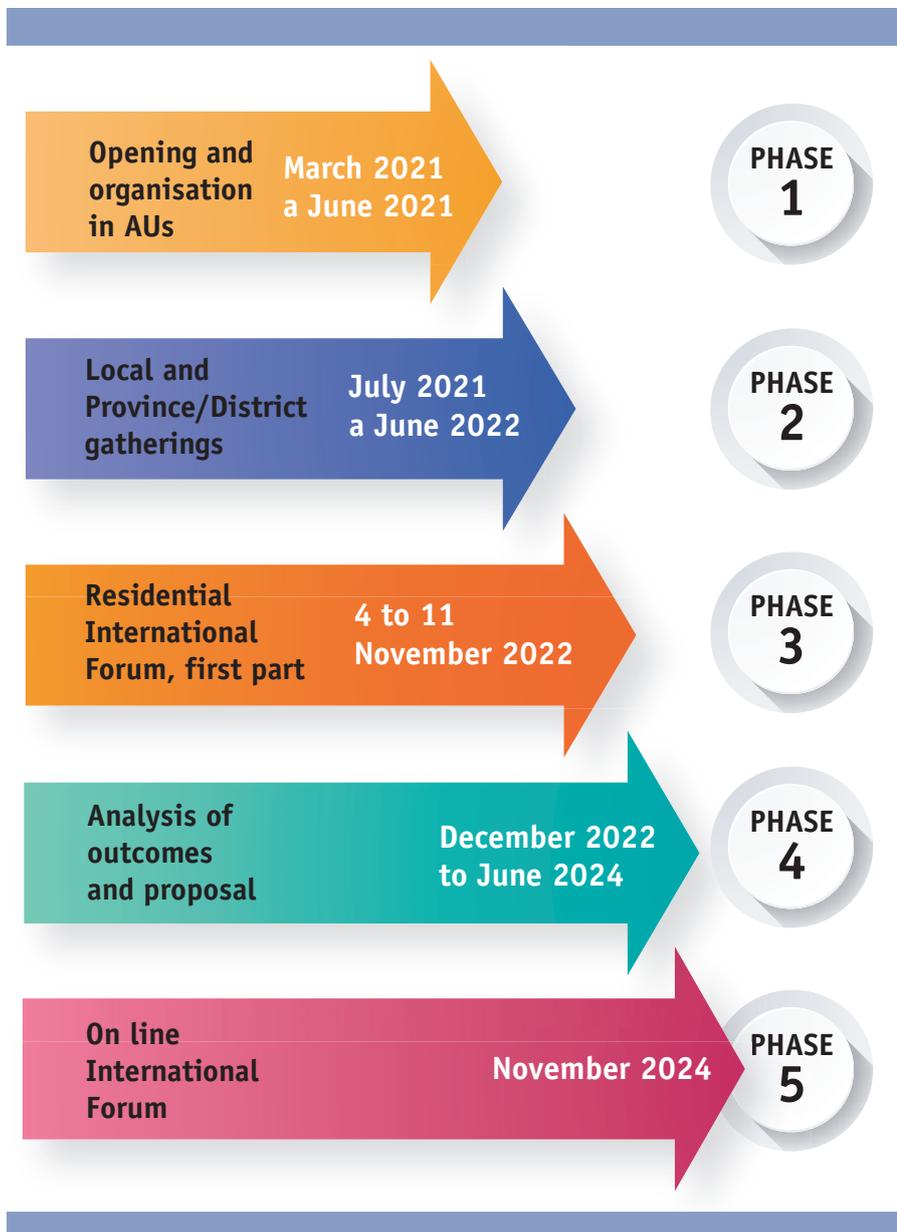
This phase involves the study and discussion of the proposed themes, at personal and group level. The process envisages small groups, in person, where possible, or on-line. It is important to stress that each AU will schedule this phase according to what it can manage to program, which means that it is not necessary to spread it out over all the months allocated to this phase.

### Phase 3: International Forum. 4 to 11 November 2022, in Rome

The purpose is to gather the rich diversity of the Marist world together in an international meeting and, in this spirit of unity, to discuss the reports coming from all the AUs.

### Phase 4: Analysis of the outcomes and proposals: December 2022 to June 2024

In this phase, the aim is to continue the reflection and discussion of the themes chosen at the International Forum. For this purpose, during the Forum, online study groups will be formed with some of the participants of the International Forum and other invited persons. These groups will have virtual meetings to discuss the



theme assigned to them and develop a concrete proposal to be presented at the online Forum in 2024. An online discussion area will be created where the work of all groups can be followed and receive input from all Forum participants. This phase may include consultation with the Province lay teams when necessary.

### Phase 5: On-line International Forum: November 2024.

This is the phase of presentation, discussion and building consensus regarding the proposals of each study group with a view

to coming up with an agreed proposal and presenting it to the General Council and subsequently to the General Chapter of 2025. The second part of the International Forum will take place from 4 – 22 November 2024, it will be online and hence no need to travel to meet. Participants will be the same representatives from each AU who attended the face-to-face Forum in November 2022. The Extended Secretariat of the Laity will use the results to prepare a final document to be presented to the General Council and to the General Chapter.

## PROCESS GROUP

The General Government has decided that the Extended Secretariat of the Laity, the Link General Councilors for this Secretariat and the two facilitators will be responsible for the preparation, leadership, promotion and oversight of the International Forum.

**Extended Secretariat of the Laity:** Agnes Reyes (Asia), Ana Saborío (Central America), Carole Wark (Oceania), Br. Elias Odinaka (Africa), Manuel Gómez (Europe), Marcos José Broc (América Sur), Raúl Amaya (Director of the Secretariat).

**Link General Councilors for the Secretariat:** Br. Sylvain Ramandimbiarisoa and Br. João Carlos do Prado.  
**Process Facilitators:** Vanderlei Soela (Brasil Centro-Norte) and Br. Graham Neist (Australia).



### Regarding participants in the meeting in Rome (November 2022):

1. Each AU to send two lay people and one brother.
2. We suggest that they be elected or nominated by those participating in local and Province/District gatherings in a suitable open manner.
3. This representation is for both the residential Forum of November 2022 and the online Forum of November 2024.

## LOGO AND COMMUNICATION MATERIALS



# INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCAATION

WELCOMING, NURTURING, LIVING AND SHARING OUR VOCATION.  
"YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHESY" (JOEL 3,1)

The logo for the process of the International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation was created by the Communication Consultants of the Marist Province of Brazil Sul-Amazonia.

The logo has three main elements, which can be used as a whole, separately or in a reduced combination. These elements are an image, the title of our process and a slogan that includes the biblical quote from the prophet Joel.

In the image we can find different symbols that refer to the experience we want to have in the next few years:

- The spiral shape evokes the wind of the Spirit
- In the centre there is fire, passion and creative love



- We can also discover an 'M' at the heart of this spiral. This M in movement identifies us with the gift of the Spirit which is the Marist charism.

- The overall move-



ment visualised in the image resembles an embrace that rejuvenates from within, spiralling outwards again, to continue caring and inviting.

- The image also brings to mind a dance, the dance of mission, which impels us to be prophets in today's world.

- All these elements and dimensions are unified in our call as lay Marists to engage with the ongoing process of "welcoming, nurturing, living and sharing our vocation".

A [page in the site](#) of the Institute gathers all the information and resources about the Forum.

At the same time in the social media we will use the hashtag #MaristInternationalForum to identify the content we post about this process.

# #MaristInternationalForum

## SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS

We invite you to share your experience as a Marist lay person on social media by posting texts, photos and videos using the hashtag #MaristLayVocation. It will help us to develop an internet identity for Marist life worldwide.

At the same time, the Secretariat of Laity has created a public group in FaceBook: “Laicos Maristas / Marist Laity - Global group”. It is a place to build an online community of Marist Laypeople and to share our emotions and experiences. You are invited to subscribe to the group and to start posting and gathering online with other members of our global family.

[www.champagnat.org](http://www.champagnat.org)

- [Journeying Together as a Global Family - A reflection by Ben Consigli, General Councilor](#)
- [CMMF and UMBRASIL promote the Novena of St. Marcellin Champagnat](#)
- [Cmi launches the Marist Volunteer Handbook](#)
- [Meeting of animators and advisers of the fraternities of the MCFM, Cruz del Sur](#)
- [The laity of Mexico conclude their reflections on the circular Homes of Light](#)
- [United States Province Lay Formation Programme](#)

# #LayMaristVocation

The newsletter will be issued monthly. Each time, a different Region will oversee it. The next issue will be sent on May 31st. prepared by the Arco Norte Region. You can [subscribe here](#) to receive Marist News and SHARING



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