



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

Our Marist Way

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The history of the Church abounds with spiritual and educational traditions: Franciscan, Josephite, Dominican, Benedictine, Ignatian, Mercy, to name just a few. These traditions which continue to this day are the fruits of the 'holy ones', who, inspired by the Holy Spirit, founded the tradition.

Our Champagnat Marist spirituality and educational way had its genesis in a time of great turmoil, and continues today in a time almost as challenging. We do not seek to merely copy traditions of the past, but rather to shape our tradition to today's needs.

CONTENT

Reflecting on our extensive experience in education, Marist educators have identified a number of characteristics we would call Marist.

While many other traditions would share some of these characteristics, we believe it is the 'mix' of these characteristics that best describes our Marist style of education: presence, simplicity, family spirit, love of work and in the way of Mary.

QUOTATIONS

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT (Marist Education Document)

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

97. Our style of educating is based on a vision that is truly holistic, and that consciously seeks to communicate values. While we share such a vision with many, especially in Church circles, we use a distinctive pedagogical approach which Marcellin and the first Marists initiated and which was innovative in many of its aspects.
98. We share their intuition that "to bring up children properly, we must love them, and love them all equally". From this principle flow the particular characteristics of our style of educating: presence, simplicity, family spirit, love of work, and following the way of Mary. We seek to adopt these attitudes and values as our way of inculturating the Gospel. It is their sum and their interaction which gives our Marist style its Spirit-inspired originality.

GATHERED AROUND THE SAME TABLE (The Vocation of Champagnat's Laity)

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

54. The strength of this family spirit gathers us who live the Marist charism into a new family of followers of Christ, through the example of Mary. The table of La Valla is a symbol of the relationship that unites us.

The communion between Lay people and Brothers complements and enriches our specific vocations and different states of life. There is not only a place for both at the table, but we need each other at our side.

55. This sharing requires times together. Around the table people gather to speak, to laugh, to be together. It is necessary to seek out those moments and spaces for communication in depth, meetings of a quality that unite us in what is essential. Thus it will be easier to understand the different ways of thinking and living, and accepting our own and other people's limitations in a climate of true brotherhood.

Champagnat Marist Formation

REFLECTION

SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS OR REACTIONS TO THESE READINGS

- How do you see these qualities: 'presence, family spirit, simplicity, love of work and in Mary's way' apparent in the day to day operation of your ministry?
- Do you have any perceptions as to how such qualities might be enhanced?

PRAYER

We believe that we are a people gathered together with a common purpose.

We believe that God is present in our work, and that with Mary and St Marcellin, God continues to speak to us through our Marist charism.

We know that we are immersed in mystery; that our lives are more than they seem; that we need each other and belong to each other.

We recognise that the qualities of our 'Marist Way' enable God to touch us, to draw us more deeply into the mystery of Jesus whose name we strive to make known to all who are part of our mission; and whose love we know will deeply enrich us, our families, our students and our world.

So, aware of the spirituality we share, we hope at this time to enter more deeply into the sacredness of our lives and the richness of our calling.

Amen.

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