



“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*

## Marist Initial Formation Program

### Postulant, Novice, Temporary Professed

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** (*Postulant*) 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** (*Novice*) 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 (*Temporary Professed*). The Brother in Temporary Vows lives and works with the Brothers, while continuing his discernment of God's call. After his First Profession of Vows, the Brother continues his discernment for 4–6 years in Temporary Vows, followed by Profession of Perpetual Vows (*Perpetually Professed*).

Visit our USA website, [www.maristbr.com](http://www.maristbr.com), or our international website, [www.champagnat.org](http://www.champagnat.org).

For more information about becoming a Marist Brother, please contact a Marist Brother in your area, or email the Marist Vocation Director at [vocations@maristbr.com](mailto:vocations@maristbr.com).



THE MARIST BROTHERS

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# Ever Thought of Becoming a Marist Brother?

## Vocation & Formation Programs



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

*As you consider how your future  
might unfold, perhaps an attraction  
to religious life will occasionally  
surface. Could you be drawn  
to becoming a Marist Brother?  
Even if the possibility arises only  
sometimes during your early adult  
years, it might leave you wondering  
what to do next. If that attraction  
is there and you find yourself  
interested in making a difference  
in the lives of young people and  
drawn to a spiritual life centered  
on community, then welcome to  
MARIST ACCOMPANIMENT!*

## Marist Vocation Program

### **Accompaniment (Inquirer) and Initial Discernment (Discerner)**

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

- Between the ages of 18 and 40,
- 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. An Accompaniment member is also known as an **Inquirer**, a man exploring his possible vocation to the Marist Brothers.

“In his love,  
God has a plan  
for each person, and makes it known  
through a series of calls.”

*Marist Constitutions*

While in Accompaniment it would be expected that the Inquirer would:

- 1) Be faithful to the process of discerning Marist life,
- 2) Participate in three Accompaniment conversations per semester (face-to-face or electronically) with a Vocation Director. Topics include: personal development, faith development, Marist life and history, religious life skills, etc.,
- 3) Participate in one service project per semester either with a Vocation Director, or with your college, or back with your high school,
- 4) Attend one annual Accompaniment Retreat offered regionally,
- 5) Stay connected with your “home” Marist Brother community.

General materials will also be sent periodically from the Vocation Office (Advent and Lent Prayer books, spiritual readings, seasonal greetings, and province event invitations.)

Accompaniment can last for a few years during, as well as beyond college until the Inquirer and the Vocation Director sense a readiness for the next stage, a more formal process known as Initial Discernment. As an Inquirer passes into this next stage, he would then be known as a **Discerner**. As a Discerner he would be engaged in regular Spiritual Direction while continuing in discernment with the Vocation Director. This stage can last a year or more until readiness for Initial Formation is discerned. (See back panel “Marist Initial Formation Program.”)