



Central to our Marist story and spirituality is the person of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. She was a significant presence in Marcellin's story and has continued over the time of the Institute to be our guide and mentor – as Marcellin called her: 'our Good Mother'. It is her spirit that has guided us and encouraged Marists across the world to strive to 'make Jesus Christ known and loved' in her way.

CONTENT

The story of the young woman Mary, Miriam of Nazareth, from anxious teen at the time of her invitation at the Annunciation, to mature woman and disciple at the foot of the Cross, provides us with our guide as to what 'in Mary's way' means for us as Marists.

Uncertain as a pregnant teen, to concerned older woman as Jesus began his public ministry, to aware and concerned guest at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, to heart-broken and faithful woman at the cross, she teaches us that life is about living with uncertainty and trust.

Her story reminds us that pondering in our hearts is a vital part of our call as Marists. It is there that we meet God and hear the Word that will inspire our ministry.

QUOTATIONS

WATER FROM THE ROCK (Marist Spirituality Document)

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

7. Key among the formative influences that shaped his spirituality was Marcellin's personal experience of being loved intensely by Jesus and called by Mary. An incident early in 1823 ("Memorare in the Snow") was understood by Marcellin and his Brothers as highly significant. Marcellin and Stanislaus were lost in a snow storm. With his companion unconscious at his feet, Marcellin believed that if Mary does not come to our aid, we are lost. Placing his life in God's hands, he prayed the Memorare...

8. Marcellin was also deeply aware of the love of Jesus and Mary for others. This inspired in him the passion of an apostle. He dedicated his life to sharing this love. In Marcellin's encounter with the dying young man, Jean-Baptiste Montagne, we see how disturbed Marcellin was to meet a boy facing the end of his life without knowing the love God had for him.

25. The relationship of Marcellin to Mary was deeply marked by an affective and total trust in her, as the "Good Mother," because it was her work that he undertook. He wrote once: Without Mary we are nothing and with Mary we have everything, because Mary always has her adorable Son within her arms or in her heart. This belief remained constant all through his life.

Jesus and Mary were the treasure on which Marcellin had learned to place his own heart. This intimate relationship

helped shape the Marial dimension of our spirituality. In our tradition, the phrase 'Ordinary Resource' has come to encapsulate our constant reliance on Mary. The motto attributed to Champagnat by his biographer, 'All to Jesus through Mary, all to Mary for Jesus', captures this close relationship between the Son and the Mother and our Founder's attitude of confidence in Mary, which we are invited to live.

REFLECTION

SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS OR REACTIONS TO THESE READINGS

- How these insights have helped you understand Mary's role in our Marist story?
- What questions remain for you about the person and role of Mary in our Marist story and in the broader story of the Church?

PRAYER

We thank you gracious God and Jesus, our brother,
that in calling us to come to you as your sons and daughters,
you invite us to discipleship.

You have given us Mary as our Good Mother, our Ordinary
Resource, the woman who would inspire our response to
you and shape our Marist hearts.

We thank you, Good Mother that you have chosen us to
bear your name.
You have made us your own,
so that we might be like you, wholly committed to the Lord in
faith, love and trust.

Share with us your spirit and inspire us with your ways of being
and acting, that we might come to see as you see,
to feel as you feel,
to judge as you judge,
to love as you love with your discretion,
your sensitivity and respect for each person. Amen.

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