



Making Jesus Christ known and loved, in Mary's way

Love of Jesus and His Gospel 16

Marcellin Champagnat's vision and the expression of the dimensions of the Champagnat Marist education are a framework for bringing the Gospel values to life in the lives and educational experience of our students, staff and community.

Through the lens of our Champagnat Marist Charism, Marcellin wanted to expose students to lived Gospel values and to bring students and educators into the orbit of the person of Jesus Christ, so that they were acutely aware of being known and loved by Jesus.

CONTENT

This is our mission: to ensure that the new generations discover that face of God and have life in all its fullness. In following the footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat we also remember that the Champagnat Marist charism is not the end in itself. Rather Marcellin teaches us how to live as people of faith who trust God and search for truth which we find in Jesus Christ.

QUOTATIONS

WATER FROM THE ROCK (Marist Spirituality Document)

https://www.champagnat.org/shared/documenti_maristi/AcquaRoccia_EN.pdf

19. Marcellin taught the first Brothers: *To make Jesus known and loved is the aim of our vocation and the whole purpose of the Institute. If we were to fail in this purpose, our congregation would be useless.* In saying this, Marcellin clearly expressed his conviction, and a growing conviction for Marists today – the centrality of Jesus in our life and mission.

20. For us Jesus is the human face of God. In a privileged way we encounter him in the three special Marist places, where Jesus reveals God to us.

24. These special Marist places, where we encounter the love of Jesus, are also meeting spaces with the poor. At the Crib, we are deeply touched by the situation of poverty and fragility of children and young people, especially the least favoured. At the Cross, we associate ourselves with people affected by failure and suffering, and with those who struggle for bread, justice and peace. At the Altar, we enter into communion with the love of Jesus, which leads us into a deep relationship with the poor. Our hearts go out to them and they become our brothers and sisters, and truly our friends. We open our homes to the poor and we share with them our presence, time and resources.

EVANGELISERS IN THE MIDST OF YOUTH (Marist Document on Service to Youth)

https://www.champagnat.org/e_maristas/Documentos/PJM_en.pdf

87 As Marists Jesus and His Gospel excite us. He is the reason for all we are and all we are doing. Marcellin

Champagnat Marist Formation

Champagnat laid out the essence of our Marist mission: “to make Jesus Christ known and loved.” He envisioned us as educators and catechists who would structure our entire community and personal life around the mission of evangelizing by educating children and young people, especially those least cared for in society. By means of our ministries we make Marcellin Champagnat’s ardent desire come true: “Every time I see young people I can’t help but tell them, ‘How greatly Jesus loves you!’”

A REVOLUTION OF THE HEART (Marist Circular)

https://champagnat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/circulares-31_1_EN.pdf

And the God whose company Marcellin enjoyed and promoted was no abstract deity. It was the Lord Jesus himself. The mystery of the incarnation was at the heart of his spirituality. Clearly, intimacy with Jesus was the destination of Marcellin Champagnat’s journey of faith.

Christ was central to the spirituality of the founder. So also was Mary, albeit in a different way. Marcellin had complete trust in her and confidence in her protection, saying often to his brothers, “With Mary, we have everything; without her, we have nothing.” The name of Mary was important to our founder. In Marcellin’s understanding of our faith, both Jesus and Mary were at the heart of the mystery of the Incarnation. So, we can say that while the founder’s spirituality was truly incarnational, it was decidedly Marial, too. (P. 25).

REFLECTION

SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS OR REACTIONS TO THE READINGS

- A word or a phrase from the text which resonated with you.

PRAYER

Gracious God, continue to give us a deep love of your Word that it may become for us, food for our heart.

Your loving presence in Mary and Marcellin made them open to You in the experiences of their lives.

This awareness allowed them to find you always and everywhere.

As with Mary and Marcellin, allow us to listen attentively to your Word and be aware of the signs of our times, so that we can make you present in the world. Amen.

Mary Our Good Mother, *pray for us*
St Marcellin Champagnat, *pray for us*