

Resource Pack for National Vocations
Awareness Week 2020



*The
Marist
Brother*

The Marist Brother

August 2 to 9 marks National Vocations Awareness Week across Australia. During this week, you are invited to pray about how God is calling you to live your own vocation more deeply. In particular, the invitation to deepen an understanding of the vocational expressions within the Church is part of this reflection. The Province of Australia has produced this resource for this week.

This resource offers some reflection materials on the life of the Marist Brother. In particular, the Province of Australia launches three videos on three aspects of our life: Mission, Community and Spirituality. These videos were visioned, created, actioned and produced by Conor Ashleigh, a visual storyteller and communications consultant who has journeyed with numerous Marist communities around the world for many years. His passion and insight into the realities of our world have captured the modern context of the Marist Brother in Australia in a stunning and meaningful manner.

These media presentations will also feature in our social media platforms during this week. Please feel free to check out these platforms, browse our content, and witness the contemporary expressions of Marist Brothers life in Australia. Details of our platforms are listed on the last page of this resource, or search for “Marist Brothers Life” on Facebook and Instagram.

Coupled with these videos are some written resources and imagery that offer complimentary perspectives on the life of the Religious Brother. You are invited to use these resources in your ministries, with other people, with young people or a complete stranger.

The invitation of journeying with your own sense of vocation is as a loved child of God, to be your best and truest self. Being Brother, or brother, is a continuing expression in our world today, as we all endeavour to participate in the proclamation and building of the Kingdom, in our discipleship of Jesus.

Blessings,
Br James Hodge
Province Vocations Coordinator



*Vocations aren't
the result of
planning, but an
encounter with
God that changes
your life*

- Pope Francis -

Mission



From *Walking together, taking the best of our Marist DNA with us*,

“Now we have a tremendous, even unprecedented, opportunity to question ourselves about the call behind what we are living through and to respond accordingly.

Are we capable of listening to the cry of the world?

Do we feel co-responsible for responding to its social, political, and economic challenges that we face today?

Do we want to build “a culture of encounter” and no longer indulge in “a throw-away society”?

Do we commit ourselves to an ‘integral’ ecology, one that understands the care of the environment and the human development of all as being inseparable?”

- Brother Ernesto Sánchez Barba

During this time of COVID-19, an opportunity to be present to the current realities of our world is before us. Brother Ernesto Sánchez Barba, Superior General of the Marist Brothers, offers this reflection on the current context, and reflects on the engagement with our mission that is unfolding. This is his letter, *Walking together, taking the best of our Marist DNA with us*.

Read more from Br Ernesto here: https://champagnat.org/shared/ErnestoSanchez_Champagnat2020_EN.pdf



View the Video on Mission here:
<https://vimeo.com/442518893>

Community

From *Wherever You Go: The Marist Brothers' Rule of Life*,

“In our response, we commit ourselves to walk with others.

As we become more fully aware that the risen Lord is among us, in our life and in the life of our community, we realise that our relationships with our brothers are deepening, growing richer, being transformed. Over time our response to the call of the risen Christ matures.

We find our hearts opening to the wider world; we are moved to share ourselves and to extend fraternity to others. In our willingness to walk with them, we at first adapt our pace to theirs hoping that over time this experience will quicken their step.

In this way, the face of God is revealed in fraternal life as communion; it transforms our relationships and causes us to put others first, even when it entails great personal cost.”

- Article 37

Released on January 2, 2020, The Rule of Life is a new document that is intended to encourage the Brothers in the gift of our vocation, to live our lives according to the heart of Mary as Champagnat wanted when he gave us our name. Throughout these pages, then, you will find a collective wisdom that has developed over the past two centuries.

Read more about this unique document here: <https://champagnat.org/en/wherever-you-go-the-marist-brothers-rule-of-life/>

View the Video on Community here:
<https://vimeo.com/442519386>



Spirituality

From *Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church*,

“The vocation of the Brother is not only intended to be that of a recipient of God’s love, but also of being a witness and mediator of that same gift, of the project of communion which God has for humanity and which is based in the Trinitarian communion.

This project, the Mystery which has been revealed to us in Christ, seeks to establish a horizontal relationship between God and humankind at the very heart of humanity, precisely where God wants to be present.”

- Article 13

This perspective on the vocation of the Religious Brothers was released by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Vatican, on October 4th, 2015.

Written as a reflection, this document contributes to the appreciation of the richness of the different vocations, especially within male consecrated life, and seeks to shed light on the identity of the Religious Brother and the value and necessity of this vocation.

It is one of the first and most thorough resources released on the unique contribution and offering of the Religious Brother to people, the Church and the world.

Access this resource here: <https://champagnat.org/en/church-recognizes-the-identity-of-the-religious-brother-in-a-publication/>

View the Video on Spirituality here:
<https://vimeo.com/442519256>





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Photos: Conor Ashleigh
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