

F. Brothers

48. *The General Chapter re-affirmed the vocation of the Brother in the Society of Mary and gave attention to some current challenges about the brother's vocation.*
49. *All Marists profess the same vows according to the Constitutions and share one common call. We are all brothers with differing ministerial roles. This is best shown in Constitutions 6-14.*
50. *Brothers contribute to the mission in a distinctive way. They can be present in different milieux in ways that are not possible for ordained Marists. They can often relate to laity in circumstances and in a manner that puts lay people at ease. This extends the reach of Marist ministry.*
51. *Brother candidates are to be capable of studies beyond secondary education. They need to be prepared to take studies in the formation house with the scholastics so as to form common peer bonds and to undergo an education that prepares them for the common life. We continue to welcome those with manual skills and trades who may be less prepared for academic studies.*

52. *As with all Marists, Brothers should be assigned to a ministry based on their skills and abilities. They should be provided with a sense of challenge and development for growth in their ministry.*
53. *Any prior sense that the vocation of the Brother is meant for one who does not have the basic talents for priesthood should be relinquished in the Society. It is a vocation in its own right and not in reference to capacities for the priesthood.*
54. *The way we often name ourselves plays a role in clarity about the dignity and value of the vocation of the Brother. When we refer to ourselves as the Marist Fathers we need to be aware that this can render the brothers among us invisible. Our formal title the Society of Mary is more inclusive.*