Session 1: Shared Marist Life (Brothers and Lay Together)

The focus of this Session was on Shared Marist Life. To assist with this there was a panel made up of Champagnat Marists who have been at meetings and gatherings working in this area. They were Nathan Ahearne and Elizabeth Falconer from the Marist and Life Formation Team in Sydney, Br Siaosi Ioane (Samoa) and Br Barry Burns (Aotearoa NZ).

The challenge: What are the needs of our Communities, our Ministries and our living and praying together, across the Province and in each of the Countries?

Members of the panel had been part of the following gatherings:

- An audit of Marist Life in the areas that are now part of the SOTS Province
- International Lay Formators’ Course
- Fratelli Tutti Programs
- ‘I See You’ interviews
- Oceania Gatherings for Lay Marist Vocation
- Interregional Gatherings in Asia and Oceania.
- International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation

Much is happening in this space in the Marist world. In some countries the model for belonging is clear, along with the stages and pathways that need to be followed. What best suits us in the Star of the Sea Province?

The Panel spoke to the following findings:

- Formation as a priority
- Stewardship – of our Spirituality
- Belonging
- Language and Understanding

From these emerged their recommendations that dealt with the following areas:

- Inclusion
- Interculturality
- Solidarity and Subsidiarity
- Resourcing
- Structural Models to be implemented – in Australia there is the Marist Association and in Kiribati there is the Stewardship Team to name just two and each is different in structure
- Leadership
- A Commission for Formation to carry this forward
- An Assembly in due course
It was suggested to the Delegates that there needed to be a Coordinated Team Approach to the development and delivery of quality formation opportunities and resources for all Marists of Champagnat across the Province, to support the growth and vitality of Marist Life and Mission into the future.

We need respectful listening to what is emerging in order to find the best way to nurture Marist life and Mission in the new Province. At present, we have a variety of approaches for connection and belonging and we hope to find those models which best suit the needs of our Marist people at the local level.

**Possible Commission**

The suggested Commission would establish a Task Force to go to the various areas of the Province and work out appropriate models for each area. Then they need to work out how to bring those groups together to know and connect with each other.

This brought the Session to a close. Discussions among the Delegates are still to take place and recommendations will emerge for the Provincial and Council to consider.

### Session 2: Leadership

The Second Session returned to the issue of Leadership in the Star of the Sea Province and built on discussions from earlier in the Chapter. It was led by the Provincial.

At the start of the Session Peter announced that **Br Darren Burge** had accepted his invitation to be **Vice Provincial**. In announcing this Peter said “I know from the voting that Darren has the confidence and trust of the Delegates, and indeed more broadly across the Province. I thank him for agreeing to take on this responsibility and look forward to working with him”. Warm applause greeted the announcement.

Peter firstly spoke about the Provincial Council, explaining that some of the Councillors would be responsible for geographic “Areas” of the Province, and all would have “Portfolios” (Commissions) to manage. The allocation of these can’t happen until the first Council Meeting on the 15th December. Two roles will assist the Council. Firstly, the Province Secretary, for which Paul Kane has already been nominated, and secondly, the Province Bursar. Peter then proceeded to outline a proposal regarding the Areas and leadership at this level.

Delegates discussed the issues at their table groups, and provided feedback. They then looked at these issues through another ‘lense’ and moved into geographic/cultural groups. Groups returned to the Hall to present their findings. In all, there was general agreement with the proposals. A number of questions and suggestions will be considered further by the Provincial and Council in the near future.

### Session 3: Documents to be Approved

Three documents were tabled for Approval by the Chapter.

1. Province Norms for the Second Provincial Chapter 2025. **Carried unanimously.**
2. Rules of Procedure for the Second Provincial Chapter 2025. **Carried unanimously.**
3. Code of Conduct. **In Principle Agreement.**

*Anthony Robinson.*
The Galley Podcast

**The Galley Podcast**: The podcast is a conversation with different Brothers from around the Star of the Sea Province. To listen to these, click on this link: [https://soundcloud.com/provincial-marists](https://soundcloud.com/provincial-marists)

**The Chapter Website** has all the links to the videos, photos and podcasts that have been shared and created.

The Galley Podcasts are also on this website and can be listened to from there.

Video recordings of these Galley Podcasts are shown further down the webpage.

**UPDATES ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

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