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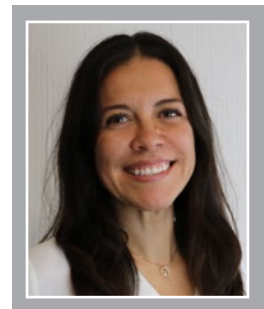
# Making decisions as a Marist laywoman, exercising servant and prophetic leadership

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“Good communication leads to effective leadership. This is because good communication inspires and motivates followers to work harder to achieve institutional goals.”

(Marist Voices, chap.13 - Br. Cyprian Gandebo)

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## **Why is it important to apply servant and prophetic leadership?**

As Champagnat Lay Marist collaborators, we are invited to be part of the Global Charismatic Family. In my case it has been a transforming experience which has helped me strengthen the integration of my personal and professional life.

Little by little, I have been able to put into practice Marist values, mission, and charism and, consequently, to generate life together with my work-team, guided and accompanied by Marist Brothers. Thanks to the brothers' formation, their trust and their example, decision-making concerning the activities of the work itself takes place in a very personal and participative way, because it is achieved together and thus both parties share responsibility for the growth of the Administrative Unit.

## **What inspires me to live a more servant and prophetic leadership?**

One source of inspiration is our Good Mother, a woman who embodied her servant-self in an unselfish life because she knew that what was coming would be for the common good, the greater good of many. This leads us to understand that collaborating with others means that their opinion and their input are relevant; as leaders it is our responsibility to foster in them a culture of participation and change.

## **What elements are key to better servant and prophetic leadership?**

I consider it important to take the following into account:



- Apply active listening with the work team and with other leaders.
- As lay people, it is essential to work closely with the Brothers.
- Not forgetting the mission. Let us remember that Marcellin's example of service and that of the Good Mother are timeless and help us to innovate in the present.
- As leaders we are responsible for empowering our staff through training and constant follow-up, giving them the confidence to be leaders in the future.

### **How to live a servant and prophetic leadership?**

The Communications Department is very dynamic. We develop challenging projects that need to be dealt with in a prompt and excellent way. Not imposing a pyramid structure is something that has helped me in my role as a leader. Each member of the team is a link with his/her own area of expertise and responsibility. By bringing these links together, we are able to form a virtuous circle of collaborative experiences that is pleasantly reflected in the performance of the Administrative Unit.

We have constant evaluation-processes and annual reviews that help each member expand in areas of opportunity personally and as part of a department. This has led us to increase our commitment as agents of change.

Let us be sources of inspiration that generate Marist Life by our example of servant and prophetic leadership. We must love to serve others for the common good.



The opinions expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Marist Institute.

If you would like to share your ideas, reflections, or experiences about servant and prophetic leadership with the Commission as a result of these reflections, write to [fms.cimm@fms.it](mailto:fms.cimm@fms.it)