



WORKSHEET 2: “THE MARIST MISSION TODAY”

3RD MARIST INTERNATIONAL MISSION ASSEMBLY

1. MOTIVATION

We are sons and daughters of a promise. On July 23, 1816, at the feet of Our Lady in the Shrine of Fourvière in Lyon, Marcellin Champagnat, a newly ordained priest, promised, accompanied by other young men who had left the formation of the Seminary of Saint Irenaeus, to found a Society dedicated to working for the greater glory of God and Mary.

Trusting in Mary’s maternal love, they knelt down and, before her, Our Lady of Fourvière placed their dreams on her lap. With the same ardor, they uttered the promise: “We solemnly promise to give ourselves, ourselves and all that we have, to save souls by all means, under the most august name of the Virgin Mary and under her auspices”.

Every diocese in the world had plans to “make Jesus Christ known and loved”. No child, adolescent or young person without knowing how much Jesus Christ loves them. Thus was born the Marist Mission which, under the watchful eye of Mary, is spreading more and more throughout the archdioceses of the world, as Champagnat foretold. Today there are many of us, brothers, laymen and laywomen spread throughout the world. According to Furet, Champagnat said: “We need brothers, we need brothers who teach the catechism, help the missionaries and educate the children”. Today, he certainly added: we also need laypeople committed to their baptism and to the Marist charism: spirituality, mission and shared life.

From an early age, Marcellin Champagnat demonstrated his capacity for entrepreneurship. He was realistic and visionary, constantly looking for new possibilities. He also always looked to the future, always looking beyond, because he said that “all the dioceses of the world are in our plans” (INSTITUTE OF THE MARIST BROTHERS, 1986, p. 254). It is from this perspective and from the fidelity of Champagnat’s many successors that we can reflect today on the various missionary fronts of the Marist Institute throughout the world.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE SECOND SESSION

- To know the different faces of Marist Mission today, as a Global Family;
- Connect with brothers, laypeople and collaborators on the Institute’s various missionary fronts;
- To understand the greatness of the Marist Institute and its possibilities.

3. WORKING DYNAMICS WITH THE BASIC TEXT

ENVIRONMENT:

Pictures of the Good Mother and Champagnat, a candle, a Bible, photos of flowers that depict the mission and the reality of the action, documents that refer to the origin of the Institute and ambient music. (For this file, the element of the logo that we will use in the decorative part are the windows and doors, they can be the basis for locating the photos or images)

- In the previously prepared space, we invited all the participants to a shared reading of each missionary front.
- After each topic has been read, we should take a personal moment to reflect.
- At the end of the reading, we will share experiences, dreams and plans for the future with the questions below.

4. TIME TO SHARE EXPERIENCES AND REALITIES

With an open heart and mind, we are invited to look at the present and dream of the future. Allow the various realities to gently touch your heart. Make your experiences and realities known, turning this moment into a network of connections that further strengthens each participant's sense of belonging to the Institute. We can separate groups of two to share the first question, then four to share the second and six the third.

- What have we discovered about the Marist mission and presence around the world?
- What missionary fronts do we have in our province or district?
- What realities and needs do these works respond to?

5. IT'S TIME TO DREAM AND PROJECT

Dreaming is a verb, it's following, it's thinking, it's inspiring, it's forcing, it's insisting, it's fighting, it's sweating. (Bráulio Bessa)

With the above awareness and reflection, we will dream together by answering the following questions which are a direct contribution to our April 2024 Assembly. We invite you to divide into small groups, if you consider it necessary, or into a single group, appointing a secretary.

1. What mission fronts do we want to innovate and/or strengthen?
2. What are the main challenges?

6. PRAYER TIME

We stand around the altar, light the candle and give thanks to God for all our Marist work and mission.

- ❖ We invite you to pray a Hail Mary for each mission area we have reflected on: For our schools and universities... Hail Mary and place a flower at Mary's feet.
- ❖ As Marcellin Champagnat trusted our good Mother immensely, we continued to place ourselves under her protection and said goodbye with the prayer of REMEMBER.

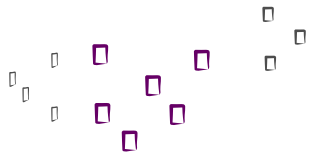
PRAYER OF REMEMBRANCE

Remember, O most pious Virgin Mary, that it has never been heard that any of those who have appealed to you for protection, begged for your help and claimed your assistance have been abandoned by you.

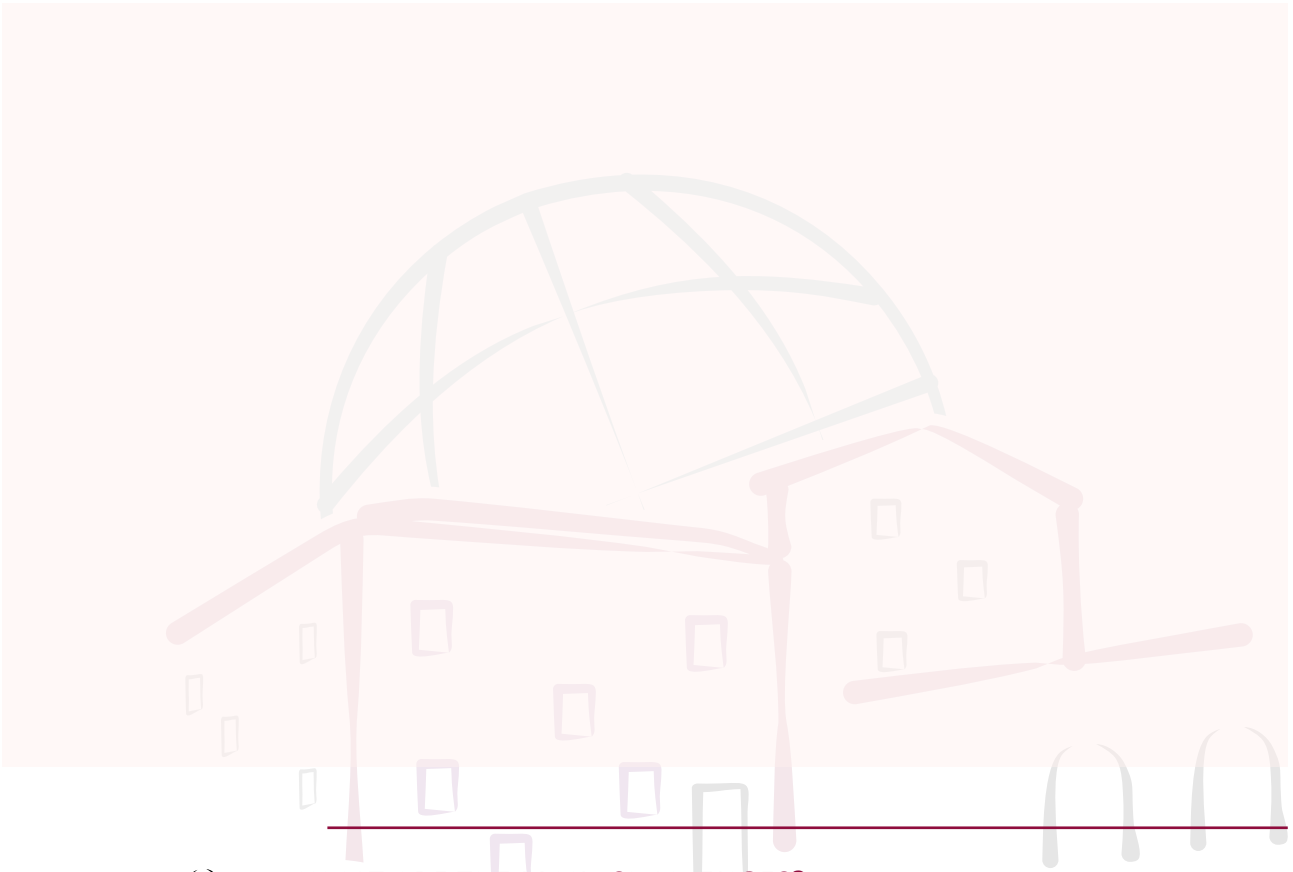
So I turn with equal confidence to you, Virgin among all the singular, as I turn to my Mother. I am proud of you, and groaning under the weight of my sins, I prostrate myself at your feet. Do not reject my supplications, O Mother of the humanized Son of God, but desire to hear them favorably and to obtain for me what I ask of you. Amen.



IT'S TIME TO DREAM AND PROJECT:



WHAT ARE THE MISSION FRONTS THAT WE WANT TO INNOVATE AND/OR STRENGTHEN?



**WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES?
DO WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THEM?**



