



XXXVI  
GENERAL CHAPTER  
SOCIETY OF MARY

## **A MESSAGE FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS**

**The Chapter wished to send a message to youth and young adults. The actual recipients of this message are quite diverse, according to the contexts of the Units. For this reason, Units may introduce adaptations for their situation. Likewise, this message may be presented in formats other than paper, as deemed appropriate.**

Dear Friends,

Last year, the Society of Mary coordinated a reflection examining its global efforts in youth ministry. We consulted with countless members of the Marianist family, professional colleagues, ministry collaborators, students and youth, like yourselves, to provide feedback. This resulted in an impressive amount of participation from all of our international locations.

In July 2024, we, a group of international Marianist leaders, gathered in Rome, Italy, to analyze and discuss the combined responses. What we discovered in this process compels us to transform our approach to serving you.

We have proposed a four-fold path to bring us closer to you and to assist you in your spiritual growth and human flourishing. We want to create a culture of encounter where we discover together who we are and where we are going. We want to walk with you in the experiences of your daily life and to accompany you on your spiritual journey. We seek to be missionaries of mercy, encouraging your strengths and sharing your hardships with compassion and love. Finally, in the spirit of Pope Francis, we invite all of you to feel welcome in our communities and to join us in our mission as a Marianist family to serve the Church.

Our Founders were convinced that to build a better future for our world, we must start with you, the youth of today. You are a blessing to us, and we look forward to sharing with you, and learning from you in our efforts to share this special gift we call the Marianist charism.

With respect and affection,

Your Brothers of the XXXVI General Chapter of the Society of Mary