

General Chapter 2025

Statements and Decisions



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Foreword from the Superior General

Dear Confreres,

What follows are the recommendations and decisions of our 2025 General Chapter held at Nemi, near Rome, from 15 September to 5 October. They are the fruits of a synodal discernment process involving prayer, reflection, listening and discussion over three weeks and thirty-six delegates from across the Marist world. Under the theme of “With Mary at Pentecost” delegates reviewed the needs of our sisters and brothers today, in our fragmented world and sometimes polarized Church. They evaluated the rapidly changing form of the Society of Mary and discerned how best to respond with faith and courage.

In our audience with Pope Leo XIV on September 18, he called us “*to be attentive to the signs of the times*”. He challenged us to go back to our Founder who was “*capable of observing, evaluating, loving and then setting out, even at the risk of great suffering and failure, to serve the real needs of his brothers and sisters, recognizing the voice of God in the poverty of his neighbours*”.

These Chapter statements and decisions form a programme of work not only for the incoming General Administration but challenge each of us – personally and as communities – to live our Marist vocation in new and deeper ways. They call on all Marists to see themselves as part of *one* Society and to collaborate more closely with each other across Provinces and units for the sake of our mission – which is to form a Church with a Marian face, a Church that embodies inclusiveness and compassion. This collaboration will likely entail the merging of some Provinces and units and the continued development of international mission communities¹ that are intercultural and intergenerational in character.

We were fortunate to have some lay observers at our Chapter who spoke to us about the importance of Marist community life as a witness in a divided world. As our Chapter statement on community life puts it: “The mission of the apostles to the world ... was founded upon their communion forged in the upper room where, gathered around Mary, they became “one in mind and heart”. The Chapter encouraged us to develop new forms of living community life for mission by establishing intercultural and intergenerational communities that are prayerful, characterised by a simple lifestyle and a warm welcome to people of all ages, religions, and backgrounds. Moreover, the quality of our community life is linked to our ability to attract vocations. Many young people are searching for a sense of community and purpose, and a vibrant Marist community can be a site of accompaniment, prayer and support on their journey.

¹ In recent times these have been referred to as “Omnes Gentes communities.”

A recurring theme of the Chapter was collaboration, not only among canonical Marist religious but, increasingly, with our lay partners who share in our mission. The Chapter called us to develop new ways of working together with Marist laity, many of whom already play a significant role in education, finance, community management and in our wider Marist mission.

In relation to Marist mission today, the Chapter was realistic enough to acknowledge our ageing and diminishment in many parts of the congregation. It also accepted that not all confreres can participate in international mission communities. At the same time, the Chapter invited us to audacity and newness, to discern how the Spirit might be calling us to serve new needs, and “to establish the Church where it does not exist and to renew existing communities” (Const. 14). Our work with youth, migrants, refugees and the poor through formal and non-formal education will continue. The Society remains open to accept mission projects which others may be reluctant to undertake.

The Chapter also reaffirmed the congregation’s commitment to building and sustaining a culture of safeguarding in every aspect of our life and mission. It mandated all units to have protocols in place conducive to maintaining a safeguarding culture.

Other important themes discussed included: recommendations to the General Administration on financing our mission and the equitable distribution of funds; the future of La Neylière; the promotion of the *fama* of our Fr. Colin, and some legislative changes.

It is the hope of the Chapter that these documents will provide a clear and helpful direction for leadership, at all levels of the Society of Mary. We also hope that Marists everywhere will embrace, as best they can, the strong movement of the Spirit so evident over these weeks of Chapter “With Mary at Pentecost”.

Finally, these are documents of faith – rooted in prayer and discernment, the Scriptures, our Catholic tradition and our Marist charism – and they are intended to be both sources of prayer and to provide the direction for Marist life and mission for the next eight years.

Declan Marmion, S.M.
Superior General
Rome
17 October 2025

Marist Mission Today

Statements

1. As Marists, we have always been, and remain, called to proclaim the Gospel in the manner of Mary. Throughout our history, the Society has engaged in a wide range of missionary works. While some of these have ceased for various reasons, many continue to bear fruit. They include educational institutions, parish ministry, local and international missions, and programmes of spiritual renewal. We acknowledge with gratitude the good accomplished through these ministries. At the same time, the future requires us to broaden our vision and to prioritise works in accordance with our resources and the needs of the contemporary world.
2. In an increasingly divided and polarised world, the Marist mission of mercy and hope is expressed through the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the building up of a Marian Church. In our ministries, Marists seek to nurture faith, foster reconciliation, and promote peace, justice, and care for creation. Marist ministries are characterised by prayer, and, where possible, interculturality, and intergenerational solidarity. Marists are to live and minister in a synodal manner, collaborating closely with the laity and the wider Marist Family. Their mission requires active engagement in interfaith dialogue, ongoing professional formation, skills for the digital environment, and a strong culture of safeguarding.

Decisions

3. Mission Priorities

In light of these pressing challenges of our time, and drawing upon the experience of the Omnes Gentes missions, particular priority is to be given to the areas of youth, vocations, migrants, refugees, and the poor, through formal and non-formal education, and the bringing of the gospel to the digital world.

4. New Missions

Consistent with our tradition, the Society is prepared to accept missions which others may be reluctant to undertake. We are willing to commit ourselves, even for limited periods, in response to urgent needs. Despite the reality of diminishing resources, we are still called to be open to new calls from the Church. The Superior General has the authority to approve new projects, and to identify new projects himself. In dialogue with unit leaders and the confreres concerned, he is to appoint members to these projects.

5. The Support of Marist Education

The General Chapter affirms the importance of Marist involvement in our educational ministry and assuring our legacy for the future. It asks the Superior General and his Council to promote and sustain structures² that empower our lay colleagues and confreres to carry forward this mission in the characteristic Marist spirit and ethos for generations to come.

6. The Digital Mission Field

- a) Consideration be given to the establishment of an online platform enabling communication, resource-sharing, and collaboration between communities, ministries, lay partners, units, commissions and the General Administration.
- b) That those in formation acquire the technological competencies and the professional standards necessary for this environment, and to have access to appropriate tools.
- c) That Marists with particular aptitude in this field be encouraged to further develop their skills and employ them in service of our mission.

² These ideas are spelled out in the *Marist Heritage in the Mission of Education* report.

7. Commissions

The Chapter affirms the valuable work done by the three commissions — Migrants and Refugees, Ecology, and Inter-religious and Inter-cultural Dialogue and Reconciliation — together with the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) blog through which their contributions are shared. We request that this work be continued and that consideration be given to establishing further commissions, for example in the areas of Youth and Education, Vocations and the extension of the Omnes Gentes model.

8. Integrity of Creation

We encourage local communities to live simply and to support ecological projects and initiatives.

Community Life for Mission

Statements

9. Our world today is increasingly fractured. There is also division in the Church. Many everywhere are troubled by fear and anxiety, loneliness and isolation. They are searching for signs of hope.
10. Our Marist communities are small in number. How can they convincingly offer hope to our contemporaries?
11. The mission of the apostles to the world of their day began in the streets of Jerusalem and went out from there to the ends of the world. But it was founded upon their communion forged in the upper room where, gathered around Mary, they became “one in mind and heart”.
12. Our mission today also begins with an experience of the upper room. From there, we too can go down into the streets of our world and offer hope and respond to the cry of the earth and the poor. It is through the quality of our communion with each other, expressed in our community life, that we must begin to respond creatively to this wounded world. For Marists, community life is a primary apostolate (Const. 127).

Decisions

13. The General Chapter of 2025 asks each unit of the Society to move intentionally further towards the new form of living our community life for mission by establishing communities that are normally:
 - Intercultural³
 - Intergenerational⁴
 - Called from different Marist areas
 - Ideally of four or five members

³ Interculturality: is the process of sustained interaction of people raised in different backgrounds denoting mutual exchange between cultures, and blending the cultural elements, which can lead to transformation, enrichment and a more interconnected society. Interculturality is a theological ideal not a sociological fact.

⁴ Intergenerational: is the blending of different generations to gain from the wisdom and experience of older confreres and the enthusiasm and fresh vision of the younger members of the community.

Aware that, for good reason, not all Marists can participate directly in such communities, the Chapter wishes to acknowledge gratefully the ongoing commitment and fidelity of these confreres to the life and mission of the Society and encourages them to grow in prayerful solidarity with this new direction in our shared global mission.

14. The General Chapter of 2025 calls all Marists to ongoing personal and community conversion (cf. Consts. 118, 127, 228) by committing themselves to:

- A life centred on the Eucharist
- A period of daily, personal and contemplative prayer, ideally one hour.
- An agreed form of regular, reflective community prayer, such as the Liturgy of the Hours, adoration, sharing the Word of God, Marian devotions.

15. The life of all Marists should be characterised by:

- Appreciating the role of their superior as animating the spiritual life of the community.
- Regular study and prayerful reading of the Scriptures, spiritual texts, and theology.
- Seeking professional guidance in order to develop their spiritual life, e.g. spiritual direction, counselling, supervision.
- Where possible, seeking to share their prayer and common life with other Marist communities, the Marist family, and the wider Church.
- Actively encouraging vocations, Marists commit themselves in particular, to celebrate the Eucharist weekly for vocations. Traditionally, Saturday is a day when Mary's intercession is invoked.
- The responsible use of media.
- Deep, compassionate listening to each other.
- Caring for the health and wellbeing of each other, seeking a balance between action and contemplation. This balance will include one day of rest a week.
- Appreciating that ongoing formation is a life task for Marists. This would include time for a sabbatical leave.
- The readiness to seek reconciliation with each other.
- A welcoming and hospitable attitude.

Governance and Leadership

Statements

16. Over the life of the Society, our governance and leadership structures have continuously evolved to better serve the Marist mission. The Society has been moving from a confederation of provinces and districts to a more unified structure.
17. This chapter believes that the current governance and leadership structures are no longer sustainable.
18. We acknowledge that the reality is different in each of our units.
19. Many units have decreased in membership since the 2017 General Chapter. The pool of possible leadership candidates has declined. Therefore, this recommendation outlines a proposed direction for restructuring the Society's units considering the evolving demographic, pastoral, and financial realities, as well as the development of mission-focused initiatives.
20. The intention is not to provide a final blueprint, but to offer a clear and realistic framework that builds on existing legislation and structures, while responding to the changing needs and dynamics of the Society of Mary.

Recommendations

21. The General Chapter recommends that the Superior General and Council, after consultation, discernment and study of the actual situation, implements when possible, the strategic unification of the existing provinces and districts. This is to be done in a synodal way.
22. Any proposed restructuring would aim to strengthen collaboration, improve governance, and support the vitality of our common mission.
23. Progress will be reported annually at ARC and a more comprehensive plan presented to CS2029.
24. All units could begin or deepen collaboration, dialogue and co-operation.

25. In particular, the Chapter recommends that New Zealand, Asia and Omnes Gentes Ranong, and Australia, Oceania and Omnes Gentes Marayong: move forward as soon as possible.

26. We encourage the group of Africa, Europe, Canada and Omnes Gentes Samsun and Sahagun, and the group of South America, United States and Mexico, to continue conversation and dialogue.

Implications

27. These changes can be adopted over different timelines and in different ways.

28. We consider it opportune that for the time being the Superior General maintains his authority over the Omnes Gentes communities.

29. We call on any new province to develop ways to ensure the interests of smaller areas within the unit.

30. There are several implications of these new structures which need to be carefully worked through, e.g. finances, archives, voting rights, ARC and General Chapter representation, and safeguarding.

Formation

Statements

31. Jean-Claude Colin was a man who read the signs of his times and responded with a charism which enabled the early Marists, in a certain sense, to begin a new Church.
32. We are called to do the same. We are to form candidates and members with a Marian mind and heart, who can respond creatively to our fractured world with a spirit of unity, mercy, and healing, enabling a new creation in Christ.

Decisions

33. That the Marist International Formation Directory be reviewed and updated.
34. That a general counsellor be responsible for coordinating vocations promotion in the Society.
35. That the General Administration ensure the quality and consistency of pre-novitiate formation, with special reference to the human development of candidates, language learning, and interculturality.
36. That the General Administration review the academic and pastoral formation of students with a view to:
- a) Meeting the academic requirements of the Church.
 - b) Ensuring adequate pastoral formation.
 - c) Ensuring that every young Marist be educated in theology, ideally at least to the level of a Licence.
37. That regular meetings of formators be supported and developed, online and in person.
38. That the General Administration and major superiors ensure the implementation of our existing policy:
- a) That newly ordained confreres be accompanied for the first five years.

- b) That after 10 years of ordination, or perpetual profession for brothers, a Marist will be given an extended period of Marist Renewal. The Chapter recommends that the GA makes a program of renewal available every 3 years.

Shared Mission with Laity

Statements

39. Heeding the call of the Church to continue the synodal journey, we will develop ways to collaborate more closely with Marist laity. We want to respond to their urgent call to us to create a framework which mutually enables us to be Mary's presence in the world today.

Marists, religious and lay alike, share the same mission each in their own way: building a community of believers, united under the name of Mary, with one mind and one heart (Const. 3). Nevertheless, we acknowledge that our mission can be threatened by forms of clericalism⁵ among both religious and laity.

40. Mary continues to call people to her mission today and we must open doors for them to join her Marist family. One of our challenges is to develop new ways of working together to reformulate our tradition for our time. It is urgent that we transmit it, offering generations to come the opportunity to make it their own and to express it in fresh ways. And so, we live out our identity according to our specific vocations: women and men, religious and lay - all committed to the Work of Mary. We want and need lay people to be co-responsible in the projects of the Society, conscious that Marist laity do not serve our congregation but the whole Church and its mission.

41. We rejoice in the wide diversity of Marist laity, a source of great richness. It is a treasure that lay people are linked to us through:

- a) Collaborating in Marist works and projects as partners in mission, often with professional competences.
- b) Working as volunteers and co-workers in Marist ministries, whether in education, parish, mission initiatives, youth ministries or other projects of evangelisation.
- c) The Third Order and other lay Marist groups and individuals who share Marist spirituality (Const. 31).

⁵ For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission. Final Document No. 74, November 2024

42. Formation includes preparing religious and lay Marists to collaborate effectively, and grounded in our shared spirituality, to respond to diverse contexts. This is a pathway to embodying and living the Marist spirit in today's world: forming religious and lay Marists who serve with compassion and help build a Church with a Marian face that is humble, missionary, and full of hope.
43. Marist spirituality is a gift for the whole Church. The formation programs will be primarily offered to those who wish to follow Christ in the footsteps of Mary. Each unit will usually have its own formation structure and programme adapted to its training needs and particular ministries.

Decisions

44. To develop this framework, the Chapter recommends dedicating resources to implement these orientations. The Superior General and Council are asked to establish a commission (Marists Together for Mission) to:
- a) Carry out an audit to identify what already exists, the needs and opportunities
 - b) Foster relationships, connections and initiatives.
 - c) Facilitate the provision of formation programmes for mission partners.
 - d) Gather and curate formation materials, for example a Handbook and other resources available on a digital platform.
 - e) Ensure appropriate safeguarding procedures and policies are in place and followed.
 - f) Consider the financial implications of collaboration with our lay partners.
45. In the light of the call to a more synodal Church, as Marist religious, we need to examine our ways of thinking, our attitudes, our behaviour, and engage more with our lay colleagues in mission.
46. The two lists, *Key Elements of the Partnership between Lay and Religious Marists*, and *Core Elements of Formation Programs* developed during the General Chapter 2025 will be given to the commission for this topic.

Safeguarding

Statements

47. We Marists, gathered in General Chapter, reaffirm our unwavering commitment to building and sustaining a culture of safeguarding in every aspect of our life and mission wherever we serve, in all cultures and ministries. Safeguarding is not only about preventing harm but also about fostering life and trust.
48. We recognise with humility the failures of the past and the ongoing deep wounds caused when the vulnerable were not protected. We acknowledge with sorrow the times our actions, or our inaction, have betrayed the trust placed in us. These painful lessons call us to ongoing conversion of heart and practice.
49. We acknowledge that abuse in all its forms - physical, sexual, emotional, cultural, psychological and spiritual - are in our world and may also be present in our lives and ministries.
50. Safeguarding is the shared responsibility of us all. It flows from our following of Christ, who placed the vulnerable at the centre of his ministry, and from our imitation of Mary, who embodies care, tenderness, and protection. With their help, our communities and ministries will be places where the Gospel is lived with integrity, where trust can be rebuilt, and where the vulnerable always find a place of safety and welcome.

Decisions

We Marists continue to commit ourselves to:

51. Requiring all units to have protocols in place conducive to creating a safeguarding culture
52. Establishing physical and online environments that are safe for children, young people, and vulnerable adults, where their dignity is respected and their voices are heard.
53. Integrating a full and precise safeguarding training program in our initial formation houses that includes analysis and training in safeguarding life skills.

54. Embedding safeguarding in our governance, ongoing formation, and daily life as religious.
55. Holding ourselves accountable to the highest standards of care and transparency, in line with both Church and civil requirements.
56. Responding appropriately to complaints in a timely manner in accordance with each unit's policies.
57. Promoting a spirit of equity and accepting difference. This is rooted in the dignity of every person as a child of God.
58. Collaborating with lay partners and experts to provide ongoing training and support so that all our confreres and lay collaborators are equipped to recognise, prevent, and respond appropriately to any risk of harm.
59. Listening with respect to the experiences of survivors and ensuring their participation shapes our policies and practices.
60. Committing ourselves to work for justice (including just reparation) tempered by mercy.

La Neylière

Statements

61. La Neylière is part of our Marist heritage. The General Chapter 2025 desires that a decision on its future be made.

Decisions

This Chapter:

62. Endorses the work of the community at La Neylière and commends it to Marists as a place of heritage, spirituality and respite.
63. Recommends that a comprehensive report on La Neylière be commissioned by the Superior General with the advice of his council after appropriate consultation re the terms of reference. This report needs to be completed at least 3 months before either an ARC meeting or CS2029.
64. Recognises that the Province of Europe together with voluntary assistance from other units and the General Administration may investigate setting up a fund of at least €4 million. The use of such a fund would be designated by Europe after consultation at ARC. (If the fund was no longer required it would be returned to the original donor[s]).
65. Suggests that the responsibility to staff La Neylière remain with the European province but commends discussion at ARC annually about the availability of confreres from other units.

Colin Cause

66. The Chapter supports continuing to develop the *fama* of our Founder, Venerable Jean Claude Colin, and working towards his beatification and canonization.

Finance

Statements

67. “We irrevocably dedicate ourselves and all our goods to the Society of the blessed Virgin.” (Promise of Fourvière)
68. The General Chapter recognises that finance is necessary to facilitate Marist community and mission. We also recognise that all our resources are held in common for the sake of the Society and its mission. To these ends, while trusting in divine providence, we try to practise good stewardship and responsible management.
69. The Chapter accepts the General Bursar’s report to the 2025 General Chapter.

Decisions

The Chapter recommends that the General Administration:

70. Continues to work with units in order to achieve an equitable distribution of funds necessary for the life and mission of the Society.
71. Encourages units to train Marists in financial competency.
72. Examines the management of liquid and capital assets in diminishing units.
73. Establishes an Endowment Fund to provide for the expenses of the General Administration and the General House.
74. Requires an actuarial study at the unit level leading to a Society wide study. This is to be completed before the next Council of the Society in 2029.
75. Studies the ongoing capital expenses of International Formation with a view to changes (increasing numbers, major maintenance) that may have financial impact in the near future.
76. Considers the impact on central finances of any decision regarding reconfiguration.
77. Works with the Mission Districts and the Province of Oceania in order that they become more self-sufficient and develop their own unit investments.

Legislative Changes

1. Constitutions

The Chapter proposes that the following changes to the Constitutions be presented to the Holy See for approval:

This number will follow Constitutions #149, with a new number:

The General Chapter has the power to establish, suppress and define endowments for the Society of Mary. The endowments form part of the Society's stable patrimony which guarantees the subsistence of the institute and its mission.⁶ Specific endowments created by chapters will be named in the Decreta Capitularia. The superior general, with the consent of his council, is responsible for the By-laws, placed in the Administrative Directory, which manages the endowments. Funds from the endowments are not permitted to be used for capital expenditures such as the purchase of property or construction. In case of emergency, the superior general, with the consent of his council, may petition the Holy See for changes to the governance of the endowments, as defined by these Constitutions. Between general chapters, the superior general, with the consent of his council, may establish new endowments.

Amendments to the Constitutions:

Constitution 111.

They should be attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor which makes an urgent and continuous appeal for a conversion of minds and attitudes. They acknowledge that action for justice is an integral part of the proclamation of the Gospel and they strive, therefore, with an integral ecology, to remedy injustices in economic and social relationships.

⁶ *Economy at the Service of the Charism and Mission*, Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Society of Apostolic Life, 2018, §73.

Constitution 166.

Delegates and substitutes are elected by unit chapter. For the election of delegates and substitutes a simple majority of more than half of the capitulants present at the time of the vote is required.

Constitution 181.

The superior general is elected by the general chapter. Every Marist who has been perpetually professed for seven years or more is eligible for the office of superior general.....

Constitution 187.

The superior general, with the consent of his council, has the authority to erect, divide, unite or suppress provinces, districts or other units of the Society.

Constitution 207.

The provincial superior shall be a Marist, perpetually professed for at least seven years. His term of office is three years, once renewable.

Constitution 212.

Every Marist is normally under the authority of a local superior, who must be a Marist, perpetually professed for at least two years. He is appointed by the provincial....

2. Decreta Capitularia

A. New numbers

The following two new numbers will follow DC #128, with new numbers:

Endowments

XXX. The International Formation Endowment Fund was established by a decision of the superior general and council in October 2016. It was formally adopted as an endowment by the General Chapter 2025.

The purpose of this endowment is to support the formation programs of the Society of Mary:

- The primary purpose is the financing of the international initial formation houses and programs of the Society of Mary.
- If it is able to sustain the international initial formation houses and programs, the “spend” from the endowment may be used to support (in the following order):
 - International programs for the training of formators;
 - Assist Mission Districts and the Province of Oceania in their initial formation programs; and
 - Assist other formation programs.

XXX. **The Endowment for Mission** was established by a decision of the superior general and council in September 2020. It was formally adopted as an endowment by General Chapter 2025.

The purpose of the endowment is to support the mission of the Society of Mary:

- The primary purpose is the financing of the annual mission funding schema of the Society of Mary (Solidarity for Mission).
- If it is able to sustain the annual mission funding schemas, the “spend” from the endowment may be used to support (in the following order):
 - Omnes Gentes projects of the Society of Mary;
 - Special mission projects of the Mission Districts and Province of Oceania which cannot otherwise be supported by other resources;
 - Mission projects of other units of the Society of Mary;
 - Mission projects of the Marist Family congregations;
 - Assist other mission projects.

A new number on Safeguarding is to be placed in Chapter 3 on Marist Religious Life. It will follow n. 42 with the heading V. Safeguarding

N. 43 Each unit of the Society must have appropriate protocols to promote a safeguarding environment, methodology for responding to complaints of abuse, and a system of ongoing education in safeguarding for its membership. The protocols are to be adhered to faithfully and without exception.

B. Amended numbers

DC1. The Society of Mary is comprised of Provinces and, since 1980, also of Districts. **The superior general, with the consent of his council, may determine other types of units within the Society.** What is said of provinces and provincials in the Constitutions and these *decreta* is understood as applying to districts **and other units** and their superiors, except when specified, whether by the decision of the superior general with the advice of his council, or by specific statutes of the unit, or as indicated otherwise in a particular number of the *Decreta Capitularia*.

DC4. When a Marist is transferred, he relinquishes his membership in one province or district and acquires full membership in another **(normally including active and passive voice)**. The superior general alone, **with the advice of his council**, has the authority to transfer members, but before doing so he consults the major superiors with their councils, and the individual concerned. What is said of transfers to units normally applies to transfers to houses of international formation and Omnes Gentes projects.

DC5. **All transfers, whether temporary or permanent, are to be initiated with the appropriate Affidavit of Suitability issued by the sending unit.**

DC6. **Transfers may be temporary, during which the religious, who becomes a member of the new unit, has the rights and obligations of his new unit and relinquishes those of his former. In making the transfer, the superior general will specify whether it is temporary or permanent. Temporary transfers are normally for three-year terms which can be renewed. The superior general may make a temporary transfer permanent after consulting his council and all parties involved.**

DC7. **The superior general may appoint a Marist to another unit for a particular purpose for a specified length of time, having consulted the individual, the major superiors concerned and his own council. During the individual's term in the unit he is a member of the unit with the rights and obligations of the unit and relinquishes those of his former unit. The province or district of departure and the unit of destination will agree in advance on the most appropriate way to take care of health and retirement schemes.**

DC9. **When a religious of another congregation or a diocesan priest wishes to transfer to the Society of Mary, the superior general, after consultation with the relevant major superior, and with the consent of his council will determine how the applicant will spend the probationary period of at least three years before perpetual profession as a member of the Society of Mary.**

DC10. During their term of office, the members of the general council and the general officers are not under the authority or care of their province, nor do they have active or passive voice in the province. **After they have completed their term of office, they are to return to the unit from which they came, unless alternative arrangements are made by all parties involved.**

DC12. A religious remains a member of his own province in the following cases:

- a) a religious is given on loan to a province to give some service for a specific length of time,
- b) a religious is sent to reside for a lengthy period in a community of another province for the purpose of studies, ongoing-formation, old age, ill-health or a similar reason,
- c) a religious in **initial** formation is sent on pastoral placement or studies to another province,
- d) a religious is sent for a lengthy period of time to live in an area where another province is located, but not to a community of that province, for the purpose of studies, ongoing-formation, old age, ill-health, active ministry or a similar reason.

DC13. In the **cases of #12 above**, a written agreement is drawn up between the provincials concerned which specifies the rights and obligations of the religious, and such matters as active and passive voice, finance, health and insurance arrangements and in the case of a religious in international formation the provision for his care. The religious will depend on his own provincial for matters concerning admission to vows or to orders and separation from the Society in any form. For all ordinary matters such as residence, work, finance, travel he is under the authority of the province where he lives.

DC15. The superior general has the responsibility for the establishment and supervision of international teams of the Society (**e.g. Omnes Gentes projects and houses of international formation**). For the supervision of the teams the superior general will appoint a delegate to act on his behalf. **The superior general will appoint the local superior of the team, after consultation with the parties involved.**

DC44. **The committee will be composed of four persons including the bursar general and at least two other Marists. At least one of the Marist members is to be a major superior. The fourth member, if not a Marist, will be financially competent. They will be elected by the Council of the Society from a list of six names offered by the superior general. Their term of office extends to the next meeting of the council of the Society, and may be renewed. If during this period a member finishes his term, the superior general and council will appoint another member until the next council of the Society. It will normally meet once a year with the superior general and his council. It may meet more often if it is convoked by the superior general or if all the members agree that such a meeting is necessary.**

DC47. To assist the provinces or districts needing financial help:

- a) The superior general and council, with the general bursar, will invite the superiors of these areas to submit every year a budget with the projected income and expense for the next fiscal year, and the amount they will need from the Mission fund.
- b) The superior general and council, with the general bursar, will study the budgets and, in consultation with the superiors concerned, will establish the amount needed for Mission solidarity and its distribution to each area.
- c) **The superior general and council, with the general bursar, will send this information to the provincials with a proposal of how much they might contribute. The**

provincials will give a response regarding the ability to meet the request. The superior general and council, with the general bursar, will ask them to send the monies to the central Mission Fund, from which the funds will be distributed to each area according to a previously agreed schedule.

DC48. An important element in the preservation of the Society's heritage is the proper care of archives. In the general, provincial, and local houses there will be archives carefully kept according to **the Administrative Directory**.

DC49. **On a date prior to the publication of the letter convoking the general chapter, the superior general, with the consent of his council, after consultation of ARC, will determine a formula for electing a number of delegates which will exceed by at least one (1) the number of voting delegates attending the general chapter by right (cf. Constitutions #165). The formula will be based on the number of perpetually professed members who have active voice in the unit at the date of the convocation of the chapter.**

DC73. The following actions and decisions of the superior general require for validity the CONSENT of his council:

Provinces

- a. erection, division, unification, or suppression of a province or district **or another unit**;

Formation

- b. erection, transfer or suppression of a novitiate house;
- c. authorization for a candidate to make his novitiate in a house other than the novitiate house;
- d. admission to first and perpetual profession and renewal of vows for the whole Society (C.65)
- e. re-admission of a candidate who has left legitimately during his temporary commitment or at the end of it;

Finances

- f. authorization to spend portion of the capital reserved for future needs of the Society (C.148);
- g. permission for a financial operation whose value exceeds the financial competence of the provincial. At times permission from the Holy See may also be required;
- h. transfer of assets **within the Society of Mary**;
- i. approval of the general bursar's report to the general chapter

DC74. The following actions and decisions of the superior general require for validity that he seek the ADVICE of his council:

Provinces

- a. examination and approval of provincial chapter decisions;
- b. dispensation from provincial statutes or from decisions of the general chapter or Council of the Society;
- c. giving or withholding the nihil obstat in the election of a provincial;

Interprovincial Relations

- d. transfer of a Marist from one **unit** to another;
- e. appointment of a Marist to a work directly under the authority of the superior general;
- f. setting up of permanent structures of interprovincial cooperation;
- g. appointment of Marists to works or interprovincial services dependent on the general administration;
- h. acceptance of a request to work outside the **unit** of origin;

DC120. In a district, the following actions and decisions are reserved to the superior general with the advice of his council:

- a. changes to the charter and to the statutes of the district and to the orientation of religious life and ministry.
- b. appointment of the district superior, who is normally the major superior unless otherwise stated, after appropriate consultation with the members of the district.
- c. appointment of all new personnel to the district, and the appointment of all members of the formation team .
- d. for “mission districts” the approval of the district’s budget (including capital expenses).**
- e. any other matters, determined by the superior general.