

Mark of a Marist Student



As Marists educators who follow in the footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat, we are called to evangelize and make Jesus Christ known and loved through the complete education of young men and women. We accompany our students in their development as people who are rooted in Gospel and Marist values, who develop into good Christians and good citizens, “harmonizing faith, culture and life.” As such, Marist students should be:

1. ***Faith-filled Disciples:*** Marist students come to possess a strong sense of God and a personal relationship with Jesus, Mary and Saint Marcellin fostered through religious formation, a sacramental life, and prayer.
2. ***Empowered Witnesses:*** Marist students, recognizing Mary as their model and companion, become joyful witnesses to God’s love in their lives, enabling them to see Christ in others, to live simply, morally and with integrity, respecting all of life and creation.
3. ***Agents of Justice and Service:*** Marist students grow in their understanding of Catholic social teaching and stand in compassionate solidarity with the least favored.
4. ***Servant Leaders:*** Marist students recognize through their baptismal call that they are lovingly created by God with unique gifts and talents which they are called to develop and share with the Church and the wider community.
5. ***Spirit-filled members of Family & Community:*** Marist students embody a spirit which celebrates and welcomes all people as members of the one family created by God.

Marist Youth Evangelization

Marist Brothers of the Schools (FMS)

***Developed by the Campus Ministry and Religion Department personnel
within the network of Marist school in the United States***

Work Hard

Love what you do every day

Marcellin Champagnat was a man of work, a sworn enemy of laziness. **Dogged effort and total confidence in God** were characteristic of the ways he educated himself, ministered to parishioners, founded his religious family and undertook all his projects.^[1] Marcellin, the builder, shows us the importance of being ready to “roll up our sleeves”, prepared to do whatever is needed for the sake of our mission. We follow his example in being generous of heart, and constant and persevering in our daily work as well as in the efforts we undertake for our own ongoing education.

There is no substitute for personal outreach

a handshake, a visit, hospitality.

Champagnat’s ability to reach out and befriend his parishioners: As the curate (associate pastor) in Lavalla, Champagnat got to know his parishioners personally. He sometimes gave the farmers a hand with their work. He visited the sick regularly, sometimes going without meals if he thought the person might die before getting there. He was quoted as saying, “Many a step I have taken on these mountains, many a shirt I have soaked with sweat along these roads...but I have the comfort of knowing that I never arrived too late to administer the rites of the Church to any sick person. Thanks be to God! This is one of my greatest consolations today.”

Do More with Less

Do a lot with a little, leveraging what you have, repurposing.

By 1824, it became clear to Fr. Champagnat that the house in Lavalla could no longer hold the growing numbers of young people that came seeking entrance into the community.

Fr. Champagnat picked the most difficult location upon which to build: the huge outcrop of rock. Rather than an obstacle, Fr. Champagnat saw an opportunity. The rocky outcrop would become the quarry from which the stone would be cut to form building blocks. The lower part of the outcrop would form a portion of the foundation.

In the summer of that year, and for several summer’s thereafter, Fr. Champagnat required the brothers to come to the property and to assist in the building of a new center for training. Each morning the brothers rose at 4:00am. Once dressed, they met in a small opening of the wooded property where a makeshift chapel was set up. A chest of draws served as an altar and a bell hung from a nearby tree limb. Once Mass was over, the work began.

Professional builders were hired to do the actual building, but it was Fr. Champagnat and the brothers who quarried and carried the stone, dug the sand, mixed the mortar and assisted the stonemasons in whatever needed to be done.

In a letter (Letter 109) to one of the priests who lived for a time with the brothers before going to the United States as a missionary, Fr. Champagnat, giving him news of how the community was progressing, wrote, “We have made neither peace nor truce with the rocks of the Hermitage, we turn the soil, plant the grapevines, and try to make the whole property productive.”