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Homes of Light 5

Caring for Life

Generating New Life

**3. A spirituality that lights up our days – 1 of 4**

“*True to the name that we bear, let Mary shape and inspire your spirituality*.” As Marists of Champagnat, if we want Mary’s heart to beat in us and we want to be people, like her, who are transparent to the light of God, we have already made a good start to forming *homes of light*. We are called to “*be the light of the world*” (cf Mt 5:14). “*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven*” (Mt 5:16). The XXII General Chapter used two attractive images to illustrate this Gospel call: to be *a beacon of hope in this turbulent world* and to *form homes that are a light on the hill*. They are really meaningful images that speak easily to all cultures all around the world.

In proposing that we be “*beacons of hope in this turbulent world*”, the General Chapter was not just issuing a personal invitation but rather a call to the whole Marist community: to *be light* as *a charismatic global family*. It is a call for every community, fraternity and family as a group to be like a beacon or lighthouse, a source of light and hope for all who look at it. Amongst other things, the Chapter recommended *cultivating contemplative practices* and *a spirituality of the heart*. Living an integrated spirituality is how we expressed this in the vision of the Strategic Plan of the General Administration.

It is important to acknowledge that as an Institute we have been on a productive journey in regard to spirituality. We have our home-baked bread, rich and plentiful, bread which has nourished and will continue to nourish many generations: our origins, our accumulated tradition, the characteristics of Marist spirituality, Marist apostolic spirituality, *Water from the Rock* …

The questions for us today are:

“*Who is God calling us to be*?” and “*What is God calling us to do*?”

*Water from the Rock – Marist Spirituality*

<https://champagnat.org/en/marist-documents/water-from-the-rock/>

The reflection from *Homes of Light*, Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba (Superior General).

<https://champagnat.org/en/circulares/homes-of-light-caring-for-life-generating-new-life/>

**Prayer**

Loving God, You inspired Marcellin to meet the educational

and spiritual needs of children and young people

in their rural isolation.

You inspire us today to meet

the educational and spiritual needs

of the students committed to our care.

Give us the same audacity and vision

that you gave Marcellin.

Mary our Good Mother and Ordinary Resource,

if this work of education should fail,

it is not our work which fails, but yours,

for you have done everything for us.

Bless us Good Mother,

bless this school and all who work, study and dream here. 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**