

**Report for the Regional Assembly
Reflection on the Work of the Regional Committees and Future Directions for C.R.A.N.**

Introduction:

Over the past period, the Regional Committees of C.R.A.N. have contributed in meaningful ways to strengthening our collaboration as a Region. Through participation in networks, assemblies, and shared initiatives, we have grown in our awareness of being part of a Global Marist Family, deepening our sense of solidarity and common mission.

With a spirit of gratitude, we recognize the coordinators and members of our regional committees for their generous and faithful service. Your dedication, lived amid many responsibilities, is a concrete expression of our shared vocation and co-responsibility in mission. Through your passion, availability, and commitment, you help nurture a culture of encounter, communion, and discernment within our Region. Your witness strengthens our identity as a Marist family and invites us all to continue responding with courage and hope to the calls of the Spirit.

The survey responses and reflections gathered from the provinces highlight several positive developments: improved communication among Provinces, participation in global and regional gatherings, the sharing of resources—especially for Spanish-speaking communities—and opportunities for immersion and language development for both Brothers and Lay Marists. These experiences have helped nurture a greater sense of regional belonging and collaboration. At the same time, the reflections also point to several challenges that affect the effectiveness and sustainability of the work carried out by our regional committees.

Current Challenges

Several practical realities have impacted the work of the committees during this period. First, there has been significant change in membership within the committees. As individuals move into new responsibilities within their Provinces or complete their terms of service, continuity can be difficult to maintain. This constant transition often requires new members to become familiar with ongoing projects and priorities, which can slow momentum and create uncertainty regarding direction.

Second, the workload of committee members presents an ongoing challenge. All members serve on these regional committees in addition to their full-time responsibilities within their Provinces. Balancing provincial leadership, pastoral commitments, educational responsibilities, and community life alongside regional

service can limit the time and energy available to fully advance committee initiatives.

Third, there is a need for greater clarity regarding the role and focus of the regional committees. As the Region continues to evolve and as the Institute itself moves through a time of transition, it becomes important to ask fundamental questions:

- What is the purpose of our regional committees today?
- What are the priorities that will most strengthen our identity and mission as Arco Norte?
- How can we ensure that the work of the committees is both realistic and life-giving for those who serve on them?

These questions invite us to reflect not only on what we have done, but also on how we might reimagine the work of our committees for the next three years.

An Opportunity for Renewal

The Regional Assembly offers us an important opportunity to redefine the purpose and focus of our committees so that they continue to strengthen our regional identity and support the life and mission of the provinces.

Rather than attempting to address too many areas, it may be helpful to clarify the specific mandates of each committee, ensuring that their work is focused, realistic, and aligned with the broader priorities of the Institute and the Calls of the General Chapter. With this in mind, several possible directions could guide our reflection.

Possible Directions for the Committees:

I strongly believe that the committee for Marist laity must continue.

1. Spirituality and Interiority

The current committee on spirituality could expand its focus to Spirituality and Interiority. In a time marked by rapid change and growing complexity in our ministries, there is a deep need to cultivate spaces that nurture our inner life. This committee could promote initiatives that help Brothers and Lay Marists deepen their Marist spirituality through prayer, reflection, and accompaniment.

Its work could include fostering opportunities for formation, promoting shared spiritual resources within the Region, and encouraging practices that help us listen more attentively to the Spirit in our personal and communal discernment.

2. Evangelization – Focus on Youth Ministry & Catechesis

The Evangelization committee could place a particular emphasis on youth ministry. Young people remain at the heart of our mission. By focusing more intentionally on youth ministry, the committee could help identify ways in which Provinces can collaborate in pastoral initiatives that accompany young people in their faith journey, leadership development, and commitment to social transformation.

This focus would also allow the Region to strengthen its contribution to the broader Marist mission of being Good News for children and young people, especially those who are most vulnerable.

3. Solidarity – Children’s Rights and Social Outreach

The Solidarity committee could focus its efforts on children’s rights and social outreach. One concrete mandate for this committee could be to investigate one or two ministries within the Region that address the needs of children in particularly creative or effective ways. These ministries could become points of learning and collaboration for the entire Region.

By identifying and supporting such initiatives, the Region could explore new ways of working together to respond to the needs of children and young people who face poverty, exclusion, or injustice.

4. Education – Champagnat Global Project

Recently, the executive secretaries gathered in Spain to evaluate and discuss the impact that Champagnat Global has had on each of the region. In our discussions it became clear that Champagnat Global is a potential resource that is underutilized, not totally user friendly, and not fully understood. Based on the recommendation from the committee that attention needed to be given to these aspects before any further development be created. So, I strongly believe that within the next few months and initiative will be coming from Bro. Nino inviting each region to strengthen the use of Champagnat Global.

Alignment with the Calls of the General Chapter

In addition to clarifying their focus, each committee should ensure that its work is connected to the Calls of the General Chapter. These calls invite us to deepen our commitment to vocation, spirituality, community, governance, and mission.

By aligning our regional initiatives with these broader priorities, we ensure that the work of C.R.A.N. remains connected to the wider journey of the Institute and contributes meaningfully to the renewal of Marist life and mission.

Moving Forward Together

As we look ahead, the challenge is not simply to maintain existing structures, but to ensure that they serve the life and mission of the Region in a meaningful way. The work of the regional committees should help us:

- Strengthen our **regional identity**
- Foster deeper **collaboration among Provinces**
- Support the **mission with young people and children**
- Nurture the **spiritual life of our Marist family**

Today's conversation invites us to reflect together on how we can shape committees that are focused, realistic, and aligned with our shared mission. By doing so, we can ensure that the Region of Arco Norte continues to grow as a space of collaboration, fraternity, and prophetic presence within the global Marist family.