



MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT & THE MARIST BROTHERS

Marist Curriculum Booklet 1



Marist Education
WEST CENTRAL EUROPE

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BIOGRAPHY

Marcellin Champagnat

(1789 - 1840)

Marcellin's Childhood

1. Marcellin was born on May 20th 1789 in Marlhès a village in France, in the hamlet of Le Rosey. He was baptised the following day. He was the ninth of ten children. Marcellin's father was Jean-Baptiste and his mother was Marie-Thérèse Chirat. They were hardworking people of great faith.
2. He learnt most of his knowledge about God from his Aunt Louise who was a nun and was forced to leave her convent because it was burnt down by the revolutionaries.
3. Marcellin went to school but didn't like the experience. It was a harsh regime where teachers poked fun at students and beat them. Later Marcellin laid down strict guidelines for the brothers to follow about discipline forbidding corporal punishment.



4. Marcellin decided to raise some sheep, fatten them and sell them. With this money he bought more sheep and was able to help with the household costs.

5. When he was 16 a priest spoke to him about becoming a priest, and Marcellin decided to follow his invitation. His education had not been the best but with great difficulty he got down to his studies. However his

education was so far behind and he made so little progress that he was dismissed at the end of the year.

6. He was given a second chance and returned to the seminary. Then he sold his lambs to help with the expenses of new clothes and left home.

7. Marcellin and his friends from the seminary made a gang called the 'Happy Gang' and they were always getting into trouble. But the death of his best friend and then his mum made him more serious and he began to work seriously.

8. He became a student leader in the school and had a room of his own. He took advantage of this to work at his studies during the night and reached the standard to become a priest.





QUESTIONS



1. What year was Marcellin born and where was he born?



2. What were the names of Marcellin's parents?



3. Why did Marcellin not like school and what did he decide to do instead?



4. What change did Marcellin make in his life to improve his grades?

TO DO

When Marcellin's best friend died it really made him think about his life and he decided to concentrate on his studies and reach his potential. Have you ever had an experience that made you stop and think about your life and want to improve it in some way? Write a paragraph about this experience.

The Fourvière Pledge



9. Finally the day came and Marcellin was ordained a priest on July 2nd, 1816. The next day with 12 friends from the seminary he went to the church of Our Lady of Fourvière in Lyon where they promised to set up a Society of Mary, which then became known as the Marists because of Marcellins devotion to Mary and Christ.



TO DO

A pledge is a solemn promise or undertaking. Marcellin and his friends bravely made a pledge to found a new congregation called Marists in the name of Mary. Here is an extract from that pledge:

“ *We, striving to work together for the glory of God and the honor of Mary, Mother of the Lord Jesus, declare we will, as soon as possible, establish the congregation of Marist*

”

What pledge would you like to make about something that you believe is important?







The Montagne Boy

10. He was appointed as priest to a little town parish called 'La Valla' where everyone soon liked him. The parish priest was old and ill, and most of the work fell to Marcellin.

11. Marcellin had always insisted on the need for Brothers to teach the young people. Then he was called to a dying 16 year old boy called Jean-Baptiste Montagne and found he had never even heard of God. It was a profound moment for Marcellin and meeting him led Marcellin to found a group of Brothers to work in the country areas to educate young people.



12. He spoke to Jean Marie Granjon who had gone with him to see the sick boy and asked him if he would like to become a brother. The young man agreed and was joined by another called Jean Baptiste Audras. Then on January 2nd 1817, the Marist Brothers began their work.



13. By 1824, the numbers were too big for the house in La Valla and Marcellin bought a property further down the valley. In this property, with the help of the other brothers he built L'Hermitage, which is still in use today and visited by people from around the world.



14. Schools were closed for a very long time in the summer so to keep his young men busy and helping with the expenses of the house, Marcellin taught them to make nails, which they sold to the local shop.





Lost in the snow

15. One day he had been on a sick call with one of the Brothers, when they were caught in a snowstorm. Things got bad and Marcellin prayed to Our Lady(Mary) to help them. Just then they saw a light come from a house and went towards it. They were saved from possible death!

16. By now Marcellin had about 50 Brothers, and the Archbishop gave him permission to stop his parish work to be with his brothers. He was now able to visit all the schools where they taught and to encourage them in their work.

17. Requests were coming in for Brothers to teach in many of the small towns and villages in the area, and he tried to respond to them all.



He insisted that there should always be at least three Brothers in a school, and he spent most of his time going round to make sure that all was well.

18. In 1830, France had another revolution and some of the Brothers wanted to go into hiding. But Marcellin told the Brothers that Our Lady would protect them, and to ask her help. He began starting and ending each day with the Hail Holy Queen, a practice still carried on today to honour Mary.



19. Marcellin's health was now giving way to the pressure of his work, and in 1840 he told the Brothers to elect a new Superior. On May 3rd he said his last Mass and a month later on June 6th as the Brothers were singing the Hail Holy Queen at their morning prayer Marcellin died at the age of 51 and he was buried in L'Hermitage.



Each year Marists worldwide celebrate Marcellin Champagnat day on June 6th.

QUESTIONS



What was the date that the Marist Brothers were founded?



What date is Marcellin Champagant day each year?



What two words make up the word Marist and why?

TO DO

For Marcellin meeting the dying Montagne boy was a moment that changed his life. He realized this boy was one of many who suffered from a lack of education because of the French Revolution. Marcellin had a negative experience in school and wanted the Marists to teach young people in a caring way.

Imagine you are Marcellin and write a letter to the new brothers about how they should teach young people in a caring way. (Hint: Look to the Marist values in the following pages)

Canonisation of Marcellin as a Saint



20. Marcellin's life was complete but the Marist work was only beginning and his Brothers were soon all over the world. On April 18th 1999, Pope John Paul II proclaimed him, Saint Marcellin, founder of the Marist Brothers.

21. When Marcellin died on June 6 1840, the order had 48 schools in France and 278 Brothers. Today there are thousands of Brothers and lay Marists working in 82 countries on 5 continents.

Marcellin Champagnat was an ordinary man who did extraordinary things because he did the ordinary things with an extraordinary amount of love.

TO DO

The Hail Mary was also one of Marcellin's special prayers to Mary. It is still recited each day by Marist brothers around the world. Look up the text of the prayer and write it in your copy. Discuss with the person beside you what you think each line means. Rewrite the Hail Mary in your own words. Choose a day to say it each morning in class.

MARIST VALUES

Your values are the things that you believe are important in the way you live. They help determine your priorities. As Marist students we learn our values from Marcellin and the way he lived his life. Our actions should be led by our values.



SIMPLICITY

Being honest, sincere and being yourself. Respecting the environment. Grateful for what you have in life.

PRESENCE

Ensuring there is a place for everyone in your life and that you have quality relationships. Get to know people and be respectful to others.

FAMILY SPIRIT

Treating people like your family.
Creating a welcoming community.

LOVE OF WORK

Being enthusiastic and motivated in all you do.
Striving for the best in yourself. Doing good quietly.

IN THE WAY OF MARY

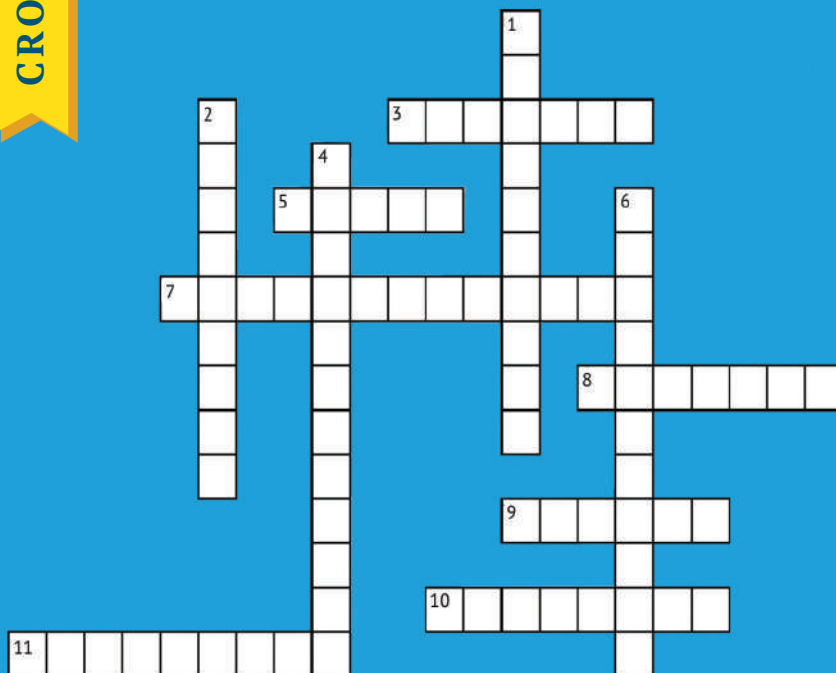
Caring for everyone especially those who need it most. Never giving up on people or yourself.
Helping others get over the line.



What do you think each of these values look like in our schools and in our lives? Give one example of each value in your school or outside school.

CROSSWORD

Please photocopy the crossword and put it in your copy. Do not write in this booklet so others may use it.



ACROSS

- 3 Marcellin was born here
- 5 Helped Marcellin to earn money when he was young
- 7 Prayer to our lady
- 8 His first parish
- 9 Marcellins decided to follow his call
- 10 Age Marcellin died
- 11 A place in Lyon Marcellin made a promise to Mary

DOWN

- 1 Proclaimed Marcellin a saint
- 2 Marcellins priority for young people
- 4 Marcellin built with his own hands
- 6 A dying boy that had a profound effect on Marcellin

Our Marist Family in West Central Europe

As Marists we are part of a larger Marist family. Throughout your time in this Marist school we hope you will have an opportunity to learn about, speak to and even meet other Marists from around the world.



Our International Marist Family

Marists are in 82 countries working in schools and projects doing the work that Marcellin started. Today Marists are brothers and also lay people like you. We can all play our part to help those who need it most.

Marists continue to do Marcellin's work all over the world. There are many schools, Universities, and all types of projects. Go to www.maristeu.com to learn about them.



AFRICA

-  Angola
-  Algeria
-  Cameroon
-  Chad
-  Ivory Coast
-  Ghana
-  Kenya
-  Liberia
-  Madagascar
-  Malawi
-  Mozambique
-  Nigeria
-  Central African Republic
-  Democratic Repub. of Congo
-  Ruanda
-  South Africa
-  Sudan
-  Tanzania
-  Zambia
-  Zimbabwe

SOUTH AMERICA

-  Argentina
-  Bolivia
-  Brazil
-  Chile
-  Colombia
-  Ecuador
-  Paraguay
-  Peru
-  Uruguay
-  Venezuela

EUROPE

-  Germany
-  Belgium
-  Spain
-  France
-  Greece
-  Hungary
-  Ireland
-  Italy
-  Liechtenstein
-  The Netherlands
-  Portugal
-  UK
-  Romania
-  Switzerland

**AMERICA
& CARIBBEAN**

-  Canada
-  Costa Rica
-  Cuba
-  El Salvador
-  Guatemala
-  Haiti
-  Honduras
-  Mexico
-  Nicaragua
-  Panama
-  Puerto Rico
-  United States

ASIA

-  Bangladesh
-  Cambodia
-  China
-  South Korea
-  Philippines
-  Hong Kong
-  India
-  Japan
-  Lebanon
-  Malaysia
-  Pakistan
-  Singapore
-  Syria
-  Sri Lanka
-  Thailand
-  Vietnam

OCEANIA

-  Australia
-  Fiji
-  Solomon Islands
-  Kiribati
-  New Caledonia
-  New Zealand
-  Papua New Guinea
-  Samoa
-  Samoa Americana
-  East Timor
-  Vanuatu

TO DO

Go to www.maristeu.com and research one school or project in your province or the world. Write a paragraph summarizing the most important details about that school or project and share it with your class.

Extension: Organise with your class to write, email or skype with another Marist school. Discuss where you can see similarities in your school values.

Prayerful Reflection: As we come to the end of this module we ask you to take time to reflect on all you have learned. As a class follow the Marist Liturgy called 'There is something about Mary'. You will find this on the Marist usb key or go to: www.maristeu.com - Resources - Marist Curriculum - Year 1 - Marist Liturgy - There is something about Mary.

If you would like to learn more about Marist Education go to www.maristeu.com or contact the Director of Marist Education.



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