OPEN LETTER TO BR. PETER CARROLL



Tagaytay, September 29, 2025

Dear Br. Peter,

This is not only a moment of joy for the entire Institute of the Marist Brothers, but also a moment of commitment, when our whole Marist Family of religious and laypeople comes together to encourage you in your mission! **The leadership entrusted to you is not only administrative: it is profoundly spiritual, prophetic, and inspiring**. It is the mission of being a brother among brothers, a guardian of the charism, and an animator of hope in challenging times.

May your service be marked by the wisdom that comes from discernment and the boldness that springs from faith. St. Paul reminds us: "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline" (2 Tim 1, 7). To lead today means not only to manage processes but to bear witness with a burning heart, one that allows itself to be moved by the world's pains and joys, that reads the signs of the times, and that responds with creativity and compassion.

The challenges you will face reflect the great diversity of the Institute. In some regions, the urgency lies in ensuring quality and inclusive education amidst realities of extreme poverty. In others, it is to offer spaces of spirituality and dialogue for those seeking meaning and belonging. **Everywhere, it is urgent to defend childhood and youth**, protect the most vulnerable, respond to the context of climate change that threatens entire communities, and keep alive the flame of faith in a profoundly secularized world. Yet above all, these challenges are opportunities to witness to the presence of Christ who never abandons us!

In the mission entrusted to you, Br. Peter, you will not walk alone. The charism of Champagnat resounds strongly: “To educate children well, we must first love them, and love them all equally.” This love, simple and concrete, continues to be the compass of Marist life. **It calls us to look at young people with hope, to believe in them, invest in them, and walk alongside them**. It is with the youth that the Gospel must come alive again, becoming a proclamation that can mobilize, inspire, and transform.

Sacred Scripture invites us to model leadership on Christ himself, who said: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” (Jn 10:11). **To lead like Jesus is to walk alongside, to listen patiently, to guide firmly, and above all, to love without measure**. It is also to recall that true strength lies not only in structures, but in the Spirit who moves hearts. As the psalmist wrote: “The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me” (Ps 28,7).

The theme of the 23rd General Chapter, “A Home for All, a River of Life,” will be a beacon for your journey. **To build a home is more than raising walls**: it is to open spaces of fraternity where every culture and vocation recognizes itself as part of the same family. **To be a river of life is to let yourself be carried by the Spirit**, bringing freshness and hope to every shore where the Institute is present. In this movement, leadership becomes not a burden but a source of inspiration and abundant life.

Br. Peter, the Church and the Institute trust in your courage and generosity. May your service be fruitful, may your boldness be a prophetic sign, and may your hope inspire the entire Marist family. Walk with a free heart, with your eyes fixed on Christ, and with the tenderness of Mary, our Good Mother, who always accompanies those who place themselves at the service of the Kingdom.



With fraternal joy,

Br. Vanderlei Siqueira, fms

Provincial Superior of the Marist Province of Brazil Centro-Sul and President of Grupo Marista

PROVÍNCIA MARISTA
BRASIL CENTRO-SUL