



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

A Future of Audacity and Hope 13

Marcellin Champagnat lived through the French Revolution, in a place where hope was scarce, yet this never deterred him from doing God's work. In fact, the challenges he faced, the neglect he saw and the despair he felt was the impetus for his vision for the future.

Marcellin was an audacious and hope-filled prophet for his time and his vision is still relevant today. He understood the needs and responded to the signs of the times.

He was fearless, in the face of adversity, in bringing about the hopes he had for the future. His teaching order of brothers worked to bring a Christian education to the young in rural areas and those living on the peripheries.

CONTENT

To be hopeful yet audacious as Marists means we trust in God's great love for us. Although we may be fearful of the unknown journey ahead, there is an excitement and strength deep within.

As Marists we take up this challenge to walk with our young people and be Marcellin for them. We have to listen, to question, to research, to pray and to look at our world through their young eyes. We are people of courage and optimism, with our hearts aflame just as Marcellin's was, and we strive do God's work.

QUOTATIONS

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT (Marist Education Document)

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

Sustained by Hope

The glorified Jesus, God of Life and Lord of History, is our Hope. He goes forth to meet us, walks beside us, listens to us, stirs up hope within us, and helps us discover God's plan even in the midst of confusion and human darkness. In our daily contact with young people as much as in our moments of prayer, we recognize His Presence. The words of some of the first disciples come back to us, "Were not our hearts burning within us?" (Luke 24:32)

Champagnat's mission continues through us "The future of the world and the Church belongs to the younger generation ... Christ expects great things from [them]." (p. 4)

What a privileged vocation we have as Marist educators, Brothers and Laypeople, women and men, young and old, called to be Champagnat for this younger generation. With all the passion and dedication for mission which fired his everyday life we, in our times, also choose to face our future with audacity and hope. (pp. 67-70).

WATER FROM THE ROCK (Marist Spirituality Document)

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

153. The statue of St Marcellin that stands in one of the niches on the external façade of St. Peter’s Basilica represents our Founder carrying a young boy on his shoulders. We see in this artistic expression a symbol of the strength and powerful inspiration of Marist Spirituality for the world of today. It illustrates too the Marist belief of being raised upon the shoulders of a vigorous spiritual tradition, able to carry us into a future filled with the promise of vitality and hope.
155. Sustained by the faith and example of St. Marcellin and the first Brothers, Marist spirituality urges us to move towards unexplored horizons: Like St. Marcellin, seeking out the poor Montagnes of his day, we endeavour to become effective Marist educators of faith today: we open new ways that enable youth to be transformed by the experience of knowing and loving Jesus. Like St. Marcellin, moving from hamlet to hamlet on the hills of the Pilat, we readily carry the gift of education and Marist presence to places and situations that might require abandoning securities and even risking our lives.

REFLECTION

SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS OR REACTIONS TO THE READINGS

- A word or a phrase from the text that resonated with you.
- What can we do to be people of hope in our community?

PRAYER

Loving God,
the hope you give us
fills us with wonder and enthusiasm.
Save us from our own fears and doubts
and give us the enthusiasm and compassion,
the hope and audacity of Marcellin Champagnat.
With our hand in Mary’s,
we trace his footsteps in following you.
We ask this in Jesus’ name.
Amen.

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

