



Dear Brother

The XXI General Chapter has urged us to set out for a new land, thus facilitating the birth of a new age for the Marist charism. The Constitutions and Statutes constitute a very appropriate means to taking up the journeys of personal and institutional conversion over the coming years.

Before the distribution of the new edition of the text, we invite you, in your Province and through characteristically simple Marist ceremonies, to give prominence to the historic moment we are living through and make official the transmission of the new edited text. For this purpose, the Bureau BROTHERS TODAY is sending you a prayer service which can be used in a community or intercommunity celebration, or as part of any provincial event which brings together a significant number of Brothers. May the prayerful reading of our text help us to revitalize our vocation and to journey as pilgrims in the years leading up to the celebration of the bicentenary of our Institute.

With the new edition of our Constitutions and Statutes, the Institute begins a very interesting stage of reading and studying the present text, which will subsequently lead to a work, individual as well as community, of revision and proposals, resulting most likely in a new text which will be the subject of study and approbation at the XXII General Chapter.

We invite you to make use first of the text at the various special events programmed in your province. In the administrative units, formation processes for Brothers and for laity will be going on. In that case, we encourage the organizers to use the document and permit a greater familiarity with it.

The coming provincial retreats would be a very good opportunity for celebrating the handing over of the text as well as for taking up again some of the most important articles with regard to the renewal of our religious consecration. I hope that we can integrate them creatively into the programmes, whether in daily prayer or in the aids to prayer which will most likely be offered to the participants.

We invite the local communities as well to include in the drafting of the next community project a section showing in what creative way or form they will arrange for the use and study of the Constitutions during the new school year. Very interesting initiatives will surely emerge for later sharing.

At the Bureau of Brothers Today, we want to offer a bank of aids which will allow Brothers and laity a profitable use and study of the Constitutions. We thank you for sending us any proposals, initiatives, concerns or suggestions which surface in your provinces, whether through yourself or someone you designate.

May the Lord Jesus, Mary, our companion on the way, and our Father Champagnat continue blessing us and accompanying us in this conversion of heart and in which a thorough revision of the Constitutions and Statutes, with the full participation of the Brothers, may help us to give new vitality to our vocation.

Secretariat Brothers Today

CEREMONY OF DELIVERING THE MARIST CONSTITUTIONS

Decorate the place with some Marist symbols which make the presence of Jesus, Mary and Champagnat real in the midst of the community. The texts can be placed in a special position, illuminated by the light of Christ.



Entrance rite:

As Marist brothers, we look upon our Constitutions as the Gospel interpreted for us and as a sure guide in accomplishing God's will. They are a matter of obligation since, by our religious profession, we have pledged ourselves to live them. We read them frequently in a spirit of prayer, and we live by them with a deep inner freedom, docile to the Lord (C 169).

The XXI General Chapter believes that for a new world, we need a conversion of heart. A thorough revision of the Constitutions and Statutes, with the full participation of the Brothers, can help to revitalize our vocation. To facilitate this, the XXI General Chapter recommends that the General Government appoint a commission to carry out this revision and that the new text be presented at the XXII General Chapter (Decisions p. 46 – Document of XXI General Chapter)

Opening hymn:

We open the ceremony with an appropriate hymn that reminds us of being members of the Marist family and the joy of community life.

Marist Psalm for prayer (Inspired by Psalm 126): THE ROCK

*Rain and floods may come,
Storm and winds blow.
But your house stands unshaken
It remains firm on the rock.*

*Your trust and your faith are your sole passion.
Thus have you built the house of your brothers;
La Valla upon the mountains,
In the valley of the Hermitage, next to the stream,
Your disciples are converted
Into builders without frontiers.*

*God speaks in the depth of the valley.
You have built your life
Like a good mason;
You have to cut the rock, build the house.
Jesus and Mary make the cement.*

*You have built, above all,
Homes of light for the children of the poor,
Taught them to love Jesus and Mary, our mother,
Announced the Gospel to the glory of the Father.*

Meditative Reading

We read the Presentation Letter of Br. Emili Turú to the new edition of the Constitutions.

Questions for personal reflection and a brief community sharing:

1. What is my feeling on receiving this updated edition of our Constitutions in view of its future revision and renewal?
2. What inspires me? What challenges me?

Distribution Ceremony

At the moment of distribution, the provincial or community animator addresses a few words in which he invites all the Brothers to undertake this journey of coming closer to the text, as a point of departure for its thorough revision, to which we are all called to contribute in an active and creative manner.

After the distribution, the MAGNIFICAT can be sung, or some Marist hymn, as an expression of gratitude for the historic moment we are living as an Institute.

Final Prayer: WITH MARY, NEW MARISTS TOWARDS A NEW LAND.

*Mary, you are our companion along the way
And the main inspiration for our pilgrimage
Towards our Marist bicentenary.*

*Welcome into our hearts
And homes today.
Your openness,
Faith and spontaneity
Touch our hearts
To be open in our turn to the Spirit,
The gift of your son, Jesus.*

*As Marists of Champagnat,
Lay and Brothers,
We desire to change.
We look to you as model and companion,
In living our vocation of following Christ,
with the joy, sensitivity,
love and energy,
you brought to educating Jesus.*

*You gather us all and unite us
Across the world,
Into one international community
Bearing your name,
A sign of communion
To our Church and world.*



*When we contemplate you
As woman filled with faith,
Your spirit of intuition and initiative
Impels us, as it did Marcellin,
To be Good News for
The poor children
And young people of our world
Today in "new lands".*

*In trust we pray,
like Champagnat:
"If the Lord does not build the house ..."
And we say,
"You have done everything for us".
Magnificat!
With you, Mary, we go to the Father,
In union with Jesus and in the Spirit of
Love.*

Amen.