



Mariists Today

Our Dream...

To all the dioceses of the world

Our Foundation...

A Marian face for the Church

Our Mission...

To make Jesus known and loved

Our Spirit...

Christ centred and spirit led

Our Way...

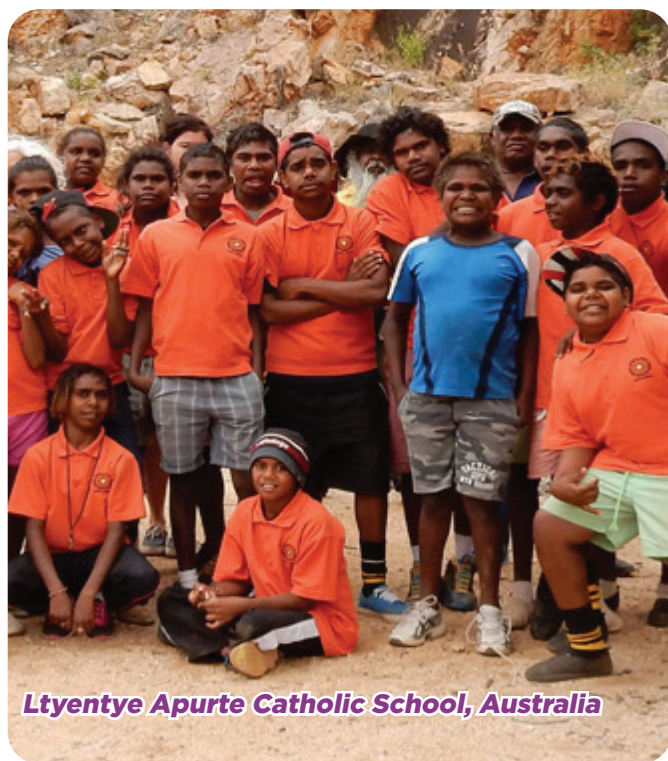
A distinctive approach to life

Our Dream

The Marist dream includes women and men, religious and lay, with the intention of making the love of Jesus Christ known in the world by care and compassion among the young, especially the most neglected. Today, the Marist family is present in 81 countries with tens of thousands of Marists working with over half a million young people in schools and in other pastoral and social ministries.



Teacher Training College, Timor-Leste



Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School, Australia



Marist Brothers Primary School, Samoa



St Joseph's College, Bougainville

Our Foundation

In 1817, Saint Marcellin Champagnat founded the Marist Brothers who were originally known as the Little Brothers of Mary. Father Champagnat's ministry experience in the rural township of LaValla (France), brought him into contact with the ordinary daily lives of the people and he quickly realised the needs of the youth included basic education and the knowledge that they were loved by God. Marcellin saw education as a way to lead young people in becoming "*good Christians and good citizens*". Marcellin encouraged his Brothers to make their schools like families where love and respect were the key characteristics.

In 1999, Marcellin was made a Saint of the Catholic Church for his dedication, leadership and inspiration to generations of Marists.



**Statue of St Marcellin
Champagnat, Vatican, Rome**



Notre Dame De L'Hermitage. France

Our Mission

The motivation that drives Marist Mission can be illustrated by the story of a French orphan boy whom Marcellin Champagnat adopted and persevered with to create a positive change in this young man's life.

A story from the "Life of Marcellin Champagnat" published 1856:

As the parish priest of La Valla, Marcellin was called to the bedside of a dying woman. She left behind a son whom Marcellin took into his care. Accustomed to living on the streets, and as a result of his mother's long illness and extreme poverty, the boy was quite wild, rejecting all authority and causing mischief. Despite the efforts of those caring for him, he responded only by insults and ingratitude.

He ran away several times, preferring to beg for his bread and live in destitution than to curb his rebellious ways. The Brothers brought him back home each time and did their utmost to win his affection and to improve his attitude. Discouraged by their almost total failure, they asked Father Champagnat to leave him to his unhappy lot, claiming that

they were wasting their time and that, sooner or later, it would be necessary to send him away.

Marcellin urged them at first to be patient and to pray for the poor boy. Faced with their continued demands for him to be sent away, he said to them: "My friends, if all you want is to be rid of this poor orphan, that is easily done; but what do you gain by throwing him onto the streets? We have adopted this child; we have no right to abandon him; we must keep him, although he is troublesome and unresponsive. We must work relentlessly to form him to the perfection we wish him to have. Be a brother to the boy not a master".

The child eventually responded to this love and persistence and changed his ways. He asked to join the Brothers to become a teacher.



The John Berne School, Australia

The John Berne School in Sydney, Australia, is a Marist school for troubled teenagers. The school is named after the orphan boy whom Marcellin and those early Brothers took into their care.

The emerging needs in our societies urge us, today as before, to manifest God's mercy in our actions, caring especially for the most vulnerable. People have always come first, and solidarity is a core element of the Marist Mission.

(International Commission on Marist Mission, July 2021)



The John Berne School, Australia



Bukomero School, Rwanda



Marist Champagnat Institute, Fiji



Sunflower Children's Centre, the Philippines

Our Spirit



LaValla Project, Cambodia

Marist spirituality is defined by our search for God and meaning in our lives, in our relationships with each other, with creation, and the desire to share the Gospel message of Jesus. The story of our spirituality is one of passion and compassion, passion for God and compassion for people. (*Water from the Rock Marist Spirituality #1*)

*Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and your neighbour as yourself."
Matthew 22:37,39*

For Marcellin, Mary would be the model of how to heal a deeply wounded world by her thirst for justice, her simple neighbourliness, her compassion, her reflectiveness and her trust in the gentle power of her Son. (*A Simple Gift by Br Mark Farrelly.*)

"Without Mary we are nothing and with Mary we have everything, because Mary always has her adorable Son within her arms or in her heart." - St Marcellin Champagnat

Our Way



As Christian disciples who walk in the footsteps of St Marcellin, we follow his way of helping young people, whatever their faith tradition and wherever they are in their spiritual search, to grow to become people of hope and personal integrity, with a deep sense of social responsibility to transform the world around them.

Our particular way of relating is characterised by: **presence, simplicity, family spirit, love of work, and following in the way of Mary.**

We seek to adopt these attitudes and values as our way of sharing the Gospel message. (*In the Footsteps of Marcellin Champagnat #70, 98*)

“To bring up children properly, we must love them, and love them all equally.”
- St Marcellin Champagnat



Journey with Us

General House:

www.champagnat.org

East Asia:

www.eastasiamarist.org

Australia:

www.maristbrothers.org.au

New Zealand:

www.maristbrothers.org.nz

Marist Association:

www.maristassociation.org.au