



INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCAATION

STAGE II
July 2021 - June 2022

WELCOMING, NURTURING, LIVING AND SHARING OUR VOCATION. Formation and mentoring

Sheet 2

ITINERARIES AND PROCESSES OF FORMATION AND MENTORING - SHEET 2

WE CARE FOR OUR PROGRESS IN MARIST LIFE

A. Introduction

The identity of the lay Marist is shaped through a process of discernment of God's call to follow Jesus in Mary's way, according to Champagnat's charism. This journey is a process of personal growth, as a Christian and as a Marist. It is a journey of falling in love with God, lived as a personal response to the one who first loved us. It is a journey that takes place in the heart of a Church-communion, together with many other people who live by the same charism. This personal and community journey is accompanied by a specific Formation itinerary.

It is important to remember that, when we speak of a vocational *itinerary*, we are referring to the set of progressive growth experiences that have been designed and organised by the formation team and offered to people as part of their journey of faith. On the other hand, when we speak of *process*, we refer to how each person has his or her own way of interiorising the charism, and making a unique vocational response, with its own rhythm.

B. Experiential Moment

To begin with, we can use a simple activity with some photos focusing on "our experience of the process of becoming Christian and Marist, and our vocational itinerary":

- On a table or cloth, placed in the centre, arrange a collection of images or photos that show us characteristics

about: process, itinerary, difficulties, journey, obstacles, forks in the road, walking, climbing, goals, accompaniment, community, mission, etc... (A proposal is attached.)

- We look at the photos in silence for a few minutes. We focus on one or two that best represent what we feel like expressing (you can pick them up or leave them where they are in case someone else has also chosen them). Then we share what we are feeling, what ideas are welling up within from what we have observed.
 - a) When we feel ready, we share some memory of our own journey, the itinerary we have followed or our personal process of becoming Marist.
 - b) In a second round, we can talk together about how we value our experience, what has been the most outstanding or significant part of this journey?

C. The light of faith

Below you will find some texts that offer food for thought on this topic of Itineraries and Processes. We invite you to do a shared reading of these texts, highlighting what strikes you or challenges you in a special way. After the reading, the most important thing is to have time for dialogue and reflection.



The texts are:

- **Texto 1:** Sharing charism and mission with laypeople. A Gospel-based Family as our goal. (Antonio Botana FSC)
- **Texto 2:** Spiritual itinerary ([pathway in Marist Lexicon](#))
- **Texto 3:** Process ([in Marist Lexicon](#))

For the moment of sharing, you can be guided by the following questions or others that you want to pursue:

- What are the highlights of each article?
- What insight do they provide for understanding what you are experiencing in your faith and Marist journey?
- What personal and community challenges emerge from these articles?



The documents can be found in the attachments to this sheet.

A faith-sharing moment

After the community sharing, we take a little time in silence to treasure what resonates most in our hearts. Maybe 5 minutes.

I remember the beginning of the meeting, the savouring of our lives, listening to others and sharing of some of our own history. Also, the reading of the enlightening texts and our shared dialogue as a believing community.

What do I treasure in my heart from all this? What do I discover as the living Word of God?

I thank, I praise, I entreat... the Lord

I read silently the Gospel text from Luke 24, 32

- which reminds us of the road to Emmaus that Jesus took with two of his disciples
- and which speaks to us of how he accompanies us in our process of growth in faith.



(I can repeat the following several times, like a simple mantra).

**Were not our hearts
burning with us while he
talked with us along the
way?**



D. Personal, group and Province calls

In this part it is important that the secretary takes notes of the ideas expressed and saves them. They will be very useful for the last Summary Meeting.

After listening to the personal experiences on Itineraries and Processes, the background dialogue and the reflection generated by the selected excerpts; we share our answers to the following questions:

- What would you say are the three most relevant

elements in the formation of a lay Marist?

- What strengths and weaknesses do you see in the current formation and accompaniment of lay Marists at the level of ...
 - a) individuals,
 - b) groups and
 - c) the Province / District?
- What steps should be taken to improve the formation itineraries and processes for lay Marists in the Province (or where they do not exist, to begin)?

Presenting what we have experienced to the Lord

1. Song

To begin this time of prayer, a song is proposed that speaks to us of a journey, of a process, of sharing in community.

[Gen Rosso - Resta Qui Con Noi \(Live Streaming Edit\)](#) [\(with English sub-titles\)](#)



STAY WITH US OH LORD

The shadows they are falling
 Hear the evening calling
 The mountains they call out to me
 And the whisper of your voice
 I hear the melody of eternity
 I feel your holy presence with me
 A new beginning
 The troubled past is ending
 As we walk towards this new day
 You and I

Stay with us oh Lord
 The day is nearly gone
 Stay with us oh Lord
 The night will never come

Your presence flows around me
 In the sea of love you give me
 And it's hard to just imagine
 What my life was like

Before you came and broke
 The confines of my soul
 And what was broken Lord you made it whole
 (It burns so bright)
 (We're blinded by your light)
 As we walk towards this new day
 You and I

Stay with us oh Lord (just stay with us oh Lord)
 The day is nearly gone (we need you Lord)
 Stay with us oh Lord (just...)

Before us humanity struggles, suffers and hopes
 like a parched land holding out
 for water from a cloudless sky,
 but just knowing that new life can emerge.
 With you we will be a spring of pure water,
 with You among us the desert will blossom.

Stay with us oh Lord...



Reading

The following text from the Gospel of Luke can be shared in the group:

Luke 24, 29 – 35

But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the

road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

A concrete reminder

(For this reminder you will need a small empty backpack, enough pencils for everyone and cards for everyone to write on.)

After sharing the reading, we have a moment of prayer. For this, we are invited to share our answers to the following questions:

What is the Good News that you have received in this gathering?

What has set your heart on fire today?

We take a short moment of silence to reflect and then write down our Good News on one of the cards provided. When everyone has finished, each person begins by reading their Good News and putting it into the backpack, which is placed in the centre of the community. Then another person follows and does the same, and so on until the end. At the end, one by one, you can take the backpack, hold it and pass it on to another person. This symbolises that the process happening in each of us is being accompanied by everyone else.

At the end, everyone takes a hold of the backpack and reads the final prayer together.





Final Prayer

Lord Jesus,
I grab hold of keys,
so I can open doors for you.
I put on my shoes,
to walk in your ways.
I put on a ring,
to commit myself to you.
I get dressed
to go out into your wide world.
I put my watch back on,
to keep time with you.
I take my pen with me,

to write your thoughts.
I check my diary,
so as not to forget your appointments with me,
nor my appointments with you.
I put on my glasses,
so I can see the world your way.
I toss my backpack on
to be a bearer of your Good News.

...

Thank you for accompanying me every day of my life.



#MaristInternationalForum



Institute of the Marist Brothers - Secretariat of Laity
Piazzale Marcellino Champagnat, 2 - Rome, Italy

Site
Facebook
E-Mail

<http://www.champagnat.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/comunica@fms.it>
comunica@fms.it

