



Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own interests, but also for the interests of others.

*St Paul writing to the community of Philippi (Phil 2:3-4)*

‘Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living’ (Pope Francis, 29 November 2013). This is a challenge to see the world in a different way, to live in a way that is relevant, in a way that is concerned for the things that matter most in people’s lives. Jesus’ life was about responding to those things that really mattered most to people and every day this took him to places and people at the peripheries or margins. Every day he reached out beyond himself crossing lines of division, discrimination and exclusion. Every day he went out of his way to respond to the needs of people simply because it was the just and right way for him to live and act, it was simply out of love.

The theme of *justLOVE: hearts without borders* invites us as Marists to be witnesses of a different way of living. It invites us to reach beyond what is familiar and comfortable to be witnesses in our world of God’s justice through a love that is radically inclusive. Pope Francis encourages us to spend time walking on the peripheries so that we can really know the reality and life-experiences of people. We are encouraged to move beyond the reach of our own fingertips to meet those at the margins, at those places most people would prefer not to go, to share our life and be in solidarity with them.

As Marists, we are encouraged to imitate Jesus as one who embraced difference and new horizons. We are encouraged to be people of generosity, acceptance, healing and hospitality. We are encouraged to be people who not only welcome the stranger or those in need, but go out of our way to meet them where they are and embrace them as a brother or sister. Who is the stranger I am yet to meet? Disturbed by Jesus’ message of love, we are compelled to be people of inclusion, compassion and liberation, people who through living the joy of the Gospel make the margins our centre. It is at the margins that God is experienced, known and loved. So let us give witness to this different way of living, with lives that are just and fuelled by love.

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**justLOVE**  
hearts without borders