



Simplicity

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This Marist characteristic expresses itself in simplicity of behaviour, most especially in our way of relating to God and to others. We strive to be persons of integrity - truthful, open-hearted and transparent in our relationships.

Saint Marcellin was regarded as a first class educator who related well to the young. His friendly personality and relational style allowed many children he taught to prosper in their learning because of the ease of the relationship they shared with him. Good teaching and learning demands the same relationships today.

He lived with the young Brothers at LaValla with great simplicity and unity too. Their day was spent in learning how to write, read and teach, and in manual work that sustained them economically.

CONTENT

Simplicity has become so central to the Champagnat story and tradition it is now universally identified as one of the five core Marist characteristics that define and help explain the charism and teachings of Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

Marcellin believed in simplicity and humility as the central tenets of faith in God. In our Australian colloquial language he was 'fair dinkum' with the children he met. What you saw is what you got with him. He was genuine and straightforward with the young and he was loved because of this virtue.

QUOTATIONS

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT (Marist Education Document)

https://www.champagnat.org/e_maristas/Documentos/missaoEducativaMarista_EN.pdf

105. In our teaching and organisational structures, we show a preference for simplicity of method. Our way of educating, like Marcellin's, is personal, rooted in real life, and practical. Likewise simplicity of expression, avoiding any ostentation, guides our way of responding to the possibilities and the demands of our contemporary educational settings.
106. We lead the young to adopt simplicity as a value for their own lives, encouraging them to be themselves in every situation, to be open and truthful and to have the strength of their convictions. In a world distracted by the superficial, we help them to value themselves and others for who they are, and not be seduced from this by possessions or fame. Rather, we help them to prize an integrated, balanced and loving life, built on the rock of God's love.

WATER FROM THE ROCK (Marist Spirituality Document)

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

98. Marcellin shows us how we are to form and live in communities of mission. In the very name he chose, Little Brothers of Mary, Marcellin summarises the fundamental identity of his community: the gospel virtue of simplicity

A REVOLUTION OF THE HEART (Superior-General Circular 2003, Br Sean Sammon)

https://champagnat.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/circulares-31_1_EN.pdf

25. Marcellin's spirituality was also eminently transparent. Simplicity was the quality that characterized the man. The founder was direct, enthusiastic, confident.

24. Writing in language appropriate for his day, Marcellin described the spirituality he recommended for his Little Brothers; it was a mirror of his own. "Practice the presence of God; it is the soul of prayer, meditation, and all the virtues. Let humility and simplicity be the characteristics that distinguish you from others."

REFLECTION

SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS OR REACTIONS TO THESE READINGS

- What do you understand by the Marist Characteristic of simplicity?
- What is the importance of living with simplicity in today's world?

PRAYER

Let us pray that our Marist ministries and schools are always places which share their abundant resources with those in greater need.

Help us loving Father to model ourselves on Marcellin's simplicity of behaviour, most especially in our way of relating to You and to others.

With Mary as our inspiration may we strive to be people of integrity - truthful, open-hearted and transparent in our relationships with all whom we encounter.

Amen.

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