Br François 3



**Admission to the Community of La Valla, Latin classes**

Champagnat had rented a house where he gathered several young men to form them as “brothers”. Thus it was that on 2 January 1817 that Jean-Marie Granjon and Jean-Baptiste Audras began living in the rented house.

Around March 1818, Gabriel began to receive some Latin lessons from Fr Champagnat. In May 1818, he went to live with the brothers as a boarder. Later he wrote: “Given by my mother to Mary at the foot of the altar of the chapel of the Rosary in the church of La Valla, I left the world on Wednesday 6th May 1818”, he wrote at the beginning of his diary.

Three months later, on 3 August 1818, Gabriel Rivat received the sacrament of confirmation in Saint-Chamond, in the church of Saint-Pierre, from Mgr Étienne-Martin Morel de Mons, bishop of Mende (Lozère) and administrator of Viviers (Ardèche). In addition to his studies, François helped as a teacher in the classes at the school of La Valla.

By this time Fr Champagnat was living in the house together with 5 young men who wanted to become brothers: Jean-Marie, Jean-Baptiste (future Brother Louis), Jean-Claude (future Brother Laurent), Antoine and Barthélémy. Father Champagnat devoted some time each day to the formation of his Brothers: lessons in reading, writing, arithmetic and Latin.

Fr Champagnat was very concerned about the formation of his Brothers. At first he himself taught his Brothers. However, for the school year 1818-1819, he obtained a teacher, a former Brother of the Christian Schools, to take charge of the parish school and the intellectual formation of the “Brothers”. His name was Claude Maisonneuve.

Maisonneuve was in charge of the instruction of the pupils and the Brothers helped him. At the same time, they were trained in the simultaneous or Christian Brothers’ method, an educational method which consisted of gathering pupils of all levels in the same room, divided into divisions according to the subject (reading, writing and arithmetic) and their level. If there were a large number of pupils, another similar room would be set up. The teacher, from an elevated position, successively taught the different sections of his classroom, with the help of monitors.

<https://champagnat.org/en/to-be-marist/marist-saints-2/br-francois-rivat/>

God of the journey

You have pitched your tent in our midst.

You have gifted us with the vision of Marcellin Champagnat

Your servant and our brother.

You continually call people

To experience the richness of Marcellin’s charism

To be at the service of young people.

You call us forward in hope as we seek

to find new ways to make Marcellin’s charism real in our world.

As we explore together the Marist vision

Help us to respond to the urgings of your Holy Spirit

To be faithful to the vision handed on to us

And to respond creatively to your call today.

Mary, our Good Mother, pray for us.

St Joseph, pray for us.

St Marcellin Champagnat, pray for us.

**Champagnat Marist Spirituality and Charism:**

**God’s Presence and Love ✠ Trust in God ✠ Love of Jesus and His Gospel**

**Presence ✠ Simplicity ✠ Family Spirit ✠ Love of Work**

**In the Way of Mary**