

**“IF THERE WERE HERE A SCHOOL…”**

**The Innovative Marist Mission**

**in our Educational Institutions**

**Message III International Mission Commission**

**The link to message III – “If there were here a school…”**

<https://champagnat.org/en/the-innovative-marist-mission-in-our-educational-institutions-message-of-the-marist-international-mission-commission/>

Marcellin Champagnat exclaimed, “How much good [we] could accomplish here if there were a school!” (Life, Ch. XX). From those initial moments, his intuition and his decision have led generations of Marists to establish numerous educational institutions in hundreds of dioceses around the world. With a grateful heart, we realise that our educational presence is significant and important to the overall mission of Marists worldwide. Our Marist educational project develops the integral formation of children and young people allowing for an education of academic quality and formation in values.

Marist schools must continue to be places that create spaces for evangelization and authentic spirituality, growth and accompaniment. They must invite young people to acquire learning, competence and values through discovering the world, others, themselves, and God. As bearers of hope and the message of Jesus’ love to young lives, education must lead young people to the experience of personal faith and of their vocation as “good Christians and virtuous citizens”.

Our Marist educational document, *In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat*, urges us to be creative in the ways in which we help children and young people develop their self-esteem and inner capacity to give direction to their lives. Our programs seek to provide an education of body, mind and heart, appropriate to the age, needs, and social contexts of those whom we meet.

The hoped-for creation of an *Marist Global Network of Schools* was universally identified as an important milestone in our dreams to support our global mission. The promotion of solidarity and equality through such a network that is enabled by affordable and reliable technology presents a range of exciting possibilities. We invite all Marist to be committed to this “way of acting” as well as networking and facilitating opportunities for collaboration. This invitation expands when we participate with others in broader ecclesial or social initiatives, such as the *Global Education Pact* promoted by Pope Francis.

**Prayer**

Loving God, your call is unique to each of us,

a mystery which surprises us

and invites us with equal dignity

to live Champagnat’s charism alongside our brothers and sisters.

As we deepen our unique call

to be disciples of Jesus like Mary,

keep us mindful of the Spirit’s energy

within our hearts and in our day-to-day events.

Guide us, be with us, and lead us with Mary,

on the path of true discipleship.

In Christ our brother we ask this. Amen.

Mary, our Good Mother, pray for us.

St Joseph, pray for us.

St Marcellin Champagnat, pray for us.

**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**