



2026
2027

Can you IMAGINE?

Motto
2026/2027
MOTIVATION



INTRODUCTION TO THE MOTTO “Can you imagine?”

“They say everything has already been invented, but we are somewhat unfinished.

If I can see in your eyes a starry sky, can something new be created?”

Two children meet in a park and find that a simple cardboard box can be turned into a rocket, a couple of sticks can make them into pirates, and they can take off and fly using paper wings... **Can you imagine?**

A Marist student in her second year of high school leafs through a list of university degrees, dreaming of devoting herself to others and finding a fulfilling vocation... **Can you imagine?**

Two friends, on a boring Friday, decide to pack their bags, randomly point to a spot on the map, and throw themselves into an eye-opening adventure... **Can you imagine?**

A couple stand in front of a real estate agency window, look at the houses and dream not only of walls and roofs but of an open, welcoming home, full of life and promise... **Can you imagine?**

How often we have said this phrase!

As we grow up, it seems that the ability to imagine, so natural in childhood, begins to fade. Where, we ask ourselves, is that spark of fantasy that allows us to see everyday events in a different way; that spark that drives inventors and dreamers to transform reality?

To believe is to create. Conviction is the engine that moves us to build a better world, and that world is not built in solitude: we weave it together, enriched by our diversity. There are no impossibilities when we dare to imagine as one, when we join forces and open paths that lead us to places that exist only if we dream together. To imagine is to leap into the unknown: adventure, uncertainty, trust. It is walking on a tightrope with the certainty that there is always Someone there to steady us.

We do not imagine what already exists: it simply is. To imagine is to go beyond, to seek what is new, to think differently. But this imagination is not an escape nor a refuge to disconnect from others. It is not about living “in my own world,” but about dreaming with our eyes open in order to transform the present and shape a better future.

An imagination without limits or barriers, free from rigid rules and imposed codes, yet anchored in essential values: respect, equality, self-improvement and dignity. An imagination that becomes a tool, helping us understand reality and discover new paths to solve our old, familiar problems.

Today, more than ever, we need dreamers who dare to reimagine our world. I am inviting you to rekindle that spark, to believe that another future is possible, and, above all, to build it together. Because dreaming together is the first step in transforming reality. Can you imagine?

This is the motto chosen for the present school year, a motto written in the form of a question:

Can you imagine? A question always involves two people: someone who asks and someone who listens. It is **imagining together; imagining is not a solitary act** but a shared experience. It is not about one person having an idea and wanting to carry it out on their own but about opening oneself to others. Someone asks you a question, and you respond... or you do not. But what is clear is that we do not walk this path of life alone.

No one asks themselves, 'Can I imagine?' Because in a Marist school or project, there is no "I" without "you." I am a student because I have a teacher, and I am a teacher because I have students. I am a youth leader because there are young people, and I am part of the groups because someone is generously donating their time to me. I am an educator because someone needs me to give them my hand... We are dialogue, we are conversation, a network of questions and answers woven together that help us grow.

The motto itself is neither verb nor action. It is a question. And a question does not come with its own answer: **you provide the answer.** Listen, dream, share your concerns... and respond. That is the great challenge of this year: to respond, not merely to act.

From a Christian perspective, this invitation carries a deep vocational meaning. We feel addressed by a God who calls us personally, who asks each of us: **Can you imagine?**

As Brother Emili Turú, when he was Superior General of the Marists, once said to his young listeners: "What would you do if you weren't afraid?... **Can you imagine?**"

From a more humanistic perspective, this motto also invites us to respond to the questions of the world: to those who suffer, to the cries of the planet, to the needs of our surroundings, to the love of our families, to the affection of our classmates, friends, teachers and educators.

It is a call to dream together and to begin building that which we dream of.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

"Look at the sky, count the stars if you can. So shall your descendants be..."

The second definition of the word UTOPIA in the Dictionary of the Spanish Language reads: "an imaginative representation of a future society with characteristics that promote human well-being." And among its synonyms appears the word IMAGINATION.

Although we often think of a utopia as something impossible, its etymology (οὐ ou 'no', τόπος 'place') suggests something that has not yet taken place... but may cease to be a utopia and become "topia" when it does take place and becomes reality. Thus, imagining a situation or an experience, no matter how impossible it may seem, is the first step towards making it possible.

A reading of the Bible reveals the most wonderful utopia. God, who manifests Himself as Father, Son, and Spirit, pure, gratuitous love, imagines how He can unfold, share, and lavish His love. This project of love that God imagines becomes a reality on our earth, among us, His sons and daughters, when we incorporate God's way of being and acting into our plans and ideas.

From the beginning of the book of Genesis to the end of the book of Revelation, we can sense that God is constantly asking the question: **CAN YOU IMAGINE?** And in this Story of Salvation, He draws each person into the great dream He has imagined for humanity.

- ***In the account of the Creation of human beings*** in the two narratives of chapters 1 and 2 of the book of Genesis, it seems that God is asking you (us) this question: Can you imagine a world in which everything is very good, and in which every person, woman or man, is created in my image and likeness; in which human beings live by the breath of life (Ruah) that I have breathed into them?:

"God said, 'Let us make men in our image, after our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the domestic animals and all the reptiles.'

God created men in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God saw all he had made, and it was very good." (Gen 1:26-27, 31a)

"Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Gen 2:7)

- ***In various stories of the Pentateuch***, we find God making promises that correspond to the greatest aspirations of the Israelites: a great offspring (abundant life), a land in which to live in freedom, a life filled with blessings and fulfillment. Deep down, it is as though God were asking us: Can you imagine that the deepest longing of your life is exactly what I truly desire for you, and that I am willing to make it a reality?:

"The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your native land, your relatives and your father's house for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, I will bless you, I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you. Through you all the families of the earth will be blessed.'" (Gen 12:1-3)

"And the Lord said to Abram: 'Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.' Then he added, 'That is how numerous your descendants will be.' Abram believed the Lord, and it was credited to him as righteousness. Then the Lord said to him: 'I am the Lord who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as your possession.'" (Gen 15:5-7)

"The Lord said to Moses, 'I have seen the oppression of my people in Egypt, I have heard their complaints against their oppressors, I have taken notice of their sufferings. I have

come down to rescue them from the Egyptians, to bring them out of that land to a fertile and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the country of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.” (Ex 3:7–8)

“Be careful to do what the Lord your God has commanded you; do not turn aside to the right or to the left. Walk in the way that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live, that it may go well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land you are going to possess.” (Deut 5:32–33)

- ***In the testimonies of the prophets***, we are presented, in a beautiful and hope-filled way, with situations that would seem unimaginable if we relied only on our own strength and limitations. But when we trust in the Word of God and in His transforming work within the human heart, we can begin to hope for a new world and a new humanity. Images of a banquet, a harmonious creation and a renewed society invite us to think that God is asking us: Can you imagine a world different from the pessimistic one you so often see? One in which hope, justice, and peace are truly possible?:

“The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together; a little child will lead them. The cow shall graze with the bear, their young shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den.” (Is 11:6–8)

“The Lord Almighty will prepare for all peoples, on this mountain, a feast of rich foods, a banquet of well-aged wines, delicious dishes and refined wines. On this mountain he will remove the veil that covers all peoples, the shroud that is spread over all nations, and he will destroy death forever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every face, and he will remove the disgrace of his people from the whole earth. So, the Lord has spoken.” (Is 25:6–8)

“Thus says the Lord Almighty: Again, shall old men and old women sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each leaning on a staff because of great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in them. [...] They shall sow in peace, the vine shall produce its fruit, the land shall yield its harvest, and the skies shall give their dew; all this I will give to the remnant of this people.” (Zech 8:4–5, 12)

“Soon, very soon, Lebanon will become a fertile field, and the fertile field will seem like a forest. On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a scroll, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. The lowly shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord, and the poor exult in the Holy One of Israel.” (Is 29:17–19)

“You shall eat your fill and praise the Lord your God who has dealt wondrously with you; you shall know that I am in the midst of Israel and that my people shall never be put to shame. I am the Lord your God, and there is no other; my people shall never be put to shame. After this, I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh: your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your elders shall dream dreams, your young people shall see visions.” (Joel 2:26–3:1)

“I know the plans I have for you: plans for prosperity, not for harm, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jer 29:11)

- ***In the book of Psalms***, we find beautiful hymns in which the people of Israel express their prayer and their lived experience of God. Can you imagine that our prayer gradually makes us more like God, that we live as He desires, and that this brings us more life and blessing?:

“Hallelujah! Blessed is the one who reveres the Lord and delights greatly in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.” (Ps 112:1–2)

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity. It is like precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows the blessing: life forevermore." (Ps 133)

- **In the life of Jesus,** we encounter words and deeds that allow us to imagine another way of living, of being fully human, of looking to the future with hope, or of relating to one another in a new way. His message is not just any good news, but the Good News from God, especially for the simple, the poor, and the marginalised. In many of His parables, His teachings and His signs, He is constantly asking us: Can you imagine that this Good News, the reign of God, is already among us?

"Seeing the crowds, He went up the mountain. He sat down, and His disciples came to Him. He began to speak and taught them, saying: Blessed are the poor in heart, for the reign of God is theirs." (Mt 5:1-3)

"Jesus answered the disciples of John the Baptist: 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised and the poor receive the Good News.'" (Mt 11:4-5)

"The reign of God is like a treasure hidden in a field: a man finds it, hides it again and in his joy goes and sells all he has and buys that field." (Mt 13:44)

"At that moment, filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, He said: 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to the simple. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.'" (Lk 10:21)

"The Pharisees asked Him when the reign of God was coming, and He answered them: 'The coming of the reign of God cannot be calculated; nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or "There it is!" For behold, it is among you.'" (Lk 17:20-21)

"I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly." (Jn 10:10b)

- **Can you imagine a Church,** where, as Pope Francis put it at World Youth Day in Lisbon in 2023, there is room for everyone... without obstacles or distinctions? This was the reality envisioned by the early Christian community, welcoming all people, even non-Jews, the pagans, who were not circumcised according to the Law of Moses. Or the reality proclaimed by Saint Paul in his letter to the Galatians:

"Some men came down from Judea teaching the brothers: 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' This caused strong opposition from Paul and Barnabas and a serious dispute with them; so, it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and others should go up to Jerusalem to discuss the matter with the apostles and elders. Sent by the community, they travelled through Phoenicia and Samaria, telling the brothers about the conversion of the pagans, which brought great joy. When they arrived in Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the community, the apostles and the elders, and they reported what God had done through them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees rose up and insisted that the Gentiles had to be circumcised and required to keep the Law of Moses. The apostles and elders met to consider the matter. After much debate, Peter stood up and said: 'Brothers, you know that from the early days God chose that the pagans should hear the Good News from my lips and believe. God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them by giving them the Holy Spirit just as He did to us, making no distinction between them and us, and purifying their hearts by faith. So why do you now put God to the test by placing on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? We believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are.' The whole assembly fell silent and listened to Barnabas and Paul describing the miracles and signs that God had worked among the pagans through them." (Acts 15:1-12)

"For through faith in the Messiah Jesus you are all children of God. Those who were baptised into the Messiah have clothed yourselves with the Messiah. There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, for you are all one in the Messiah Jesus. And if you belong to the Messiah, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise." (Gal 3:26-29)

- **The Apocalypse** (=Revelation) is the last book of the Bible, and it belongs to the literary genre called apocalyptic, which uses symbols, visions and somewhat mysterious images to convey above all a message of hope in times of difficulty and persecution. Can you imagine a world totally transformed and completely new, a world that is God's dwelling place among humanity?

"I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her groom. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling of God is with humankind; He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning, crying, and pain will be no more.

For the old order has passed away.'" (Rev 21:1-4)

- **In the Beatitudes**, through which Jesus invites us to imagine the Kingdom... and to make it a reality together, we hear a call to create what does not yet exist but has already been planted within us by God:

Can you imagine...

that simple people, who neither boast nor seek to stand out, discover that what matters most is already in their hearts?

Can you imagine...

that those who are suffering, who cry or feel alone, find comfort because someone draws near and listens to them?

Can you imagine...

that those who choose gentleness and calm instead of anger and force make the world a more liveable place?

Can you imagine...

that those who refuse to resign themselves to injustice, who dream of a fairer world, manage to change realities with small daily gestures?

Can you imagine...

that those who know how to forgive and help without expecting anything in return are the ones who resemble God the most?

Can you imagine...

that those who look with sincerity, without deceit, discover beauty and truth everywhere?

Can you imagine...

that those who sow peace in the midst of conflict are the ones who make God's love most visible?

Can you imagine...

that those who do not give up, even when others mock them for doing good, are the ones who most resemble Jesus?

MARIST FOUNDATION

"Champagnat, a man who imagined what God wanted for him."

When we were children, we all imagined what we wanted to be when we grew up. Some dreamed of becoming soccer players, astronauts, scientists, doctors...

It is in those years that our imagination sours, sometimes even becoming a reality.

Marcelino imagined himself running a business raising and selling lambs. His experience in school was not positive, and with this work he was already starting to earn significant amounts of money.

He was 14 years old, but his imagination was limited by practicality, by the need bring money home to his family.

It is also true that the boys of the region could not imagine grand things. From a young age, their lives were destined for work in the fields, follow their parents' tradition and maintaining the legacy passed down from generation to generation.

But what made Marcelino different from the boys of his time? The first thing was his sensitivity, a sensitivity already shown on his first day of school and in the parish catechesis.

But sensitivity is missing something when not paired with humility. Thanks to his family, Marcelino had no attachment to possessions, to comfort, and even less to money. So, when Father Cartal came to the Champagnat home to recruit young men for the seminary, he could not help but notice Marcelino.

And it is at this precise moment that our founder began to imagine on a large scale.

"—My son, you must study Latin and become a priest. It is God's will!"

If we slightly changed Father Cartal's phrase and said, "Marcelino, imagine a life devoted to the priesthood... because God wills it," we could almost sense the whirlwind of emotions Champagnat might have felt. But in his mind, the words "because God wills it" must have echoed like thunder.

What would happen if we allowed God to enter our imagination? Naturally, our dreams would change. And if, in addition, we were happy with the plans the Father sets for us? Then we would have what today we call a fulfilled life.

Such a life is not free of problems. From the very beginning, Marcelino had to struggle with the death of family members, paying for the seminary and his own illiteracy. This helps us understand that imagining from what God proposes requires total surrender.

Things did not go much better during his seminary years. He had to reach the academic level of his classmates. This did not become an obsession for Marcelino; in his personal resolutions, he strove more for a pure soul than for academic matters.

That struggle to become a better priest must have caught the attention of his teachers, who saw a young man striving to please God and serve Mary.

Marcelino's way of acting can teach us that there is no single path to reach your vocation. It is normal to imagine your mission, but God will show you a path that will likely be different from the one you had in mind.

This is why God's call to Champagnat is full of personal "re-calls." It's not just about fighting for what you had imagined, but also about being shaped along the way so that you can achieve what you set out to do.

Thus, Marcelino paused several times in his life to analyse whether that dream was what God wanted or whether he was simply being carried away by his imagination. In these reflections arise what Champagnat scholars call "resolutions".

Our founder maintained a strict practice of visiting the Blessed Sacrament, praying constantly, helping his companions and placing everything in Mary's hands.

He gradually smoothed out his shortcomings toward others; he wanted to convey an authentic God who loves all His children as they are. To reach that point, he had to chip away at his ego, at the way he viewed others, and understand that he was in no position to judge.

That is to say, for what you have imagined to become possible, you must look at yourself from top to bottom. From such a deep love that it changes you through understanding. This surrender would become the cradle of the creation of the Institute. Many times did he tell the brothers that all this was Mary's work, not his!

Marcelino's imagination did not stop at becoming a priest; with a constant "Bluetooth connection" to the Father, the calls were continuous. These calls invited him to respond to what he had lived and seen in the education and catechetical formation of his region.

And it was at that very moment that his imagination kept working, thinking about opening schools for poor families. He thought of orphans, of the deaf-mute, of children who did not know God. His imagination never stopped, not even months before his death, with his illness worsening.

This is why we must imagine Champagnat as a man who imagined what God wanted and put his hands to work to make it happen. What a great example for us! To imagine the same as God—to imagine what we were created for.

And you... "Can you imagine being a committed Marist brother/layperson? Can you imagine being a missionary?"

MONTHLY SUBTHEMES

SEPTEMBER: Can you imagine... everything it can be?



Can you imagine that everything you think, everything you dream now, may come true? Well, September offers us this opportunity. September is a door that opens before us, inviting us to discover everything inside. It is like a blank sheet of paper that we can use however we want: letting our imagination soar and creating a work of art, writing what we feel, making a paper aeroplane, or anything else we can dream up. September gives us the chance to take our empty backpack and fill it day after day with life: with all those things we dream of this school year and that God has planted in us. Can you imagine all it can be... if we place hope and love into this journey we begin each day?

OCTOBER: Can you imagine... that no one walks alone?



Your presence and your life make a difference. Your daily actions, even the simplest ones, can illuminate someone's life. Don't underestimate yourself. You can be hope for others. Wherever there is despair, you can be a light for those looking for a way forward. Because you, through your example of life, become a path for the one who feels alone. God has envisaged you as LIFE for others. You are not an accident. You were created with a mission: to be the Light of the world. To be an instrument. You are God's hands in the world.

NOVEMBER: Can you imagine... that everyone has a voice?



Your voice is the instrument you use to express your feelings, emotions, experiences, joys and worries. Can you imagine not being able to speak? And what if, even though you can, no one listens to what you have to say? This month we imagine a voice that is heard without fear, that contributes without being silenced, that engages in dialogue without being ignored. A voice that builds bridges, that brings together different perspectives, and that reminds us that diversity does not divide, it enriches. Imagining a world where every person can express themselves with freedom and dignity is the first step toward a more just and human society. Let us be the voice of those who have none. If they don't listen to you, don't be silent.

Persist, say it loud! You have so much to say

DECEMBER: Can you imagine... that God is born in you?



Can you imagine if December were not just cold and lights, but a moment to slow down?

December is more than a month: it is a threshold. A door opening to something we cannot yet see; a moment that doesn't ask us to do more, but to be more.

Can you imagine if we experienced it like this? As a silent preparation? Not just gifts and decorations, but hearts preparing for an encounter. For the Encounter.

Each candle lit in Advent is hope growing, waiting that becomes light. Can you imagine if we truly waited for Someone and not just something? Perhaps the meaning lies precisely there: not in the noise but in the whisper. Not in the race but in the journey.

Can you imagine if this year were different? Prepare yourself truly, with eyes and heart wide open.

JANUARY: Can you imagine... being peace for others?



In this month in which we celebrate Peace Day, we Marists cannot miss the opportunity to sow the best of ourselves to help create a better and more just world. Our world is suffering—with wars, with hunger, with injustices—and in our hands lies the possibility of building a world of peace, of loving our neighbour as God asks us to. You might think, "I can't stop a war," but you can help a friend, be a listening companion, be an understanding sibling, be a great team player, be available for someone who needs you, mediate in a misunderstanding... because all of that helps others see peace in you. We can be islands of calm and peace for those around us. Peace begins with you.

FEBRUARY: Can you imagine... a love that transforms?



Can you imagine a love that transforms your life from within and opens hearts?

A love that does not impose, but frees and restores meaning, that makes each person rediscover the ability to believe again. It pushes us to step outside ourselves and move toward others, becoming a force for forgiveness, an energy of reconciliation, and a seed of peace. It changes the way we look at others, inspires trust, and builds fraternity. This love of Christ calls us to be a living sign of hope, revealed in our everyday gestures.

MARCH: Can you imagine... starting again?



Hey! It's okay... YOU CAN START AGAIN!

We always have this possibility, with each new day, and especially with March, as we continue towards Lent. A time that invites us to begin anew, to pause, to look within ourselves, to take an eraser and wipe away what weighs us down. Lent is training for the heart, where we can learn to change, to erase what did not go quite right, and to rise again with greater strength. God always gives, and will keep giving, hope to start again. If you are able to set aside what burdens you and trust that each day can be better... you have already begun again. SO, STAND UP!

APRIL: Can you imagine... that everything is connected?



In April, we celebrate spring, the moment when nature awakens with flowers, colours and life. And we also remember that our common home, the Earth, needs us to care for it. Every plant, every animal, every person... we are all part of this great family. If we care for the water, the air and the soil, we are also caring for ourselves. Because everything is connected, and every small gesture matters: turning off a light, planting a seed, not littering... This is how we build together a happier, healthier, and more vibrant world!

MAY: Can you imagine... being an inspiration?



Has it ever happened to you that you see someone and say, "Wow, I'd love to be like him or her"?

Well, that is Mary, our Good Mother, who with her simplicity is an example for us each day.

Her life of service and her humility in saying YES to being the Mother of God inspire us as Marists to always offer a kind word, a smile, quality moments and attentive listening to those around us. Resembling her even a little surely helps us feel good about ourselves and encourages others to try to be a little better too.



JUNE: Can you imagine... that this is only the beginning? (Marist, violets, Marcelino)



You are Champagnat today. And it's not a phrase about the future. Through your actions, your commitment, and your life, you keep Champagnat's spirit alive. The best of being Marist is yet to come, and it begins with you. Do not cling to the past, but to what you can build today. Your entire Marist story can become Marist life that begins in others. Your Marist story does not end with you; within you lies the possibility of sowing Marist Life in others.