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Homes of Light 8

Caring for Life

Generating New Life

**3. A spirituality that lights up our days – 4 of 4**

As I move around the Institute, I am pleased to meet up with brothers and lay Marists who tell me about their spiritual experience: their thirst, their search for God, their attempts, their progress and also their times of discouragement. We have among us living examples of God-seekers, men and women of profound spirituality. At the same time, as I indicated above, I believe that we have a long way to go in this area. Perhaps some of us could even describe ourselves as being spiritually lukewarm.

When I meet with brothers and laypeople of any age, I always insist that it is never too late to start again and to make a fresh effort. I tell them that maybe some ideas and practices worked for us at some stage and were helpful on our spiritual journey, but today they are not so helpful or simply do not work for us anymore. So, we have to start all over again, doing what disciples do best: learn, try, experiment … This is not to discredit any practice, nor to impose or sacralise others, but rather for each of us to look for and find the way that slakes his thirst in the here and now, helps him to develop a deeper interior life and facilitates his encounter with God.

What am I thirsty for? How is my spiritual search going? What concrete methods do I use to satisfy my thirst for God? What other means am I thinking of using?

I believe that our *rebirth* as an Institute and its future will depend a lot on the concrete commitment of each of us to be serious about how our *interior* and *spiritual lives* are going. Added to this, is our commitment to encourage one another in this process so that we can speak of a common effort and not just an individual one.

Coming back to our *home-baked bread*, to that great spiritual patrimony we are heirs to, let us now consider some thoughts on Marcellin, a man of God, a man of light. His experience and the charism we have received through him give us pointers for our spiritual search.

*Water from the Rock – Marist Spirituality*

<https://champagnat.org/en/marist-documents/water-from-the-rock/>

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**

Loving God, You call us to love,

a most fragile and precious action.

You challenge us to love unconditionally as You love.

Even when we fail to love others as you love us

You encourage us to extend a welcome to others.

In Mary You give us an example of someone who was prepared

to go the extra mile when her cousin Elizabeth was in need.

In Marcellin Champagnat You give us an example of someone

who seeing the desperate needs of his time responded to the challenge.

Marcellin was aware that each child needed to be loved.

He realised the importance of accepting each person

and allowing them to develop into who   
You intended them to become.

May we accept the challenge before us,

to strengthen the Family Spirit in this school. 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**