



# **3<sup>RD</sup> MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION ASSEMBLY**

**(MIMA III)**

**8-14 APRIL 2023**

**EL ESCORIAL, MADRID, SPAIN**

- I. Letter of Invitation from the Superior General
- II. Letter from the Preparatory Commission
- III. Theme and Logo
- IV. Participants
- V. Process
- VI. Resources
  - Worksheet 1
  - Worksheet 2
  - Worksheet 3
  - Worksheet 4



## I. Letter of Invitation from the Superior General Third International Assembly of the Marist Mission

Dear Marists of Champagnat,

Receive my greetings from Rome, wishing you well, living with courage and energy the Marist Mission in the Institute.

Next April 2024, we wish to hold the Third International Marist Mission Assembly. It is an important Assembly, with the presence of brothers and lay people from all the Administrative Units of the Institute, to share and reflect on the Marist Mission in our days and with the desire to have a vision for the future.

In the past years, we have held two International Mission Assemblies, prior to the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> General Chapters, whose reflection and input helped the Capitulants. The first was in 2007, in Mendes, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with the theme: "One heart, one mission". The second was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2014, with the theme: "New Marists in Mission". We hope that this Third Assembly, which will be held in El Escorial, Spain, with the theme "We are a Global Family", will also offer reflections and suggestions for the next General Chapter.

I am grateful for the work that the Preparatory Commission for this Third Assembly has been doing, coordinated by the Secretariat for Education and Evangelization and with the support of the Secretariat for Solidarity. Practical indications will be sent to you in relation to the Assembly and also suggestions for processes of reflection at the local and Provincial or District levels.

Thanks to all the Provinces and Districts for their participation and for the processes that will be carried out, in order to continue walking together, as a global Marist family, in the life and mission of the Marist charism. Mary, our Good Mother and Marcellin, our Founder, continue to inspire and encourage us on our journey.

Fraternally yours,

H. Ernesto Sánchez Barba  
Superior General

*Ernesto*



## II. Letter from the Preparatory Commission

Dear Marists of Champagnat,

The 22nd General Chapter extended an invitation to us to "Journey together as a Global Family." Though some time has passed since this invitation was first proclaimed, the sentiment remains strong among Marists in our Institute, inspiring deep reflection on the concept of a global, charismatic family without boundaries.

In alignment with the spirit of the 22nd General Chapter and the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Hermitage, the Preparatory Commission for the 3rd Marist International Mission Assembly (MIMA III) wholeheartedly invites Marists of Champagnat from across the world to join us on the path towards the third Mission Assembly, themed "*We are a Global Family.*" As outlined in the Marist Brothers Constitutions, Article 119.3, the International Assembly serves as a platform to exchange experiences, grasp the current social landscape, discern priorities, and propose future orientations and strategies for our Marist mission worldwide.

MIMA III is scheduled to take place from April 8-14, 2024, in El Escorial, Madrid, Spain. Each Administrative Unit will nominate representatives, including both Brothers and lay Marists, who are engaged in the mission, education, and evangelization of children and young people, particularly those who are marginalized and in need.

However, the journey does not begin on the first day of the Assembly; it begins with each individual's life as a Marist of Champagnat, interwoven with the broader community or workgroup to which they belong. Therefore, all are encouraged to participate in the preparatory phases (at the Local, Province/District levels) of this MIMA III pilgrimage. We extend an invitation "to look beyond" the present and envision the future of Marist mission through discernment, dialogue, and prayer.

To facilitate this process, materials will be distributed to aid each Marist of Champagnat in discerning and envisioning the future of Marist mission with courage, audacity, and hope. These materials are adaptable for use as each individual sees fit.

We strongly encourage everyone to remain attentive to local-level announcements as discussions commence. Our aim is to involve as many Marists as possible, including Brothers, lay adults, and young individuals within your schools, Fraternities, Marist Movements, and in all our missions across the globe. We invite you to reflect upon and share your life experiences as Marists in mission.

Every voice matters. Your thoughts and ideas will form the foundation for further discussions at the Provincial Level and, ultimately, inspire the work of the Spirit during the 3rd Marist International Mission Assembly.

We extend a heartfelt invitation to all Marists of Champagnat to actively engage in this journey and discover the richness of our Marist "Global Charismatic Family."

With Warm Regards,

The Preparatory Commission








### III. Theme and Logo



#### Why the slogan, “We are a global family”?

A lot of time has passed since the last Marist International Mission Assembly and many things had happened: a pandemic, a world health crisis, structural changes in the Institute and in the Church, a much greater rapprochement between all the regions of the Institute and a greater awareness of being a global Marist family. We wanted to reflect an increasingly strong feeling in the Institute: to be a family, charismatic and without frontiers, as Marcellin wanted and the Marist of Champagnat’s 22nd General Chapter for the vitality and viability of Marist life and mission.

#### What does the logo represent?

 WORLD	GLOBAL SENSE
 L'HERMITAGE	FIDELITY, LEGACY, FRATERNITY
 WINDOWS	VISUALIZE THE FUTURE
 DOORS	WELCOME
 GIER RIVER	BUILD, ADVANCE, TRANSFORM



The logo is made up of several elements, significant within the Institute, the World or World Map, gives us the global sense, the presence and experience of our mission in the five continents and various countries. The house of the Hermitage reminds us that we remain faithful to the legacy and dream of Marcellin Champagnat. Its windows continue to invite us to visualize the future and its doors remind us that our homes should always be a place of welcome and fraternity. Also, we remember the 200 years of its construction, on the banks of the GIER River, which invites us to continue moving forward as a Marist global family, witnesses of unity and hope, and constantly building and transforming the lives of children and young people especially the most neglected ones, the lay people, and the brothers.

#### IV. Participants

In order to live, share, reflect, dream and contribute to each ENCOUNTER, in the development of the worksheets of the preparatory phases, brothers, lay people, collaborators, teachers, parents, adults and young people who share our Marist charism and mission are invited.

Each Administrative Unit chooses their delegates to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marist International Mission Assembly in El Escorial on April 8-14, 2024. The manner of selecting the delegates is left at the discretion of each Administrative Unit. The number of delegates to be sent to the Assembly for each Province or District is indicated in the list of delegates prepared by the Preparatory Commission and approved by the Superior General and his Council. The maximum number of delegates per AU is four (4) and the minimum is two (2). This is so, because of financial reason.

All in all, the grand total delegates for the MIMA III are 120 (80 from respective AUs, 40 from General Administration and guest delegates). The decision on the number of delegates for every AU is based on the number of mission ministries in every Province/District.

It is recommended that in the process of selecting the delegates for the Assembly, each Administrative Unit considers the following:

Delegate Profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- committed and dedicated to Marist life and mission;</li> <li>- capable of carrying the voice of the Administrative Unit or area in which he/she belongs;</li> <li>- has the knowledge about the mission experiences of the</li> </ul>
------------------	--



	<p>Administrative Unit itself, as well as the challenges it is currently facing; and,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- able to dialogue with others to build together the future of the Marist mission.</li> </ul>
Principles of Representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- more number of lay Marists than brothers among the delegates;</li> <li>- 50:50 ratio between men and women delegates;</li> <li>- Representation from among the different mission areas in the AUs.</li> </ul>

The chosen participants/delegates of the Assembly will serve as animators or the general coordinators for the preparatory process both in the local and Province/District phases. They are the responsible persons to bring the reflection and contribution of the Province/District to the Assembly.

## V. Process

### 1. Adaptable Phases

#### Local Phase

The journey towards the attainment of the main goal of the International Assembly begins with one's own life as a Marist and it proceeds along the process of sharing this life with others in the community or work group to which one belongs. This embodies the sense of family and extends the round-table dynamics used in the General Chapters that promote space for dialogue and listening.

The first phase includes the time to study and analyze the MIMA III documents (such as the letter of the Superior General and the assigned adaptable worksheets in this phase) at the personal and community levels. It could be done in small groups of brothers, laity, young people and persons who collaborate in the different Marist ministries and who belong to communities and movements (such as the Champagnat Movement, Marist Youth, Solidarity groups, etc.) or participate in other Marist ministries and initiatives.



The examples of these encounters of small groups who could discern together about Marist Mission are as follows:

A. Encounters in respective units/areas in the Province/District:

- Among brothers in each community;
- Laity and brothers who belong to communities and movements (such as the Marist Associates and Champagnat movement);
- Laity and brothers who participate/collaborate in other Marist ministries and initiatives (such as Marist Volunteers, Solidarity, Youth Ministry, etc.); and,
- Among young people (Marist youth ministry).

B. Departmental or Institutional encounters in school academic community:

- Brothers and laity connected/affiliated in the Marist school ministry;
- Brothers, laity and student representatives; and,
- Students (young people) from higher level departments.

With the three (3) adaptable worksheets available for this phase, we are suggesting that there will be at least two meetings to be conducted by the small groups. This is to ensure that along the journey towards the Assembly, we would be:

- guided by the spirit of the General Chapters and International Assemblies (worksheet 1: 'L HERMITAGE);
- having a wider knowledge about the fronts of Marist Mission at the global level and better space for reflection (worksheet 2: WINDOWS AND DOORS); and,
- discerning what are the invitations now based on the realizations about our involvement in the Church and understanding of the current social realities (worksheet 3: WORLD).

The materials can be adjusted and simplified if the animation team considers that they are seemingly not fitted at the group's level such as the group with the young people. Our suggestions on what the group can do are as follows:

- simplify the worksheets recommended for use in the local phase or select from among the worksheets only those that you consider fit to the level of the group such as with young people;
- select the reading materials from the selected worksheets those that you feel suitable to their level; and,



- adjust or simplify, when needed, the questions found in the selected worksheets to ensure their feasibility and significance among group such as with the young people.

Moreover, in this phase, the groups may wish to use either face-to-face or on-line gatherings. However, both may also be possible to use since the recommendation is to have at least two group encounters .

The experiences about Marist mission identified as sources of inspiration, vitality, hope (new experiences which evolved and need nurturance), and also the challenges and ideas about the future of the Marist mission will be shared and recorded. It is recommendable that in every group sharing, someone will be assigned as the group's facilitator and another to collect and synthesize what had been shared.

During the last meeting of each group, we are suggesting that the group will arrive at conclusions, and prepare a report to be submitted to the assigned general coordinator/s of the Administrative Unit. The coordinator/s then, will collect and summarize the submitted reports from the different groups and make them available for the Province/District phase.

### **Province/District Phase**

The second phase is the stage where the reports from the local phase will not only be consolidated but also be prioritized. In this way, the idea of dreaming and projecting the future of the Marist mission as a global family can be further realized.

Each Province/District organizes this stage according to its local situation. In order to help the Unit, we are proposing some ideas that the Province/District can consider at this level. They are as follows:

#### **Option 1:**

To organize a small group (which may include the general coordinators and local coordinators) in the Province/District level to come together to synthesize and prioritize all the ideas or points that were submitted as reports by the different groups in the local phase.

#### **Option 2:**

To organize a Sector's event in the Unit with the participation of representatives from the local phase.





### **Option 3:**

To organize a Province/District Assembly with the participation of representatives from the local phase.

For option 1, we request that after the process of synthesizing and prioritizing the ideas pertaining to the future of Marist Mission, the group comes up with a report to be given to the Provincial/District Superior. For options 2 and 3, we recommend that the general coordinators together with the rest of the team members will meet first before the scheduled gathering (Sector or Province) in order to consolidated all the ideas or points on Marist Mission that were submitted as reports by the different groups in the local phase level. During the online gathering, the team presents the results before the different representatives from the Province/District and then, proceed to the animation of the process of dreaming and projecting the future together as a global family in Mission. A report is also expected after the gathering.

To facilitate communication with the different groups globally as well as to be flexible and cost savings, an on-line encounter for this phase is recommended. In addition, the worksheet number four (4) can help to facilitate the whole process of synthesizing and prioritizing. Like the other worksheets, it can also be simplified and adjusted.

Lastly, we would like to reiterate our request for a report that may contain 2 or 3 dreams and possible courses of action that can mobilize and challenge us in the coming years as a global charismatic family in mission. This report will be sent on behalf of the Province/District to MIMA III in El Escorial.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Marist International Mission Assembly Phase**

The main calls and challenges from each Administrative Unit that had gone through a communal discernment and were prioritized during the Provincial/District phase will be brought to the International Assembly in El Escorial, Madrid, in Spain. The participants of the Assembly will have them as valuable inputs that will play a big part in the Assembly's discernment process. The output of the Assembly will serve as a message for the entire Marist Institute.



## Post MIMA III Phase (Regional Phase)

The final phase will be the giving of feedback from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marist International Mission Assembly through a local assembly organized in each Region of the Institute. Every Marist of Champagnat and every Marist group in the world who took part in the preparation process, will get the message from the International Assembly. To facilitate easy dissemination of information, we endorse an online gathering as well as any efficient way that each AU sees possible in their respective situations.

The message from the International Assembly will be forwarded to the next Marist General Chapter to serve as an input for reflection. With this, the preparatory commission is inviting each Marist of Champagnat in the Institute to take part in the preparation process. The active participation of each person is to ensure having a message that is not only comprehensive and significant but also a message that is truly grounded from the Marists of Champagnat's experiences of mission.

## 2. Some proposals in the organization process

We suggest that you take note some important points in the organizational process. They are as follows:

- that in the preparatory process, the general coordinator/s (delegates for the Assembly) may create a team composed of different chosen individuals from different local areas to help in the process of animation especially in the local phase.
- that for each meeting there will be a person assigned to lead the reflection and activities indicated in the worksheet and another person to act as a secretary. The secretary will send the minutes of each meeting to the general coordinator of the AU through the local coordinator.
- that you agree on the days and times of the meetings of this journey. It could be two or more meetings scheduled in different days.
- that each of the session should have the following (the duration of the session may last for about two hours):
  - Prayer:  
It can be done at the beginning or end of the session. It would be great to have it in a space set for it and with a quiet time and according to the theme.



- Secretariat and organization:  
It would be a good idea to select one person to provide secretarial and one person to provide coordination services.
- Date:  
Do not forget to remember the date and place of the next session, as well as the person who will motivate the reflection.
- Materials:  
Audiovisual for the introduction, projector and speakers, pens, copy of the sheet for each participant, place set for the prayer or according to the sheet.
- Introduction:  
It is good to situate each meeting and explain the meaning of each one.
- Organization of the group:  
It is important to bring calendars and agendas to the meeting. It is good to motivate the group.

## VI. Resources

The Preparatory Commission of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marist International Mission Assembly is offering a set of reflection worksheets designed to help facilitate the preparation process for both the local phase and the Province/District phase.

The worksheets, in particular, intend to:

- a.) guide and nurture the preparation process of the Assembly within the spirit of the latest General Chapters and International Assemblies;
- b.) provide a better knowledge and space for reflection about the fronts of Marist Mission at the global level;
- c.) facilitate the reflection of the extent of our involvement and commitment in the Church and society and discern what are the invitations now based on these realizations about our involvement in the Church and understanding of the current social realities;
- d.) assist the way for the Province/District to celebrate the road that had been traveled, discern, dream and project together the Marist Mission for its vitality and constant actualization or embodiment of the charism in today's time and the future.



All who share Marist mission who are involved in the preparation phases are encouraged to use the resource materials. These materials are adaptable for use as each individual sees fit.

## 1. When and how to use the worksheets?

We would like to propose the use of reflection worksheets to help us deepen our personal, community, and institutional experiences as Marists of Champagnat about Marist mission.

Within the context of our own life experience as Marists of Champagnat and as God's people, the Church, the reality of the world we live in, and the lives of the children and young people who are poor and neglected, we listen to God calling us together as a global family, in the spirit of the 22nd General Chapter and the International Assemblies held in Brazil and Nairobi.

We suggest to use the reflection worksheets freely, according to the sensitivity and culture of each Marist situation in the world. The number of groups to be organized, as well as the criteria to integrate each group, will be up to each Administrative Unit. The groups may address all the proposed adaptive reflection worksheets or just a selection of them, although we believe it is important to study the reflection worksheets which are interrelated and inseparable aspects of Marist mission.

Furthermore, the Preparatory Commission invites you to read the preliminary documents as an introduction to the process in the local phase. We encourage you to study the worksheets in the spirit of the theme of the Assembly, "WE ARE A GLOBAL FAMILY".

## 2. Four (4) Adaptive Reflection Worksheets

The Preparatory Commission for the 3rd Marist International Mission Assembly had prepared four (4) reflection worksheets. The intention is to ensure that a significant contribution of ideas for the Marist mission can be achieved.

The first, second and third reflection worksheets are suggested to be used during the local phase and the fourth will be for the Province/District phase.

In its structure, the worksheets have moments of motivation, reflection, sensitization, sharing of experiences, and prayer. They contain questions that invite us to dream and project the future.

To make these meetings more dynamic, each worksheet is designed to represent a part of the logo. In the final meeting, we put together all the parts of the logo to have the whole logo that expresses our being Marists of Champagnat, that "WE ARE A GLOBAL FAMILY".



- Worksheet 1 aims to orient the participants in the context of the message of the Assemblies of Mendes and Nairobi as well as the commitment made to these assemblies. It also tells them of the messages of the last two General Chapters to figure out if they have been fulfilled, transmitted or just remained in notes. The process aims to lead us to understand what the next Assembly intends. The preliminaries and the worksheet 1 are shared in the same first meeting. (Theme: "WE ARE A GLOBAL FAMILY" - element of the logo 'L HERMITAGE)
- Worksheet 2 presents the fronts of Mission at the global level to provide a space for reflection that allows us to know, guide and give our opinion with knowledge. (Theme: "MARIST MISSION TODAY" - elements of the logo WINDOWS AND DOORS)
- Worksheet 3 invites all to reflect on one's involvement as Marists of Champagnat in the documents, messages and commitment of church and society. (Theme: "REFERENTS OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY" - element of the WORLD logo)
- Worksheet 4 encourages all Marists of Champagnat to discern and project the future of the Marist mission with audacity and hope. It is the last meeting of the celebration and commitment where we listen to each other and we project together the future of Marist life and mission. (Theme: TOWARDS THE 3RD MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION ASSEMBLY – elements of the logo RIO GIER)

