



Year of Marist Vocations

Caring for and Generating Marist Life

CLOSURE AND CONTINUITY







The celebration of the Year of Marist Vocations began on May 20, 2022, and will conclude on June 6, 2023.

More than being a closure, we would like to give emphasis on CONTINUITY; we give a new impetus to the inspiration and the movement that was awakened around vocation ministry in the Institute, from what we have discovered in and lived in “caring for and generating Marist Life”.

Therefore, we wish to celebrate June 6, 2023:

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| a. Thanking the Good Mother for “coming to our aid and not allowing the lamp to be extinguished”. | gave the charism and in whom the wonderful adventure of Marist life began. |
| b. Honoring Marcellin Champagnat, to whom God first | c. Calling to mind and being grateful for how Marist Life has flourished over the last |





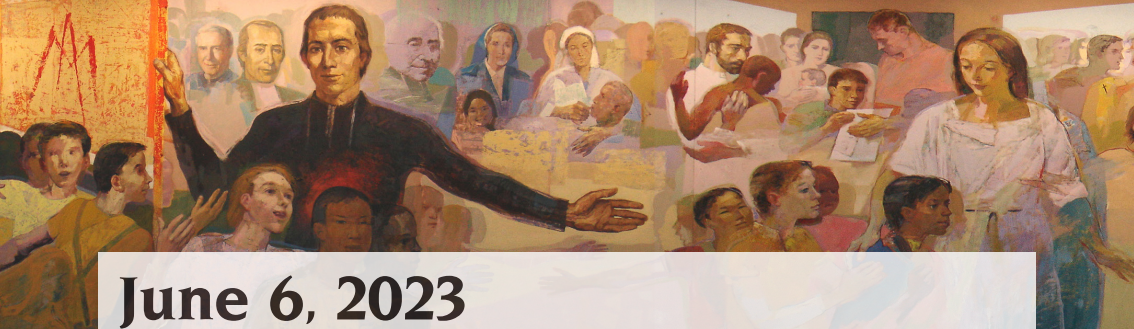
200 years, beginning with Marcellin, followed by the first brothers, and spreading extensively through the countless men and women who live the charism and continue the mission to this day.

d. Being profoundly thankful

for the gift of our vocation as Marist brothers and Marist lay men and women.

e. Responding actively, affectively, and creatively to the invitation to “look beyond”, to continue what was started during the year.





June 6, 2023

"You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail" (Is 58:11)

The inspiration that gave birth to this theme

During this year:

- We have rediscovered the original passion that inspired us to be Marists; thus, making us proclaim, "there is great value in being Marist today!"
- We became more aware of the importance of promoting and nourishing the diversity of Marist life and recognizing and supporting distinctive vocational paths.
- We have put initiatives in place to encourage the vocation of young people and develop a culture of vocations.
- We realized that when we care and nourish the sprouts of new life, they grow and bring the promise of 'bearing fruit in due time' (Ps 1:3). We dream that in caring for it, the plant will flourish into a "well-watered garden...with a spring whose waters never fail" (Is 58:11).



A. Institute Level

1. There will be a Mass at the General House at 6:00 PM on June 6, Feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat, as a thanksgiving for the life that was awakened and generated throughout the Institute in the animation of the Year of Marist Vocations, and for the gift of our vocation as brothers and lay Marists.
 - a. Present in this Mass will be the brothers of the General Council, General House and San Leone Magno communities, representatives of the Marist Fathers, the Marist Sisters, the Marist Missionary Sisters, the lay collaborators of the General House and their families, the brothers of the Gier Program 2023, and other invited guests and friends.
 - b. It will be **livestreamed**; we will be sending the invitation to all Marists of Champagnat from around the world to connect and celebrate with the whole Institute.
 - c. The **Mass will also be recorded**; the video will be shared to the Marist world afterwards, especially for the benefit of Marists who, for one reason or another, cannot follow the livestream.
2. During the Mass, **Br. Ernesto Sanchez will deliver his message** for the Feast of St. Marcellin alongside the conclusion of the Year of Marist Vocations.



- a. This message will also be recorded to be afterwards made available to all Marists of Champagnat through the website and could be used for local celebrations and/or gatherings, whether online or face-to-face, for the closure of the YMV.
3. The Mass will be animated by the **Brothers Today Secretariat** with the collaboration of the brothers of the General House and the Gier Program 2023, having a clear sense of gratitude for and recognition of the gift of the Marist vocation.

B. In the Administrative Units

We encourage the administrative units to celebrate the Feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat according to their respective customs but integrating the conclusion of the Year of Marist Vocations, especially with the idea of thanking God for the gift of our Marist vocation and looking beyond in continuing to care for and generating Marist life.

- a. The administrative units are invited to follow the livestream of the Mass to be celebrated in the General House. However, since not all will be able to connect, principally




because of differences in time zones, it will be recorded and made available afterwards in the Institute website.

b. Br. Ernesto Sanchez will write a message to all Marists on the celebration of the Feast of the Founder and the conclusion of the Year of Marist Vocations. This message, in full or in part, can also be a resource for the celebrations which the communities and ministries intend to have to mark this day.

c. The Secretariat of Brothers Today will offer a Guide for Celebrating the Closure of the Year of Marist Vocations, much like the Guide for the Opening of the Year of Marist Vocations that was published last year. This guide will be made available through the Institute website.





BEYOND JUNE 6, 2023

The International Commission of Brothers Today offers the following orientations for the “journey beyond” June 6, 2023, which you may adapt or enhance while maintaining the same perspective.

Point of Departure:

The **novena for the Feast of St. Marcellin begins on the 28th of May, Solemnity of Pentecost**. The next day, 29th, is the memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church and on the 31st of May, the Feast of the Visitation of Mary.

- a. All this speaks of being “born of the Spirit”, of “going forth” and of being able to “speak other languages”.
- b. There is a clear invitation to try to understand other cultures and understand the new generation (of young people).



c. The key point for refec-
tion for all of us, then, are
these questions: “What
am I called to do?” “To
what are we being called
as Marists?”

d. To be able to respond,
we seek inspiration in
our missionaries and
pioneers, with the chal-
lenge to “dare to go be-
yond”.

As Marists of Champagnat, we dare to:

A. In the community, local and personal levels

1. Be always conscious of the fact that vocation animation be-
gins with the care of one’s vocation and of “our companions
on the journey.”
2. Constantly remind ourselves to live with coherence and au-
thenticity, as the best means of attracting young people.
3. Create spaces to be with, to be near and listen to young peo-
ple, their restlessness, and their view of the present reality
and of the future.





4. Pay attention to what teenagers and young people, the young brothers, Church and civil groups, other congregations, etc., think about vocations and the religious life to discern with better clarity what is needed to make vocation ministry active, creative, affective, and effective.
5. Be creative and daring in finding occasions to “sit down” together, around the same table, as a community or as a Marist group to:
 - a. Reflect together on relevant themes (Vocation Culture, the present and the future of Marist life, dreams, worries, hopes...)
 - b. Share the echoes that emerged, e.g., the video of Br. Ernesto on Culture of Vocations, listening to vocation testimonies, Igniculus videos, the message of Pope Francis about vocations, the society and the situation of the world, the consecrated life...and others.
6. Be interested in and learn about the experiences and steps that are being taken at the level of the Institute and in the regions about vocation animation.



B. At the level of the Administrative Units and the Regions

1. To evaluate at the AU level how they have lived and developed the Year of Marist Vocations, and to reflect on the "what should not die" from the experiences of this year.
2. To gather from the different AU's and make known some experiences or initiatives, also some symbols, images, etc., that have been significant during the Year of Marist Vocations and offer a short description that expresses some of the fruits or "good practices" carried out during the YMV.
3. To accompany the experiences and initiatives that emerged during the Year of Marist Vocations.
4. To produce some visual material that can serve as a reminder to each brother and lay Marist of his/her important role in vocation animation (to be made visible in centers of ministry, communities and other spaces).
5. To offer concrete proposals to get the brothers (of different ages and mission) involved in vocation animation.
6. To designate a Marist Vocation Day (once a week or once a month) to:



- a. Pray for and remember those who have made a life choice and are undergoing vocational processes.
 - b. Remember significant moments, special celebrations, etc., of our formation houses (of the province, region, or the whole Institute)
 - c. Bear in mind the names and faces of the young men who are in the different stages of formation.
 - d. Pray for and remember those who are undergoing vocational processes as lay persons, be aware of events in the life of the Marist laity and events in Marist life where the lay are very much involved.
- 7. To offer formation to those who do vocational accompaniment, be it online or face-to-face.
 - 8. To organize regular meetings of the Vocation Animation Teams in the region (and in the province).

9. To share each AU's Vocational Plan (at meetings, either online or face-to-face).

10. To continue encouraging the work of vocation animation in collaboration with other congregations and the local church.



C. Institute Level

1. To promote connections among those who are in formation (pre-novices, novices, scholastics) in the process creating a Network of Initial Formation which will strengthen the sense of global family.
2. To organize institute-level online meetings of young brothers in apostolic communities, whether in the local, regional or Institute levels.
3. To take advantage of World Youth Day to make the Marist vocation known (as a possible life option).
4. To be creative in offering to young people messages that are “alive” so that they may know about Marist Life.
5. Continue with “Igniculus” but adapted to young people.
6. To continue the regular online meeting of the Network of Vocation Animators.





There is great value in
being Marist today.

caring for and generating

MARIST LIFE

YEAR OF MARIST VOCATIONS

20 MAY 2022 - 06 JUNE 2023



Institute of the Marist Brothers
Secretariat Brothers Today
20 may 2023