



INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE LAY MARIST VOCATION

STAGE II
July 2021 - June 2022

WELCOMING, NURTURING, LIVING AND SHARING OUR VOCATION.

Sheet 1
Marist Vocation

MARIST VOCATION AND THE MARIST LAY VOCATION

“WE WELCOME THE MARIST VOCATION, A GIFT OF GOD IN OUR LIFE”

a) Introduction

The International Forum on the Lay Marist Vocation has as its motto, “*Welcoming, nurturing, living and sharing our vocation*”. These four actions characterise the vocational process in which the individual, the community and the Holy Spirit interact, dialogue and journey together in a dynamic of ongoing discovery and construction. The motto aims to highlight the importance of each aspect and the relationship between them in a gradual process of discipleship that urges us to be men and women for others, to go out, to be brothers and sisters in the service of all without discrimination.

Together with Mary, a woman who knew how to live with insecurity and welcome the action of the Spirit in her life, we invite you to open yourself to whatever this same Spirit might inspire in each one of us during this time.

b) Drawing on our experience

Let’s begin the meeting with the following activity:

- Gather in a circle and, in the middle, place a box wrapped in gift paper. Invite each participant to contemplate the box: Recall a moment in your life when you received a significant gift. Recall also the person or people who gave it to you.
- In a second movement, recall a special moment when you offered a gift. Think of what that gift was and to whom you gave it.

For sharing and dialogue:

- What did that gift mean in my life? Why do I remember it in a special way?
- In what way are these people significant (or have been significant) in my life?
- When I was the one who offered the gift, what are the feelings that arose in me? What prompted me to make that gift?

In the course of your life, you have received a gift that brings meaning to what you live and believe. During the last 200 years, others have received the same gift and in many different places. It is the Marist vocation. You have been discovering and deepening for some time what this way of living as a Marist means. We invite you to be aware of your experience.



c) In the light of faith

As a community, read together from the document, *Being a Lay Marist* - the chapter entitled "Identity of a Lay Marist". Move through without rush, underlining or highlighting as you go. Once finished, open the dialogue.

For the conversation, maybe these questions will be helpful. But you can be guided by others that arise from the reading:

1. What stands out for you in the reading?
2. Does it suggest anything new for your vocational journey?
3. What personal and community challenges does the document generate?



[The document can be found as an annex to this exercise](#)

My experience of faith goes by way of the heart:

After sharing in community, we take a little time of silence – maybe 5 minutes – to treasure what resonates most in my heart.

I remember the beginning of the meeting, savouring life, the listening to and sharing something of our personal stories. Also the reading of the inspirational text and our sharing as a believing community.

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

I thank, I praise, I ask ... the Lord.

I read in silence the text from the gospel of John, 10:10 (I can repeat it several times, like a simple mantra).

I came that they might have life and have it in abundance.





d) Personal, community and province calls

*In this part, it is important that a secretary records the ideas expressed.
The notes will be very useful for the final synthesis meeting.*

Having listened with the heart to our personal experiences and shared an in-depth reading of the extract from *Being a Lay Marist*, we ask ourselves the following questions and share within the group the answers that arise:

- What signs of the Spirit do I feel need to be nurtured and encouraged on this vocational journey?
- What changes do I see that we need to keep encouraging at the level of the:
 - a) individual,
 - b) community and
 - c) province?
- What new steps do I see as important on the horizon of our Marist vocation for a future of communion?

e) We offer the Lord our shared experience

We recall the logo that has been chosen for the International Forum. The key symbol is a communal embrace in the form of an open spiral. It speaks of unity, communion, shared vocation and openness to life. Also present is the warmth and light that emanates from the centre, associated with the Holy Spirit. This is the renewing force that gathers, transforms and energises us.

1. The meeting coordinator will have prepared beforehand a candle or a small fire or something creative that recalls the force of the Spirit that gathers, calls and energises. They might also include an element or cultural symbol of the place or environment in which they live, and which evokes this same Spirit.

2. Participants arrange themselves in a circle around the candle or fire. They should maintain sufficient distance to be in reach of each other, but without touching. In one section of the circle, there should be a greater distance between the participants. The fire or the candle is lit. Participants hold hands, except those where the distance is greater – they raise their hands, without touching. This symbolizes openness to other people; at the same time, it is not a closed

circle but rather a spiral, open to the action of the Spirit.

3. Each participant freely expresses their thanksgiving for what has been shared in the meeting and what resonates in their heart.

4. After this spontaneous sharing, end with a song and the following prayer to Mary, who accompanies and encourages our Marist vocational journey.



**Hymn: We are called**(6) We Are Called (Virtual Choir!) - St. Paul Young Adult Choir & Ensemble - YouTube

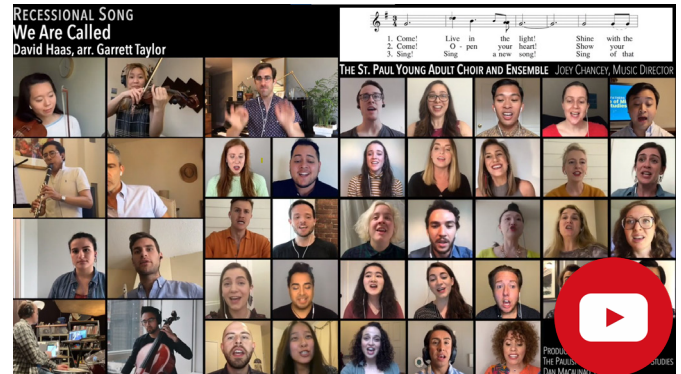
Come, live in the light
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord
We are called to be light for the kingdom
To live in the freedom of the city of God

We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God

Come, open your heart
Show your mercy to all those in fear
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
So all hatred and blindness will be no more

We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God

Sing, sing a new song
Sing of that great day when all will be one
God will reign and we'll walk with each other



As sisters and brothers united in love (united in love)

We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God

We are called to act with justice
We are called to love tenderly (We are called)
We are called to serve one another
To walk humbly with God

Ven, vive en la luz
Brilla con la alegría y el amor del Señor
Estamos llamados a ser luz para el reino
Vivir en la libertad de la ciudad de Dios

Estamos llamados a actuar con justicia
Estamos llamados a amar con ternura
Estamos llamados a servirnos unos a otros
A caminar humildemente con Dios

Ven, abre tu corazón
Muestra tu misericordia a todos los que tienen miedo
Estamos llamados a ser la esperanza de los desesperados
Para que desaparezcan el odio y la ceguera

Estamos llamados a actuar con justicia
Estamos llamados a amar con ternura

Estamos llamados a servirnos unos a otros
A caminar humildemente con Dios

Cantad, cantad una nueva canción
Cantad ese gran día en que todos seremos uno
Dios reinará y caminaremos unos con otros
Como hermanas y hermanos unidos en el amor (unidos en el amor)

Estamos llamados a actuar con justicia
Estamos llamados a amar con ternura
Estamos llamados a servirnos unos a otros
A caminar humildemente con Dios

Estamos llamados a actuar con justicia
Estamos llamados a amar con ternura (Estamos llamados)
Estamos llamados a servirnos unos a otros
A caminar humildemente con Dios



Prayer:

Marian prayer – Pope Francis *Evangelii Gaudium*



Mary, Virgin and Mother,
you who, moved by the Holy Spirit,
welcomed the word of life
in the depths of your humble faith:
as you gave yourself completely to the Eternal One,
help us to say our own “yes”
to the urgent call, as pressing as ever,
to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Filled with Christ’s presence,
you brought joy to John the Baptist,
making him exult in the womb of his mother.
Brimming over with joy,
you sang of the great things done by God.
Standing at the foot of the cross
with unyielding faith,
you received the joyful comfort of the resurrection,
and joined the disciples in awaiting the Spirit
so that the evangelizing Church might be born.

Obtain for us now a new ardour born of the resurrection,
that we may bring to all the Gospel of life
which triumphs over death.

Give us a holy courage to seek new paths,
that the gift of unfading beauty
may reach every man and woman.

Virgin of listening and contemplation,
Mother of love, Bride of the eternal wedding feast,
pray for the Church, whose pure icon you are,
that she may never be closed in on herself
or lose her passion for establishing God’s kingdom.

Star of the new evangelization,
help us to bear radiant witness to communion,
service, ardent and generous faith,
justice and love of the poor,
that the joy of the Gospel
may reach to the ends of the earth,
illuminating even the fringes of our world.

*Mother of the living Gospel,
wellspring of happiness for God’s little ones,
pray for us. / Amen. Alleluia!*

