



Our lived experience as Marists is that we very often form community with alacrity and spontaneity. "It is as though it is in our DNA!" (Br Emili Turu, 2013). Our lay colleagues and Brothers share the same joys and hopes, sorrows and anguish, so there is an easy sense of 'togetherness'.

"I can say that I feel fulfilled and proud of being a lay woman with a Marist heart; a revelation in which God, little by little, has been manifesting with new calls, initiatives, dreams; a history filled with life that never ceases..." (*Gathered Around the Same Table*, Ch.1, p.24).

CONTENT

The greater understanding, and emergence, of the lay vocation has provided us as Marists with the opportunity to, even more daringly, seek ways to create great unity of mind and heart as the New Zealand Champagnat Marist Community begins to emerge from the earlier 'ad hoc' and often localized gatherings of Marists.

The scriptures have always attested, most especially in the words and actions of Jesus our model and mentor, and then proclaimed with clarity, that God 'calls each of us by name' into fellowship and thence the service of humanity.

QUOTATIONS

AROUND THE SAME TABLE (The Vocation of Champagnat's Laity)

https://www.champagnat.org/e_maristas/Documentos/En_torno_EN.pdf

13. The initiative for our vocation comes from God. He loves us and wants our fulfillment, which is why he invites each one to follow a unique path. In this way, the lay Marist vocation does not originate as a necessity in moments of vocational crisis for the Brothers, or as a form of expressing friendship towards them. It is a personal call to a specific way of being disciples of Jesus.
14. The lay Marist vocation, like all vocations, originates and is developed by viewing one's life in the light of the Spirit. This discernment has different stages; and so each person should be accompanied while respecting his or her personal rhythm.
15. We Christian men and women with very different histories and very different cultures share the call to live the Marist charism through the lay state. We thank God for the gift of being part of a family that speaks a thousand languages and has one single heart.

REFLECTION

SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS OR REACTIONS TO THESE READINGS

- What your experience of being included in the Marist community has been.
- Your questions and insights from these quotes from the document.
- What your understanding is, that as a Board member you too share in our Marist vocation.

PRAYER

I dream of a family of Brothers and lay people where we support each other and we take responsibility, side by side, in mutual service, a family where Jesus is, truly, the centre of our life. (GRST op.cit. Open Letter p.107).

Thank you, Jesus, for calling me to follow you.
Thank you, Mary, for your tender, close presence.
Thank you, Marcellin, for your contagious passion
and for allowing me to become immersed in your project.
Thank you, Brothers, for sharing your treasure,
for inviting us to dream together in brotherhood and sisterhood,
living the same mission with a single heart.
Thanks to everyone, Brothers and Lay Marists,
for showing me that one can be happier
knowing how to work and to love: to work for what we love
and to love what we do.
Amen.

Mary Our Good Mother, *pray for us*
St Marcellin Champagnat, *pray for us*

