



Reflection from the Superior General

March 2026

Dear Confreres,

Greetings from Monteverde and I hope your Lenten journey is going well and that it is a chance for us to focus on the call to conversion in our Marist lives. Participating in the sacrament of reconciliation and sharing our faith together are indispensable means for growing closer to the Lord as we approach the celebration of Easter.

Recently I had the opportunity to visit the District of Asia, including the 20th anniversary celebrations of our presence in Ranong, Thailand. Our confreres in the Philippines and Thailand, though small in number, are doing great work all of which is very much in line with the directions of our recent General Chapter: ministering to youth, migrants and the poor. An additional highlight was to meet the incoming and outgoing novices in Eden, near Davao, Philippines and their formators. My visit concluded with a two-day District Assembly where we heard and discussed the various ministries in which the confreres are engaged and the challenges they face.

What struck me too – and this also applies to other units – is that confreres are stretched. Some confreres carry multiple responsibilities and are stressed. Although our General Chapter Statements and Decisions listed “Marist Mission Today” as its first topic, this does not mean the Chapter intended to relegate “Community Life” to a secondary place. Rather, citing *Constitutions*, 127, it reminded us that “for Marists, community life is a primary apostolate.”

I mention this because often the ‘mission’ or ministry aspect can take over much of our time and energy. Sometimes ministry can even seem more fulfilling than engaging in the life of the community and prayer in common. Yet we should resist the temptation to play off our commitment to serve God’s people on the one hand, and our commitment to community life and its practices, on the other. Both go hand in hand. Indeed, the Chapter was quite specific in this regard, and it is a recommendation we can usefully take to heart this Lent:

“The General Chapter of 2025 calls all Marists to ongoing personal and community conversion (cf. Const. 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.” (General Chapter 2025, *Statements and Decisions*, 14).

Finally, on behalf of all here at the General House, I wish you continued graces of the Lenten season and a joyful celebration of Easter.

Fraternally,

Declan Marmion, S.M.