



“We offer the young men who show an interest in our way of life an opportunity to deepen their experience of human and Christian life. We help them to know themselves, accept and transcend themselves and be converted to the gospel.”

Marist Brothers Constitutions

The Marist **Initial Formation Program** includes **Postulancy, Novitiate** and **Temporary Profession**. The first two stages (**Postulancy** and **Novitiate**) take place at the Marist Brothers' Novitiate in Esopus, NY.

Postulancy is a six-month experience offering the postulant the opportunity for prayer, ministry, study, community living and ongoing discussions about his Marist faith journey. This is followed by the **Novitiate**.

Novitiate is an 18-month opportunity to deepen the novice's relationship with God and the Marist Brothers through prayer, meditation and deep study of Marist life and consecration.

Novitiate is completed with the **Profession of First Vows**. The Brother in Temporary Vows lives and works with the Brothers, while continuing his discernment of God's call. **Temporary Profession** is usually five years in length and ends with the **Profession of Perpetual Vows**.

Marist Novices are alive and well and are presently receiving formation in 16 different Marist Novitiates around the world.

Visit our USA website, www.maristbr.com or our international website, www.champagnat.org

For more information about joining Marist Accompaniment, please contact a Marist Brother in your area, or email the Marist Vocation Director at vocations@maristbr.com.



THE MARIST BROTHERS

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THE MARIST BROTHERS *Real Brothers. Real Stories. A Real Difference.*

As you think about the different ways your life might unfold into the future, a curiosity, even an attraction to religious life may surface. Even if you don't fully realize it, that attraction could be opening a path to a meaningful way for you to live. One such path could be the Marist Brothers. While this thought may come and go, especially during your young adult years, it might also leave you wondering at this point what to do next. If you find yourself interested in making a difference in the lives of young people and feel somehow drawn to a spiritual life centered on community living, then — welcome to Marist Accompaniment.

Our **Marist Accompaniment** process is designed to help you explore your own calling and to help determine if MARIST is the right “fit” for you. Considering becoming a Marist Brother is based on the following:

- desire to know and serve God,
- ability to get along with others and to live with others,
- willingness to develop a prayer life,
- enthusiasm to serve others, especially young people,
- practicing baptized and confirmed Catholic,
- college graduate (or be in the process of obtaining a degree.)

Becoming a member of Marist Accompaniment takes place after high school graduation.

Accompaniment invites you to initially examine your understanding of a Marist religious vocation. Accompanied regularly (more or less a monthly basis) by a Marist Brother through personal and electronic means, it is hoped that you would learn what discernment is and how it can assist you in moving toward a particular lifestyle. While Accompaniment is a flexible time, it also could include occasional community, ministry, and retreat experiences with the Marist Brothers. It is important to remember that Accompaniment is a process and not a program.

It's focus is on your progress with discernment. Sessions with your accompanying Brother focus on personal life, Marist life and history, religious life skills, personal development and spirituality.

Accompaniment also includes annual visits and regular contact with the Vocation Director. General materials are also sent to you periodically from the Vocation Office (Advent Prayer Book, spiritual readings, seasonal greetings, and province event invitations.)

Accompaniment can last for a few years during, as well as beyond, college until you and the Vocation Director feel you are ready for a more formal discernment process leading you to our Marist Initial Formation Program.

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