



# INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCAATION

PHASE II - AU LEVEL  
July 2021 - June 2022

WELCOMING, NURTURING, LIVING AND SHARING OUR VOCATION.

Guidelines  
and suggestions

LOCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS GATHERINGS

PHASE II - JULY 2021 TO JUNE 2022

## GUIDELINES AND SUGGESTIONS for Province and District Ministry Teams

### HE BEGAN TO WALK WITH THEM (Lk 24, 15)

The Extended Secretariat of the Laity offers these materials for personal and group reflection and discernment. They are designed to help all of us engage in the process of dialogue that characterises the International Forum. We are all important and all contributions will be valued in this exercise of reflection in which thousands of Marists will be participating.

We ask the Province/District Teams responsible for leading the Forum process in Phase II to carefully review all the materials before using them. If you consider it necessary, you can contact the link person of the Extended Secretariat of the Laity in your Region to ask any questions you may have. We are at your service.

These materials have been designed to respond to the objectives and themes that are guiding the overall process of the International Forum:

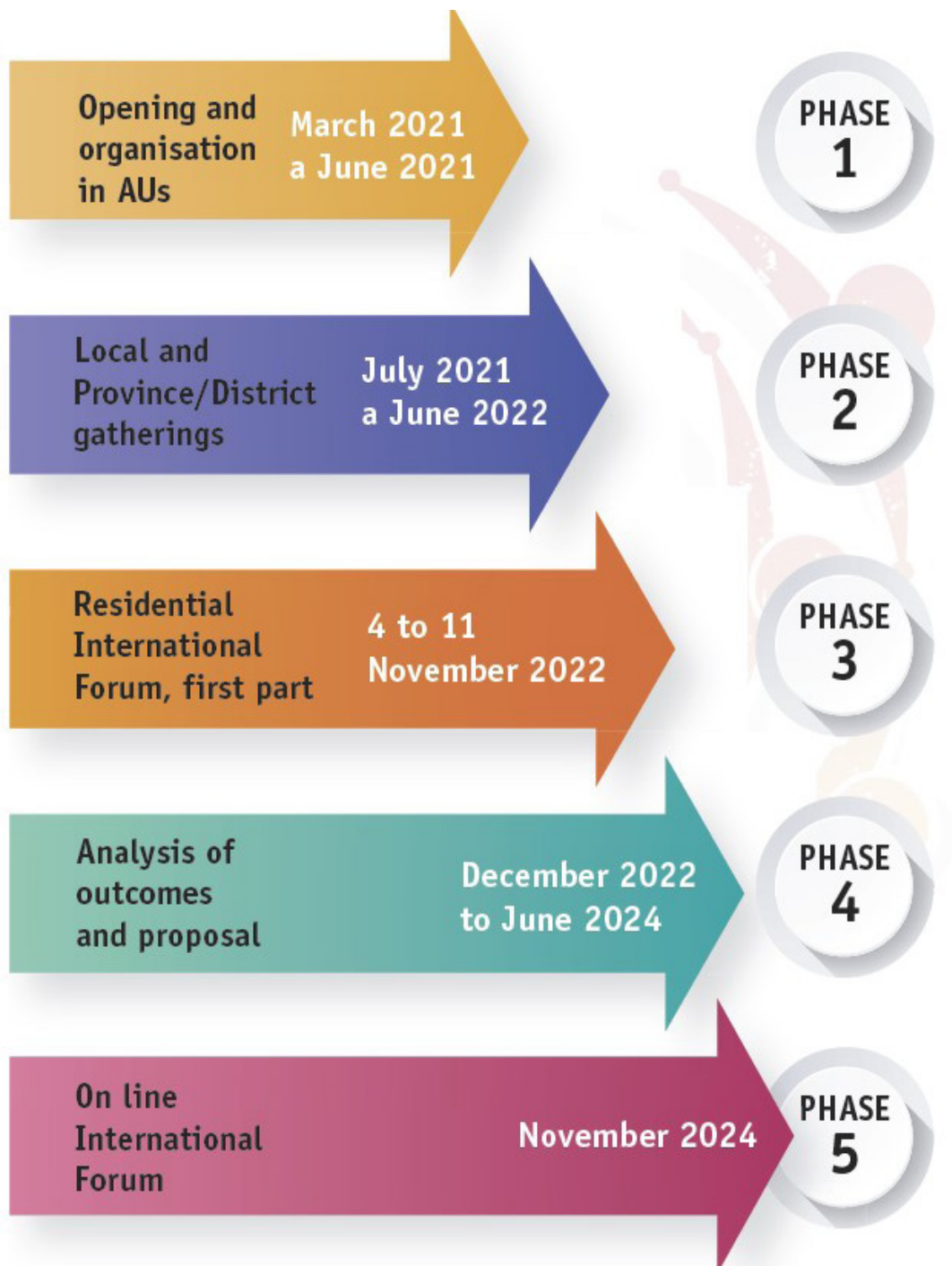
- To deepen our understanding of the **Marist vocation** with particular emphasis on the **lay Marist vocation**.
- To review and offer **formation and mentoring processes and pathways** for laypeople to grow in their vocation.
- To reflect on and propose **possible forms of bonding and belonging** to the Marist charism.
- To know, reflect, explore and propose **possibilities of juridical structures (civil and canonical)** for Marist laypeople.



**PHASES IN THE PROCESS:**

This journey of reflection and discernment has several phases that will be characterised mainly by a participative dialogue process within Administrative Units and at the international level, beginning in March 2021 and ending in November 2024. For the Administrative Units, meetings for reflection in small groups are foreseen and, at the international level, a face-to-face Forum will be held in Rome from 4 to 11 November 2022 and a virtual one in November 2024. All AUs are expected to participate in this face-to-face Forum with 3 representatives each (2 lay people and 1 brother).

The phases are:





## REGARDING THE RESOURCES

The resources sent to support the reflection process, both for the Province Team and the lay groups, are the following:

### 1. For the Province Team:

- a) Guidelines on how to organise the Phase II process (this document).
- b) Ideas for organising a Provincial Forum.
- c) Summary of the Province report.

### 2. For groups (worksheets):

- a) 1 sheet covering orientation and organisation.
- b) 4 dialogue sheets on different topics.
- c) 1 summary and celebration report card.

Specifically, these resources are **for use** in Phase II of this discernment journey.

## REGARDING THE WORKSHEETS FOR GROUPS

### Structure and use

The worksheets are designed to engender a close and friendly dialogue between the members of the community or life group. They are combined with moments of reflection and discussion of the topics that we will address in the International Forum and for which each layperson and brother will be able to contribute their opinion through their community. In addition, there will be times for personal and community prayer.

The topic sheets have a similar structure:

1. **an introduction** that sets the scene for topic proposed for reflection and discernment,
2. **an experiential moment** about how this topic connects with our lives and how we feel about it,
3. **enlightenment from our faith**, and motivating questions that help us to delve further into the topic,
4. the **personal, group and province calls** that emerge from the group dialogue and concludes with,
5. a **moment of shared prayer** in the group to give thanks.





The following table summarises the resources provided.

Sheet	Topic	For:	Resources for the use of groups or Team	Texts or additional resources provided by the Secretariat for the Laity	
A	Guidelines & suggestions	Province Team	-----	-----	
00	Group organisation	Group		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Annex 1: Letter of Invitation from Br. Ernesto Sánchez, SG.</li> <li>-Annex 2: Introductory letter from the Secretariat of the Laity.</li> <li>-Logo of the International Forum.</li> <li>-PPT: Phases of the Forum.</li> </ul>	OK
01	OBJECTIVE 1: The Marist vocation and the vocation of laypeople	Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Box lined with wrapping paper.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identity of the Lay Marist (excerpt from the document "Being a Lay Marist")</li> </ul>	OK
02	OBJECTIVE 2: Pathways and processes of formation and mentoring.	Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -a small backpack</li> <li>• enough pencils for everyone</li> <li>• cards for everyone to write on.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 images.</li> <li>• Text 1: SHARING CHARISM AND MISSION WITH THE LAITY. The Evangelical Family as a goal, by Antonio Botana.</li> <li>• -Text 2: SPIRITUAL ITINERARY, in Marist Lexicon (<a href="http://www.champagnat.org">www.champagnat.org</a>)</li> <li>• - Text 3: PROCESS, in Marist Lexicon (<a href="http://www.champagnat.org">www.champagnat.org</a>).</li> </ul>	OK
03	OBJECTIVE 3: Bonding and belonging to the Marist charism	Group		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testimonies from Iberica about bonding to the <a href="http://www.champagnat.org">www.champagnat.org</a>.</li> <li>• Doc. Bonding and belonging. Vinculación, Marist lexicon.</li> </ul>	OK
04	OBJECTIVE 4: Civil and canonical structures of association.	Group	- Puzzle of 50 pieces made with the image of L'Hermitage of 50 x 60 cms.	Four articles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piarists</li> <li>• La Salle</li> <li>• Salesians.</li> <li>• Doc. Associations, Marist Lexicon.</li> </ul>	OK
05	Evaluation, Summary report	Group	-----	-----	OK
B	Ideas for Province forum	Province Team	pending	pending	
C	Province Final Report	Province Team	pending	pending	





## LEADING GROUPS AND FRATERNITIES...:

- Each AU can adapt the activities proposed in the four topic sheets to its own context. However, the fourth moment of the "**personal, group and province calls**" should remain the same without modifying its questions, as they will be used in the final summary dialogue and report of the group to the Province Team.
- It is important to follow the order of the worksheets, starting with Topic 1 and ending with Topic 4, as they have a logical sequence. We believe that all four topics can be addressed by all participants, regardless of whether or not they have experience of the subject matter in their Administrative Unit. The worksheets and their annexes provide participants with information and formation related to the topic, motivate group dialogue and offer the opportunity to express opinions related to personal, community and province calls. For this reason, it can be a good opportunity to initiate a process or give a new impetus to laypeople of the AU in their vocational journey. It should be remembered that we are in Phase II of the Forum and the aim is to open up dialogue and welcome the impressions, opinions and contributions of all the participants in order to move forward and continue to explore ideas in the coming years. It is not a question of reaching conclusions now.
- In addition, the AU can organise meetings in different ways, which can be face-to-face or virtual, for example:

a) Meetings in separate groups, each operating at its own pace, but adhering to a deadline to deliver the final report to the Province Team.

b) Meetings in separate groups, but with dates programmed by the Province Team.

c) Joint meetings of communities by zones animated by the Provincial Team.

d) One or two large joint meetings to address all the work on the proposed topics. For example, in the first meeting, the orientation and organisation sheet and the first two topic dialogue sheets could be dealt with; and in the following meeting, the next two topic sheets could be dealt with, ending with the summary and celebration report sheet.

e) Other creative alternatives that better respond to

their context.

- Regarding the organisation of the working groups, the lay groups, fraternities of the CMMF, mixed communities, members of associations and Brothers involved in accompanying the vocational journey of the laypeople should participate. It will be at the discretion of each Lay Ministry Team and of the Brother Provincial and his Council if some lay people committed to the Marist charism and living their Christian vocation as such, but not formally following organised processes of vocational growth, are also invited.
- In AUs where there are no lay people who are or have been participating in organised vocational processes, some groups of lay men and women with a high commitment to the Marist charism can be invited, and brothers as well, to be part of these discussions.
- If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact the member of the Extended Secretariat of the Laity in your Region:

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## REGARDING THE 3 PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVES:

- It is important to remember that each AU will choose in a participatory way the representatives to attend the International Forum. They will be two lay people and one brother. Their participation will start in November 2022 (Rome, face-to-face Forum) and will end in November 2024 (virtual Forum).
- We ask that these 3 representatives be elected at the beginning of the process of this Phase II and that you send us their names as soon as they are made official by the Provincial Council. In this way, they will be able to participate in some instances of leading the process in the Administrative Unit and the Extended Secretariat of the Laity will be able to speak with them in preparation for the international meeting.
- The AU representatives and authorities should be clear that the service to be provided by the representatives will start with the first part of the International Forum in November 2022. This part of the Forum will set up a number of Task Forces by topics, by way of follow-up. It is likely that one of the three AU representatives will be invited to participate in these teams, which will have the task of researching, exploring and making a proposal for the second part of the Forum (November 2024). It should then be borne in mind that one of these people may be asked to assist over two continuous years.
- It is proposed that the election of the three representatives be participatory, so that those who go to the International Forum in Rome are not only suitable, but also supported by the majority of the laypeople. Perhaps one way is that a number of persons nominated by the groups are presented to the Provincial Council and that this governing body chooses three (two lay people and one brother). Perhaps three lists of three, as an example. Therefore, the task for the Province Lay Ministry Team would be to find a way of involving the groups to propose a list of persons for presentation to the Provincial and his Council.
- In any case, it is important that this election process take place before the Province/District Forum and that everyone is informed of the result. Then, when the Province/District Forum takes place, it will come as no surprise to anyone and a "symbolic sending" of the three representatives can take place.



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"YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHECY" (JOEL 3,1)



## CONCLUSION OF PHASE II

The closing date for Phase II is 30 June 2022. By that date the Province Teams send the reports to the Extended Secretariat of the Laity. If an AU finishes the reflection process earlier, it can conclude Phase II and send the requested reports.

### At group level

To conclude Phase II, it is proposed that each fraternity or group of lay people end with a meeting in which they evaluate what they have experienced, express their conclusions, draw up a report and celebrate the fruits of the process which will go to the AU Lay Ministry Team. For this purpose, there is a summary and celebration report form, which explains in detail how to present the report.

### At Province level

The Lay Ministry Team of the AU will organise a Province/District Forum or a similar event (face-to-face or virtual) in which representatives of the local groups will participate. Each AU organises this experience according to its context. At this forum, the AU's consensus proposals are obtained for each of the topics to be forwarded to the Extended Secretariat of the Laity and the three representatives of the AU to the International Forum that will begin in November 2022 can be presented.

### At the Regional level

This is up to the Region to decide and organise. If the opportunity arises, at Regional level, a meeting of some groups could be organised to share the results of their reflections, the experiences that have arisen and the fruits of the process that they will bring to the International Forum



# #MaristInternationalForumon



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