



Love of Work

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Marcellin Champagnat was a man of work. His determined effort and total faith and confidence in Jesus and Mary showed in the ways he educated himself, ministered to parishioners, founded his religious family and undertook all his projects. Many images of Marcellin show him with his sleeves rolled up ready for work and mission. We try to follow his example and exemplify this to our young people.

Marcellin Champagnat had a great passion and love for his work, whether it be building L'Hermitage or educating young people, his enthusiasm never wavered. His work ethic was unquestionable.

As well as manual work, he also devoted himself to his studies, to training the Brothers and to writing his letters of correspondence to all stakeholders.

CONTENT

Love of work is about encouraging young people to strive to do their best and to experience the joy of their successes. We aim to have them enjoy giving the best of themselves by using their God-given talents.

To be idle is to lack passion and hope for a greater and better world for the future of our young. Our passion for work manifests itself in the way we walk beside our young people in our schools, our youth ministry, our works of social justice and international solidarity.

Love of work demands that we be visionary and decisive in developing creative responses to the needs of young people.

QUOTATIONS

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT (Marist Education Document)

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

116. We seek to help young people develop a strong character and resilient will, a balanced moral conscience, and solid values on which to base their lives. We develop a sense of personal planning and motivation that shows itself in their good use of time, talents and initiative. We foster teamwork, helping them to acquire a co-operative and socially-sensitive approach to serving others in need.
114. In a society affected by consumerism and excess, we choose to train the younger generation to discover the dignity of work. Through our example, young people learn that work is a powerful means of self-fulfilment, of giving purpose and meaning to life, and of contributing to the general economic, social and cultural well-being. In this way, everyone becomes a "co-creator", continuing the work of creation in our turn, with joy and hope.

WATER FROM THE ROCK (Marist Spirituality Document)

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

39. Our desire to be in communion with nature is expressed in a number of ways. The Marist tradition places great value on manual work because it brings us into direct contact with creation, with otherliving beings, and with inanimate objects. It involves ... caring for nature, in conserving and transforming it. It teaches ... patience and precision. As well, such labour affirms both the value of working with our hands and the example of indigenous peoples who live with great respectin close relationship to their land.
40. This love of manual work reveals a wider attitude in the heart of the Marist that encompasses the values of making do, frugality, service, industriousness, and devotedness. In summary – a simple lifestyle. This manner of living comes from a Marist tradition that seeks to live from the work of ourhands. This chosen simplicity of life creates a greater capacity to minister with the poor.

REFLECTION

SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS OR REACTIONS TO THESE READINGS

- Your questions and insights from the document.
- What do you think it means to ‘walk beside’ our young people?

PRAYER

We strive to follow Jesus’ example and nurture positive relationships with our young people and with one another.

We ask our Good Mother, Mary, to continue to act as our guide in doing God’s work.

We recall our founder, St Marcellin, as an example of determination in the love he had for those in his care.

We understand that we are examples of justice and dignity for our young people in our care, especially among those most neglected.

Amen.

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