



Marist

ASSOCIATION OF
ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Strategic Directions 2023 - 2025

Leader

Dear Members of the Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat

St Catherine of Siena is remembered for many notable accomplishments, but one of her comments has particular relevance to us today:

“Be who God intends you to be and you’ll set the world on fire”.

This applies to individuals, but arguably also to groups, and the entire Church.

It is remarkably apt for our Association: be what God wants us to be...fulfil our mission...be authentic and genuine...work to be faithful...and there will be results, wonderful ones!

For us Marists, this has already been exemplified by our Founder, St Marcellin. We know his story: a simple country man, who struggled with education, became a Priest and thereafter committed himself wholeheartedly to young people, by establishing a brotherhood to nurture, educate and evangelise them. It’s also been exemplified by those who have followed him, at different times and in various locations around the world.

Last year’s National Assembly, the processes before it and the work of the Council after it, have all been designed to help clarify the question of what God is asking of us and wanting us to be. Careful discernment and dialogue have been required, and I believe have been achieved. I’m most grateful to all those who have contributed to, led or enabled this process of reflection.

The booklet, which I present here, is the result of that process. Since the Association was established in 2015, this is the third such document. If you’re familiar with the preceding versions: *We Marists* (2019) and *As Marists* (2015), then you’ll know that this isn’t a detailed “how to” document. It certainly summarises how the Association sees itself in contemporary Australia. It also offers directions that have been distilled from our recent processes and lists some initiatives that Council will take. However, it’s also a document for Members’ own reflection and prayer, both individually and as local Groups.

If we are going to be as God wants us to be, then it’s the responsibility of every Member to actively work to make these directions a reality. Council, ministries and members need to move forward together. I invite you to join in this undertaking over the next three years.

With every blessing and good wish,

Brother Peter Carroll FMS
Leader, Marist Association of St Marcellin Champagnat





Our Vision

We Marists are a vital faith community, an expression of Church that embraces God's mission with Marian joy, hope, and audacity. Our discipleship of Jesus Christ and the priorities of all of our ministries are inspired by the Gospel passion and compassion which fired Saint Marcellin. We remain attentive to the God of all life and we are committed to nurturing our spirituality through ongoing formation. We draw on both Marist tradition and imagination to be game-changers for young people, particularly those most on the peripheries. We foster connectedness and communion among ourselves as an Association, with the Marist spiritual family around the world, and with the wider Church of which we are part.

Text: *'We Marists'*, 2015.



In 2022 we see ourselves as:

A spiritual family which advocates for action and change as a Marian expression of hope and joy within the Church. With trust in one another we are still open to further insights and growth in terms of our identity and purpose.





In pursuit of its vision as a spiritual family committed to evangelisation through education and care of young people, by 2025 the association will be:

- An expression of welcome, hospitality and synodality, contributing as a respected voice within the Church.
- Led effectively and coresponsibly at the local and national levels.
- Clear about its interdependent relationship with the new Brothers' Star of the Sea Province and the wider international Marist world.
- Locally active, inclusive, and responsive to the imperatives of Marist life and mission at the local level, particularly in the area of formation .
- Sustainable in terms of finance, breadth of membership and leadership succession.

By 2025 the Association will have:

- Engaged in dialogue with ministries about audacity and visioning as the Australian Church seeks to reimagine itself.
- Implemented strategies and supporting formation programs which clearly respond to its mission and current priorities.
- Clarified the respective roles and responsibilities of the Association Council, the Boards of MSA, AMS, and Marist180, and the Star of the Sea Province.
- Ensured the consolidation of robust governance structures of all its ministries.





Action Headlines

In order to be:

A model of welcome, hospitality and synodality within the church with strong, local, lay leadership

A respected public voice which influences the thinking, life and care of the Church

We will need to:

- Develop a timeline for the succession of leadership in the Association.
- Consider the nature and function of the evolving roles of Leader and Executive Officer.
- Implement a discrete Association annual calendar of events and an organisation manual.
- Ensure explicit and integrated support for the Association by ministry/school leadership.

- Resource a communications strategy with informed and skilled personnel.





Action Headlines (cont.)

In order to be:

Clear about our interdependent relationship with the Brothers' Province

Sustainable in terms of finance, membership and leadership

Locally active, inclusive, and responsive to membership needs, particularly in the area of formation.

We will need to:

- Develop clear expectations and understanding of collaborative arrangements through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Province.
- Continue dialogue with the Institute in regard to financial sustainability.
- MLF Executive Committee to consistently engage with members in planning, evaluating, and designing formation experiences.





Action Headlines (cont.)

In order to have:

Ensured the establishment of robust governance structures for all Marist ministries

Clarified the respective roles and relationships of the Association Council, the Boards of MSA, AMS and Marist180, and the Star of the Sea Province

We will need to:

- Review and refine reporting mechanisms and communication between the Association and the various ministries.
- Review the constitutions and governance arrangements for all companies and made necessary changes to reflect the evolving growth of coresponsibility for Marist mission and life through the various ministries.





Action Headlines (cont.)

In order to have:

Implemented strategies and supporting formation programs which clearly respond to its mission and current priorities

Engaged in dialogue with ministries about audacity and visioning as the Australian Church seeks to reimagine itself

We will need to:

- Continue to resource formation.
- Establish a formation plan for each of the Councils, boards and committees.

- Explore opportunities for growth in schools ministries in areas of need consistent with our Marist intuition and tradition.



Inside Cover

The Icon of the Ascension, Michael Galovic 2014

Image Sources

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