

Marist Association National Assembly

Catching the Dream...

Below is an attempt to cluster the 'dreams' that were recorded into broad categories

Local Groups

Continue as a pumping spiritual family – local life

Local Groups → invite Council in. More presence of Council in local groups / community

Vitality in community life

Interconnectedness of groups

Vital local communities

Ground swell at local level

Encouragement and sustainability of the local networks – leading to more connections to regional, national and international

Local groups flourishing with broad membership

To nurture connection with other regional groups

Each local group to have a Marist Association outreach to some “least favoured”

Where’s the need in our local communities?

Invitation to others to join us (personal)

Local groups setting goals

People who have attended this assembly – that they take leadership and ownership of their local areas – important

Active engagement / contribution ☑ more than social

To bring our national culture and dream to the local level

Local leadership formation (*local)

The role of governed schools supporting the Association and local groups

Sense / stronger development of the local community

Creation of a weekly eucharistic experience in geographic centres for the Marist Association

Broader Church / International Marists

Being a model for a way forward within the church as a global charismatic family

'Inclusive Church'

Connection to parish

In communion with the broader church

Prayers and eucharist fundamental!

to grow and to be more recognised within schools and the wider church

New Church

Connection with international Marist life

Connection with the GLOBAL FAMILY

Young People

Continue to grow Association → more young people

NEW – Youth ministry program has a Marist Association pathway for belonging clearly embedded

A local Association group needs to adopt a project with and for young people

Provide inspiring opportunities for youth

Post school Marists making a difference – youth ministry (Exodus community houses)

A smooth transition from marist youth ministry to Marist Association

Youth ministry



Spiritual life / formation

Promoting spiritual formation as integral

Vocational pathway

Animation / formation (faith, catholic, Marist) / training → strong

Self – confidence of members – well formed

Spiritual accompaniment for the members – taking ownership of the local associations

Formation of leaders / facilitators / members (they are different)

The Association will be a source of personal spiritual formation in community.

Spiritual enrichment – mentoring, direction, accompany, formation opportunities

Feed and nurture our vocation as Marists – person level

Animation of local groups in ongoing formation

Focus on people and their formation

National formation team to support local and regional groups

Mission Engagement

Less talk more 'action'

Active Marist ministry → still seeks out the marginalised

Faith in action, not just school groups

Expanding ministries to cater for needs in the local context

Opportunities for OUTREACH beyond schools and our traditional ministries

Open up OPPORTUNITIES for ministry

Encouraging diverse interest / action groups to draw engagement from local Association groups (which are not ministry defined)

Variety of ministries conducted in a Marist way

Innovative ministries

Commissioning of volunteers to the fringes

Accept PROPOSALS from groups – 'grass roots'

Building bridges and partnerships

Canonical & Civil status

Canonical and Civil status settled

Separating the structure from our family

PJP = structured council (appointed by family), governing formal ministries, financial support (AMS, MYM, MSA, M180)

Greater CLARITY about recognition and organisational structures / entities / canonical status

That the Association be civilly incorporated as soon as possible, and canonically recognised in God's good time, so that the animation and governance are clear to all members (*lack of clarity is our biggest concern*)

Formalising governance

Greater clarity about the importance of the Council and membership of this

Clarity about the relationship between the Marist Association and the Brother's Province

Identity & Purpose

Accepting and embracing a common understanding of the diversity of our Association

Blueprint of what to do now

Becoming audacious again (new energy)

Clear sense of direction – clear purpose

Clear sense of direction

The 'who we are' question can be answered easily, readily

Council cannot lose focus of its **mission!**

- To serve the marginalised
- To be attentive to the spiritual nourishment of **all** Marists

Ministries leadership structure (clarity and coherence)

Clear identity and purpose (clarity of structure and resources)

A strategically focussed Association (to express IDENTITY & PURPOSE)

A vision statement for the association – establish 3-year goals to be evaluated at the next assembly – we need 'SMART' goals.

Theological / Philosophical

Spiritual family

Hope and trust

Bridge builders

A heart centred way

Our motivation is to know and love Jesus – this is the dream

From identity – intimacy – generativity

The Association remains responsive to a changing world

Make **Jesus** known and loved – recognised Marist thing – OWN that!

Share and grow the story – honour the past, listen, learn

The Association **needs** to stay inclusive

Driving force in development and nurturing of Marian spirituality

Grounded in our faith

Promising / energising possibilities

KEY = continue to work and the mission of the Brothers

Recapturing the vision of the Marist project

Responding to God's dream for us

Resources

Framework to guide gatherings / expectations

Utilise MLF team to train facilitators

Sharing of resources

Resources / resource people / personal accompaniment

There would be more resources and greater diversity in these to meet the local gatherings

Resources – update, identify, share

Explore virtual connections – podcasts, on-line meeting rooms

Communication

Sharing what's working

Creating open communication between groups eg. people visiting schools (Marist BNB); gatherings

Real connectedness (not just social media)

Sharing our story

Enhanced communication about good practices in local groups

Other

Inclusive of all – being mindful of those not in schools; not just for leadership

Expanding membership beyond the schools eg. ex-staff, prospective staff, young professionals,

Principals in Marist schools need to actively support the formation of the staff & to foster the local Marist Association

Support connection between people

The body of relationships

Allowing those not in Marist schools to have a voice and role in strengthening the work of the Association

Faith in action: Marist Association: 2021

Family

Initiation

Families joining the Association – not just individuals

Engagement with Alumnae

Connection to the Brothers especially in our schools

Take responsibility and ownership

Gathering, celebrate **eucharist**, family, food & wine (Mary)

Self – funding, \$ contribution, levy?

What is the **commitment**? Lifelong journey

Making connections – linking up with Marist ministries eg. indigenous

Strengthening **partnerships** with like-minded community

Diagram: dream catcher – keeps the bad dreams out (clericalism, institutionalism, elitism, plenary Council). Allows the good dreams in (family spirit, in the way of Mary, plenary council)

Continued growth – shared responsibility approach – a broader engagement (not just schools)

Synergy between the family and the Marist ministries

Family = informal ministries, network facilitation group, community focus, will appoint PJP

Stimulating meaningful conversation

Networking – local, regional, national, international