

Homes of Light 10

Caring for Life

Generating New Life

**4. Marcellin, a light in the midst of darkness – 2 of 2**

At the end of his days, Marcellin saw the great Light. He was in his room, really sick. Brs Hippolyte and Jerome were with him. At about half past two in the morning, he said to them, “Brothers, your lamp is going out”. “Excuse me, Father”, one of them explained, “but the lamp is burning well.” “But I can’t see it. So bring it closer,” Marcellin protested. This was done without any improvement in the situation. “Ah”, he said with a dying voice, “I understand that it is my sight which is failing; my hour has come; thanks be to God! Some hours later, when the community was assembled in the chapel for the singing of the *Salve Regina*, Marcellin fell asleep peacefully in the Lord. It was Saturday, June 6th, the vigil of Pentecost.

At the beginning of his life, when the symbol of a *luminous flame* was mentioned, he had a loving, pious mother at his side, and he was embraced in the warmth of the family home. During his lifetime, in all its difficulties and problems, he discovered the constant *luminous flame* of Mary in his life. In his final moments, there was a *lit lamp* which was going out before his eyes, while the brothers were singing the *Salve*, forming their home around Mary. It was a Saturday, the day dedicated to our Good Mother.

This light accompanied him all through life. He lived with trust. He did not doubt for an instant that his life and mission were the work of God, the work of Mary. He never put himself forward as the leading actor, but in all things, gave glory and praise to the Lord, seeing himself as the Lord’s servant. He always lived under the motherly protection of Mary and often had recourse to her.

This life gave him a spirit of daring. He was always attentive to discern the voice of God in the events of life and in his personal prayer. His boldness made him open and flexible to develop new responses without getting bogged down in pre-determined schemes. He gave himself to the education and evangelisation of youth, giving priority attention to the most abandoned. He did all this while building up a spirit of brotherhood, forming *homes of light*. He had the intuition that the witness of a group is always more powerful than that of an individual. We Marists of Champagnat have these and other characteristics that Marcellin gave us in our DNA. They continue to light up our path today.

The reflection from *Homes of Light*, Br Ernesto Sánchez Barba (Superior General).

<https://champagnat.org/en/circulares/homes-of-light-caring-for-life-generating-new-life/>

**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 call us to open the eyes of our heart

and 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.

**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**