



Reflection from the Superior General

June 2026

~ *The Art of Weaving Communion* ~

Dear Confreres,

At a recent conference here in Rome on mental health, education, and digital technology, Pope Leo spoke of education as “*the art of weaving communion*”. The General Council, following the recommendations of our General Chapter, has set up an international working group – the *Marist Educational Pathways Working Group* – to survey the very diverse world of Marist education and to make recommendations regarding which structures will best serve our Marist educational mission into the future.

Like Pope Leo, our aim is to promote greater networking, collaboration and resource sharing across our Marist educational institutions, and to support our lay colleagues and confreres to carry forward this mission in the characteristic Marist spirit and ethos for generations to come.

The members of the working group are:

- Martin McAnaney, S.M. Ireland/London – Chair
- Steve Youm, S.M. Senegal
- ‘Ekuasi Manu, S.M. Tonga/Samoa
- Bob Morrison, Atlanta, USA
- Mark Walls, S.M. New Zealand
- Tony Kennedy, S.M. Australia/General Administration.

Even at first glance the Marist educational landscape is very diverse – from kindergarten to secondary high schools and learning and training centres. In some parts of the world, Marists have limited or no involvement in their former schools (e.g. Australia and England), while elsewhere schools and training centres are being built, rebuilt or expanded (e.g. Africa, South America and Oceania). The Chapter also spoke of formal and non-formal education reflecting the diversity of our educational commitments.

I am grateful not only to the members of the working group above for their commitment to our Marist educational projects but to all those confreres and lay educators engaged in “the art of weaving communion”. It is not enough to connect young people to digital networks, the Pope warned, if they remain disconnected from themselves, from others, and from their inner life.

For his part Fr. Colin valued the work of education. He saw “nothing more meritorious and nothing greater”. In forming a young person, he said, you form their “heart, their character and their virtue”. (FS, 13, 10, 11). He even saw the education of young people as the “principal aim of the Society” calling it a “noble and holy work”.

Let us keep the work of the *Marist Educational Pathways working group* in our prayers. May the Spirit guide them in their task of developing and consolidating a worldwide Marist education network and our Marist educational heritage.

Declan Marmion, S.M.