School Catechism,

Education in the Faith

and Sacramental Care

Message XVIII International Mission Commission

A group of people sitting in a classroom

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Link to Message XVIII <https://champagnat.org/en/school-catechism-education-in-the-faith-xviii-message-of-the-international-marist-mission-commission/>

**School Catechism, Education in the Faith and Sacramental Care – Selected paragraphs**

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* points out in its first pages, “Faith is [our] response to God.” The perception that the desire for God is an intrinsic feeling of human nature is sensible and profound. Because this feeling dwells in the human heart, it must be understood and experienced before grappling with an understanding of liturgy, morals and prayer. The pedagogy of the *Catechism*, right in its strategy, also affirms that the journey of faith is part of the process of human development and that this journey must be nurtured and accompanied. This will ensure that the intimate and vital relationship that unites people with God is not lost in one’s own personal journey.

Perhaps for us, brothers and lay people, involved in the Marist educational mission, this is the great challenge of our daily life: to constitute educational communities that harmonise faith, culture and life in the midst of a turbulent world with different emerging realities.

On this path, modernity seems to bring new challenges to which we cannot yet respond with clarity. Today, we live in a globalisation that shows signs of malaise; we are at the mercy of a more accelerated and hectic lifestyle; we suffer from the fluidity that exists in interpersonal relationships; we see the rise of divisions and conflicts; we revel in the advent of a digital culture, sometimes without fully understanding the price we will have to pay; we live in the hope of an interreligious and intercultural dialogue, knowing that it will need time and calm to consolidate.

In such a dynamic, challenging, beautiful (and, at the same time, risky) scenario, it is not unexpected that doubts and fears arise in the most diverse spheres. The concern that permeates these new times also reaches Catholic educational works. This makes it necessary to reflect on and strengthen the care of the evangelising experience we offer children and young people in all its dimensions and experiences.

**Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we search for you,

like Mary, in the caravans of life,

in the tumult of our cities,

and in the masses of displaced people who are seeking

a better future for their children.

You continue to call us to open the eyes of our heart

and to hear the cries of children and young people,

especially the voiceless and homeless.

You encourage us to be creative in giving resolute

responses to their needs and to empower those who have no voice.

You challenge us to be present in more significant ways

among the children and young people on the margins of the world.

May we have the courage and audacity of Marcellin to respond

as Mary would have us respond as we seek to journey with children and young people living on the margins of life. Amen.

Mary, our Good Mother, pray for us.

St Joseph, pray for us.

St Marcellin Champagnat, pray for us.

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**Champagnat Marist Spirituality and Charism:**

**God’s Presence and Love ✠ Trust in God ✠ Love of Jesus and His Gospel**

**Presence ✠ Simplicity ✠ Family Spirit ✠ Love of Work**

**In the Way of Mary**