

What Inspired Marcellin?

1810 – Resolutions

At the seminary at Verrières. His mother had died and Marcellin seems to have had a conversion.

“My lord and my God, I promise never to offend you again...; never to go back to the tavern without necessity; to avoid bad companions and, in a word, not to do anything which would go against my serving you. I promise, on the contrary, to give good example...; to instruct others in your divine teachings; to teach catechism to the poor as well as the rich. Divine Saviour, help me to carry out faithfully all these resolutions I am undertaking.”

1814 - Holiday Plan

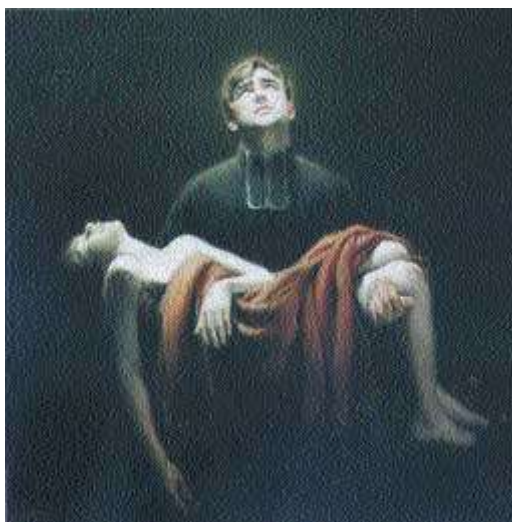
“I will instruct the ignorant, whether rich or poor, in what concerns salvation. I will visit the sick as often as I can.” One of those present, Julienne Epalle said, *“He was very young, but he preached so well that children and adults stayed sometimes for two hours without growing bored.”*

1816

13 August – Marcellin arrives at La Valla.
6 October – invites J-B Granjon to join his project.
28 October – Montagne Incident.
2 November – invites J-B Audras to join his project.
2 January 1817 – forms a community at La Valla.

1816 – 23 July – Fourvière Pledge

Read the text with the eyes of Marcellin. What did he pledge at Fourvière? “All for the greater glory of God and the honour of Mary, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We (...) declare (...) our sincere intention (...) to dedicate ourselves (...) to the foundation of the pious Congregation of Marists (...) seeking only God’s glory and the honour of Mary, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ (...). We solemnly promise to give ourselves (...) for the salvation of souls in every way possible (...). Amen.



1816 - 28 October – Montagne Incident

Marcellin visits a dying adolescent boy at Les Palais a two hour mountain trek from La Valla. On arriving he finds the boy has little or no knowledge of God. Marcellin has to invest his best efforts as a catechist to lead the adolescent boy to understand the basic truths of the faith. After spending quite a while with the adolescent boy, Marcellin visited other sick people in the hamlet. Returning to the family he found that the he had died about 7pm. Marcellin asked himself the question, ‘How many children are in the same predicament every day, away from the road to salvation?’

1834 - Letter to the King of France

“I learned to read and write only after making tremendous efforts, for lack of capable teachers. From that time on I understood the urgent necessity of having instruction which could, with less expense, provide for rural children the same good education which Provide for the poor in the cities.

Ordained in 1816, I was assigned to a rural parish as curate; what I saw there with my own eyes made me feel even more strongly the importance of putting into execution without delay the project I had been thinking about for a long time.