

# Mission and Vision: Building a Marist Future Together

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## Opening Reflection

“To make Jesus Christ known and loved.” — St. Marcellin Champagnat

Let us begin this time together by pausing to reflect on our shared calling. As Marists, we come together from many countries, languages, and realities — yet we are one family, united in spirit and mission. May the Holy Spirit guide our conversations, deepen our communion, and inspire us to dream boldly as we build our shared future.

## 1. Understanding Mission and Vision

As we discern the future of Marist Life and Mission across our region, it is essential to understand two foundational elements that guide every community and congregation: mission and vision.

- The **Mission Statement** explains our present purpose — who we are, what we do, and why we exist.
- The **Vision Statement** describes our future — where we are going, what we hope to become, and the difference we want to make in the world.

The table below highlights key differences between the two:

<b>Mission Statement</b>	<b>Vision Statement</b>
Focuses on the present: what we do now	Focuses on the future: what we hope to become
Answers: Who are we? What do we do? Why do we exist?	Answers: Where are we going? What do we hope to achieve?
Grounded in daily action and current purpose	Grounded in aspiration, hope, and long-term impact
Example: 'To make Jesus known and loved among young people.'	Example: 'To build a world where every young person experiences God's love and dignity.'

## 2. Applying This to Marist Life and Mission

The Marist mission is rooted in the Gospel and Champagnat's vision: to make Jesus known and loved, especially among children and young people, through education, presence, and community.

Our vision is a future where the Marist charism continues to transform lives — nurturing faith-filled, compassionate, and globally aware communities that build a more just, peaceful, and fraternal world.

### 3. Reflection and Dialogue

Use the space below for personal reflection or group discussion.

1. What words or actions best describe our Marist mission today?

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2. What common threads unite our ministries across this region?

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3. When you imagine the Marist family 10 years from now, what do you hope to see?

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### 4. Learning from Other Religious Congregations

Many congregations have restructured into regions to better respond to global realities. These examples can guide our own journey:


<i>Congregation</i>	<i>Regional Structure</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
Jesuits	Conferences (e.g., Canada-USA)	Foster collaboration and respond to global challenges
De La Salle Brothers	Regions (e.g., RELAN)	Strengthen identity and mission across contexts
Salesians	Regions (e.g., Interamerica)	Coordinate mission priorities and governance
Sisters of St. Joseph	Federations and Networks	Unify ministries and increase shared impact

### 5. Group Exercise: Drafting Our Statements

Work together to Evaluate the mission and vision statements for our region. What can remain the same? What, if anything, needs to change?

***Present Mission Statement:***

*Arco Norte is a group of Marist Provinces that collaborate and organize themselves to revitalize Marist life and mission, offering and innovating shared services in harmony with the Institute, through principles, processes and structures that allow us to respond to the challenges of our times.*

 Draft Mission Statement:

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**Present Vision Statement:**

*By 2026, brothers and lay people as Marists of Champagnat in Arco Norte are recognized as an integrated region that shares its spirituality and mission co-responsibly and creatively, in line with that of the Institute.*

 Draft Vision Statement:

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## 6. Final Reflection

Our mission roots us in the Gospel and Marist spirit — it is the work we do today. Our vision calls us forward — it is the dream that shapes tomorrow. Together, they provide the compass for our journey as one Marist family, united across nations, cultures, and languages.

## 7. Final Strategic Synthesis:

Guidelines for the construction of the response:

**Strengthening** → what key dimension of the region do we want to consolidate?

**Prioritizing** → what are we really going to focus our efforts on?

**Through** → how are we going to do it (processes, strategies, dynamics)?

**Impact on** → what concrete change do we want to see in the region?

For the next three year the C.R.A.N. must strengthen \_\_\_\_\_,  
prioritizing \_\_\_\_\_ by means of \_\_\_\_\_  
that ensure impact on \_\_\_\_\_.