



Making Jesus Christ known and loved, in Mary's way

Amongst the Young

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The time and world in which Marcellin Champagnat lived was the catalyst for his passion to care for, love and walk beside the disenfranchised youth surrounding him. He was passionate about ensuring the young, particularly those who lived on the margins of society and who had very little education, were given the opportunity to learn of Jesus' love and sacrifice.

Love is the key to the Marist approach to education and evangelisation. Through the respectful love offered to children and young people, they come to discover how much God loves them.

Marcellin said to his brothers, "To educate children properly, you must love them first and love them all equally". By doing so, you help them to become, "good Christians and good citizens".

CONTENT

Marcellin's experience of God's love led him to say: "I cannot see a child without wanting to teach him the catechism and to tell him just how much Jesus Christ loves him." (*Life II*, Chapter XX).

Children are clearly significant in Scripture; Jesus calls us to ensure they are all included and nurtured. As Marists we take up this challenge. We make this our life work, particularly caring for those who are most neglected and abandoned. We do this in schools, through our youth ministry, through our works of social justice and through international solidarity.

QUOTATIONS

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT (Marist Education Document)

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

Among the young, especially the most neglected

54. In the same way that Marcellin was thinking especially of the least favoured of young people in founding the Marist Brothers, our preference is to be with those who are excluded from the mainstream of society, and those whose material poverty leads them to be deprived also in relation to health, family life, schooling, and education in values.
55. We recognise in this love for all young people, and especially for the poor, the essential identifying marks of our Marist mission.

WATER FROM THE ROCK (Marist Spirituality Document)

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

146. For us, education is a privileged place for evangelisation and human promotion. The range of our educational works is broad – in response to the changing needs of young people wherever they are to be found. In focusing on them, each Marist ministry shows a preference for those to whom preference is never shown.

Intro. Transformed by the love of Jesus and called by Mary, we are sent on mission, announcing God's Good News to those children and young people living on the margins of society.

REFLECTION

SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS OR REACTIONS TO THESE READINGS

- A word or a phrase from the text that stands out for you.
- Who are the most neglected here in our Marist community and how are we challenged to look after them?

PRAYER

We believe in our shared mission as Marist educators.

We believe in our vocation to minister to all young people, with a special love for the poor and excluded.

We believe in our mission to lead young people to life-giving values,
to build a better world, to make Jesus Christ known and loved.

We believe that, as Mary did for Jesus, to educate young people we must first love them, and love them equally.

We believe in the value of the integral education we offer in our schools and ministries.

We believe in the significance of our hopeful and creative presence among young people in all our places of ministry,
especially among those most neglected.

Amen.

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



Champagnat Marist Formation

