

## The logo for Forum Novum and Maristica

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I was director of the Center for Marist Studies when *Forum Novum* began publication, but Gaston really handled it all. I was involved in thinking up the name *Forum novum*: I think it came out of discussions with Tony Ward, and I then suggested it to Gaston when he took on publication.

I can share what the symbol of the five-branched tree means. It was created as the logo of the Center for Marist Studies and placed on all publications of the Center, among which *Maristica* and *Forum novum*. Charles Girard created it. He gave a very specific meaning to it, which is not always fully known.

The idea behind using a tree as a logo was a combination of two ideas: the tree of knowledge, which several publishing companies use as their logo; and the many-branched tree of Marist lore. The limbs of the tree were drawn very purposefully as they are to represent the history of the branches of the Marists. Beginning on the left, the branches represent:

1) The Marist Brothers FMS, who really got started 2 January 1817. So their branch begins lower down on the trunk of the tree. Also, their spiritual tradition has developed more separately from the rest of the branches, so their branch, the first on the left, is a little bit more separate.

2 and 3) The Marist Sisters and the Marist Fathers and Brothers SM developed in close collaboration, hence the closeness of the second and third branches on the tree. The Sisters got started in the early 1820's when the first group of postulants were gathered in Cerdon, so they are the second branch from the left. The Marist Fathers and Brothers SM got officially started in 1836, so we are third from the left.

4 and 5) The fourth branch from the left is the lay branch/Third Order of Mary, officially started in 1850. The SMSM trace their origins to the lay branch because some of their pioneers belonged to the third order before setting out for Oceania, and I believe at one point all the pioneers were enrolled in the T.O.M. Also, at one point they became the Third Order Regular of Mary. So the SMSM's are the fifth branch from the left, stemming out of the lay branch.