



Champagnat Marist Spirituality and Charism

1.1 Spirituality

Spirituality is part of our human experience which includes, but is not limited to, religion. It could be described as the human quest for meaning, purpose, meaningful relationships, love and commitment, as well as the sense of the holy amongst us.

1.2 Christian Spirituality

For Christians, relationship is at the heart of spirituality. Christian spirituality is founded on an understanding of God as Trinity: Father, Son and Spirit, united in unconditional love. For Christians, this love is best seen in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, 'God-among-us'. Christians are challenged to follow his example and model their lives on Jesus Christ.

1.3 Champagnat Marist Spirituality

Champagnat Marist Spirituality lives out Christian spirituality in a distinctive Marial and apostolic way. Marcellin was gifted with a profound relationship with Jesus and Mary. Champagnat Marist spirituality began with this gift. Beginning with the early intuition instilled in him by the Spirit, which was influenced by his own personality and the events of his life, he and the first community shaped a charism. Thanks to their creative fidelity, this charism began to express itself in a spirituality.

1.4 Charism

Charism is a word very often used today in the documents of the Church and religious congregations like the Marist Brothers. The 'charism' is a gift or a grace given by the Holy Spirit to an individual. However, it is not for their own advantage, but for the benefit of the Church and the world.

1.5 Champagnat Marist Charism

The charism that entered our Church and world through Marcellin Champagnat, is much more than certain works thought to be faithful to his original vision, more than a style of prayer or a particular spirituality – as important as both might be – and more than a composite of the qualities that marked our founder's life.

The Champagnat Marist Charism is nothing less than the presence of the Holy Spirit. Allowing that Spirit to work in and through us can give rise to some surprising outcomes... Today the Spirit that was so active in our founder longs to live and breathe in you and me. (Based on - *Making Jesus Known and Loved*, p. 27 and p. 42)



Charism 1

1.6 'Marist' and 'Champagnat'

The phrase 'Champagnat Marist' refers to the branch of the Marist Family established by Marcellin Champagnat and the early Brothers in 1817. The other parts of the Marist family comprise the Society of Mary, the Marist Sisters, the Marist Missionary Sisters and the various lay groups. Each of these groups, while sharing some common elements, has their own spirituality and charism.

1.7 Elements of Spirituality and Pillars of the Charism

Elements of Champagnat Marist Spirituality	Pillars of the Champagnat Marist Charism
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• God's Presence and Love• Trust in God• Love of Jesus and His Gospel• In Mary's Way• Family Spirit• A Spirituality of Simplicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Mary's Way• Presence• Simplicity• Love of Work• Family Spirit