Br François 6



**Novice Master and Secretary**

Although he was only nineteen years old, François was in charge of the novitiate classes at the Hermitage, starting in 1826. He gave lessons twice a day: one and a half hours in the morning and one and a half hours in the afternoon. At the same time he became Father Champagnat’s confidant. He replaced Fr Champagnat in leading the growing Institute during his visits to the communities and, in 1836, when he went to Paris to seek legal recognition of the Institute, a recognition he did not obtain.

Another example of the confidence Father Champagnat had in him was when it became necessary to put the rules and customs of the community into writing. He asked Brother François to do this. When it was finished, François presented it to the Founder for his approval. Champagnat, after examining it carefully, thought that it would be better to divide it into two separate parts: one with all the articles of the Rule; the other indicating how to observe them with a supernatural motivation or the spirit of the Rule. Humbly, Br François set about reworking the text.

**Studies and Care of the Sick**

Brother François took advantage of his time for self-education. He perfected his handwriting, grammar, arithmetic and even pharmacology. He has left us many notebooks with his notes on each of these subjects as well as on religion and spirituality.

Brother François had a real aptitude for the care of the sick and the manufacture of medicines made from plants which he himself grew and collected. He took the time to talk to each sick person, advised him, prayed with each one and prepared a good remedy for him, often obtaining unexpected cures. Some of the remedies would give rise to a famous liqueur called Arquebuse.

**Prayer**

God of mystery and new beginnings,

you challenge us to go in haste to a new land.

Like Abraham, our father in faith,

may we journey into the unknown with confidence.

May your Holy Spirit:

Guide our deliberations.

Challenge our thinking.

Renew our vision.

Continue to lead us,

so that we may carry your Word of hope and be

messengers of your love and peace in our places of work,

our homes and our communities.

We make this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

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**