



Presence

09

Very early in his life, Marcellin Champagnat developed an awareness of a God who loved him. This gift of the presence of God was fostered in his own family growing up on the farm at Le Rosey.

Marcellin was sure that every moment of his life was immersed in this divine presence of God and wanted to share this with others. He recognised God in the face of all those he met, especially the young and most neglected. Like the Petits Frères de Marie (Little Brothers of Mary) who followed the example of Marcellin we, too, strive to be present to all young people in ways that show that we care for them.

CONTENT

Marist Spirituality calls us to be attentive and welcoming, of listening and engaging, in order for us to earn the trust of young people and foster openness. We follow the example of Marcellin in the way we are a hopeful and creative presence among young people in all our places of ministry.

Of all the lessons you can, and indeed must, give your pupils, the first and principal one, the most efficacious for them, is your example. (*Opinions, Conferences*, XLI, pp.310-312)

QUOTATIONS

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT (Marist Education Document)

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

69. Following Marcellin Champagnat we seek to be apostles to youth, evangelising through our life and our presence among them as well as through our teaching: neither simply catechists, nor just teachers of secular subjects.

WATER FROM THE ROCK (Marist Spirituality Document)

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

16. We develop a way of being, loving and doing, in the spirit of our origins. Gradually, day by day, we deepen our experience of the loving presence of God within ourselves and in others. This presence of God is a profound experience of being personally loved by God, and the conviction that he is close to us in our daily human experiences.
54. Daily experiences are special places of encounter with God. We find God's presence in creation, in the events of every day - work and relationships, silence and noise, joys and sorrows, achievements and anguish, tragedy and death.

83. Each one's presence helps create a sense of communion that enables us to bring into prayer our dreams, achievements, struggles, personal experiences, and community or family projects.

REFLECTION

SHARE YOUR REFLECTIONS OR REACTIONS TO THESE READINGS

- A word or a phrase from the readings that resonated with you and why?
- A time when somebody was present to you and the difference which it made?
- What does being 'fully present' mean to you?

PRAYER

Creator God, be with us as we endeavor to be a visible sign of Your loving and merciful presence in the unfolding of our lives.

May we be, for those we meet each day, a living sign of Your presence and tenderness.
Amen.

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