

Would you like to join a Marist group?

There are various Marist groups which meet people at different stages of their life. What binds these groups is not their uniformity or sameness, but a deeper desire to be Mary in the world today. A Marist group allows one to explore and form in the Marist spirit in a formative setting. By regularly gathering, praying, doing works of justice or discussing, individuals can discover the Marist spirit alive in the people. Mary's spirit who seeks God's spirit today.

Further Information

Contact

Marist Laity Australia

www.maristlaityaustralia.com



Mary's Prayer

Let us make Mary's prayer, our own prayer as we pray:

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for God has looked with favour on the
lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call
me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for
me,
and holy is his name.
God's mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
God has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts
of their hearts.
God has brought down the powerful from their
thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
God has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
God has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our
ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever."
Amen.

An introduction to Marist Laity

What is a Marist?

A Marist is a person who follows Jesus in the way of Mary.

The word “Marist” is made up of two parts. “Mar” for “Mary” TO “ist” for “Christ”.

Mary said “yes” to the will of God. Marists step out of “business as usual” to reflect, pray and meditate on God’s will.

Marists seek simplicity in life. Marists search to choose the essentials in our own life. Today, we live in an information rich world which can often block out God’s word and will. A more simple life style enables a freedom to let go of the things which prevent us from striving for and finding what is most important.

Marists are flexible and inclusive to life’s pathways, life with its struggles, hurdles, and difficulties. Marists respond with a tender heart. With compassion. With forgiveness. With Mercy.

Mary strives to bear the Christ child in a chaotic world. As an unmarried teenage girl in first century Palestine, Mary could have been executed for being pregnant. Yet, Mary actively steps into this chaos in order to birth God’s hope. Marists do the same, by actively going out into the world to bear hope. To be Mary’s hands, feet, mind, and heart today.

How do I catch this spirituality?

You cannot just say “I am a Marist”. This is like saying “I am a teacher”, but without teaching. Thus, in a sense, in order to “be Marist” we must be open to forever “becoming Marist”. To say “yes” to God, may mean “no” to other things. A Marist actively strives to be Mary’s hands, feet, mind and heart day by day.

The family and community are a critical part to being Marist. Through the relationships in our life, we embody Mary. Thus, Mary is not far away in heaven. Mary is down with us being God’s hands and feet. Marists too strive to be present to others through the practical application of this spirituality. To catch the Marist spirit requires us to be open to the moment to moment encounters in relationship. We taste and catch this spirituality by experiencing the hospitality, humour, joy, pains, sorrows and compassion where God appears in life with others.

Who are the laity?

Lay people are at different stages and states of life. Single, married, unmarried, divorced, children, grandparents, partnered etc. There is a rich array, diversity and inclusiveness to the laity. God’s creation is diverse, and laity reflects this diversity. Lay people form a key part of forming God’s family.

Are there other Marists?

Yet there are others who choose to live a religious life as a Marist Sister, Missionary Sister, Marist Brother or Marist Father. They take vows of obedience, poverty and chastity so as to be more available in the wider community to be God’s hands, feet and heart. This is a beautiful gift and way; however, most people are not religious, but choose to live a life as laity.

