



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

God's Presence and Love

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While our Champagnat Marist spirituality originated with Marcellin and the early Brothers it has and continues to be enriched by successive generations of Champagnat's followers. One of the characteristics of our present age is a thirst for spirituality. As Marists we are invited to join with Mary in our journey of faith.

CONTENT

As Marcellin expressed in his last Testament one of the key elements which made up the core of his spirituality and that of his Little Brothers was confidence in God's presence. Marcellin urged his Brothers to adopt the practice of the presence of God. This for Marcellin was at the heart of his spirituality.

When Marcellin and Br Stanislaus became lost at night in a snowstorm he prayed the *Memorare*. His faith in God's saving presence was with him always and he trusted Mary without question. This event, which the early Brother considered a miracle was an external manifestation of his deep spirituality.

QUOTATIONS

WATER FROM THE ROCK (Marist Spirituality Document)

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

16 Today, those of us who follow in the footsteps of Marcellin and his first disciples are seized by the same inner dynamism. We develop a way of being, loving and doing, in the spirit of our origins. Gradually, day by day, we deepen our experience of the loving presence of God within ourselves and in others. This presence of God is a profound experience of being personally loved by God, and the conviction that he is close to us in our daily human experiences.

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

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

107 Behind this passion for helping children and young people, we find Marcellin's lively awareness that God manifests Himself through the people and events of everyday life:

- His spirituality rested on the solid foundation of his love for God and others. Marcellin's God was not an abstract God. He profoundly loved the humanity of God revealed in Jesus.
- He was convinced that in order to have a loving relationship with God he also needed to cultivate a loving relationship with others.
- Through the exercise of the presence of God, we see how Marcellin desired and sought out the company of a God near and dear to him.

A REVOLUTION OF THE HEART (Marist Circular)

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

The incarnational nature of Marcellin's spirituality was the source of his practice of the presence of God; he had a passion for both the Lord and his mission. For Marcellin, Jesus was always close at hand. Consequently, his conversations with the Lord continued uninterrupted, and his confidence in him and abandonment to God's will deepened over time. He often quoted the words of Psalm 127, "If the Lord does not build a house, in vain do its builders toil". (P. 50).

REFLECTION

SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS OR REACTIONS TO THE READINGS

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

PRAYER

Lord of life, Your presence in creation assures ongoing vitality to all that is;
all life is in you, all life is from you.

You drew Marcellin Champagnat into intimacy with you
by giving him a lively sense of your presence in the Eucharist.
In you Lord, Marcellin lived and moved and had his being.

Marcellin we ask you to continue to share with us this sense of God's presence,
this awareness that God surrounds us and fills creation
with the immensity of his love.
We ask this through Jesus, your Son and our brother.
Amen.

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

