

**Marist Brothers Provincial Chapter**  
**Summary Report - Vocation Promotion**  
**April 8-11, 2021**

***I. Previous Province Chapter Proposed/Discussed the following:***

*A. Have more than one full-time vocation promoter (possibly a Brother and a Lay Marist). Ensure that the following are addressed: 1) vocation education in schools (Marist charism, religious life, religious brothers, formation process, mission/ministries); 2) personal outreach and discernment/accompaniment*

**Responses:**

- Two Marist Brothers named as vocation promoters
- Frequent and ongoing collaboration between the offices of Marist Vocations and Marist Youth & Young Adult ministries (both virtual and in person)
- Vocations Weeks held in schools during 2019-20 school year
- Engagement with locally led initiatives (e.g., Marist Information Group at Columbus)
- Topics of vocations continued to be incorporated into programs such as Encounter, Marist Youth Weekend, Sharing Our Mission, etc.
- Upcoming Zoom forum for Marist Youth to increase understanding of consecrated life + connect Marist Youth in different schools.
- Foundation Stones in 2019 (and hopefully 2021!)
- In addition to individually accompanying inquirers/discerners, a virtual accompaniment group has also begun. (see section II)

*B. Establish a group in the Province to develop a comprehensive vocation plan and identify those who can take on the work of Vocation Director.*

**Responses:**

- Although no Vocation Committee has been re-constituted, there is a desire and openness to have a group named
- Informal strategic plan for vocation promotion developed in summer 2018
- Vocation weeks in schools guided by local vocations committees

*C. In our work of vocation promotion, we also need to look for candidates for the brotherhood outside of our school populations.*

**Responses:**

- Continued ad placements in publications such as Vision, Guide to Religious Ministries and others, with new options being explored

- Utilized resources for World Day for Consecrated Life and Religious Brothers Day to boost our profile as a group
- 'Inquiry Registration Form' added to website
- Increased social media presence (especially Instagram) to develop awareness of patrimony and mission
- Vocations-related editorial content accepted for publication in Boston Pilot, Black Catholic Messenger, Guide to Religious Ministries, Vision
- Engagement with parishes has included speaking at Masses and youth groups, etc
- Intensive involvement with NRVC heightens our awareness of new possibilities and ideas for vocation promotion inside and outside of our ministries

## *II. Adaptations to Pandemic Realities:*

### *A. 'Marist Curious' - Zoom & WhatsApp Group*

- Monthly Zoom sessions provide confidential context for group accompaniment
- By invitation only, includes range of interest levels, previous Marist experience
- Build community + allow opportunity to see interactions with each other
- Every fourth session to be more publicly open (including to brothers)
- Group chat provides connective tissue to increase sense of community and facilitate communications between Zoom sessions

### *B. Marist Conversations on Zoom (Brian Poulin & Matt Fallon with guests)*

- Advertised externally as well as internally
- Meant to interest both those who do and do not yet know us
- Meant to communicate values and orientations; show who we are

### *C. Have taken advantage of more accessible professional development opportunities*

*We are grateful for our two current postulants and even during this pandemic, conversations continue with a number of other men at varying levels of interest. Please pray for them!*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Brothers Brian Poulin and Al Rivera*