



From Frank Malloy

Dear Colleagues,

The Feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat

As a Principal it always gave me great heart to see what it was students highlighted in their exit surveys on completion of Year 12. As a Marist Principal, foremost among the most highly valued were the celebrations of "Champagnat Day". In reading and collating the data each year, this appreciation was both intriguing and somewhat amusing. Inevitably, memories of the nature of those days would flood the mind. Mass, some formalities, a generous feast of bread and sausage, and then an array of activities and fund raising that teetered on the cusp of chaos, a state in which students thrived and most teachers less so. Visiting Marist schools across the country on this special day as National Director in recent years, the same spirit and passion has been consistently evident. Most compelling is the manner in which the nature of Saint Marcellin's relationship with God is portrayed and explained to our students and to one another.

A great Saint, an extraordinary disciple of Jesus, Marcellin Champagnat's incredible vision and achievements in education are well known and appropriately recognised. The force and character of Marcellin's personality are more elusive, yet there are many stories which give us rich insights. Recently in correspondence with Brother Michael Green, renowned for his scholarly research of Saint Marcellin and the first Marists, an account of one of the very first Brothers on journey to Oceania and Australia was shared. The account speaks of a bond between Marcellin and one of his young Brothers who lived and died here in Australia.

Brother Florentin Françon was born in the parish of Lavalla in 1815 just one year before Marcellin came there as curate. As Florentin grew up, Marcellin would have been a huge presence and influence in his life. He decided to become a Brother, trained at l'Hermitage, and received the habit from Marcellin himself in 1835¹. Three years later Florentin volunteered for the new Marist mission in the Pacific as a teacher and catechist. In those early years, all the Brothers regarded themselves as members of the Society of Mary, along with Marcellin, and all of them trained at the Hermitage irrespective of whether they were later to be teaching Brothers or not. It was not until the 1850s that the Marist Brothers became an entity separate from the Society of Mary. In early days of the Pacific mission, the Fathers rarely allowed the Brothers to teach, allocating them to auxiliary tasks, something many of them found hard to stomach, Florentin certainly among them. Neither were they permitted to wear their religious habit, because it was thought that the local people might confuse them with ordained priests. Florentin spent most of the next thirty years in New Zealand before coming to Sydney in 1869. Brother Michael tells the following story.

Fast-forward to 1893, and the first visit of the FMS Superior General, Brother Théophile, to Sydney. Florentin – by then for some time retired at Villa Maria in Hunters Hill – wanted to meet 'his' Superior General who was staying at Saint Joseph's College Hunters Hill. The meeting was arranged (also with two other early Brothers – Augule and Genade). For the occasion, Florentin produced the habit he had received from Marcellin, his rabat and profession cross (all of which he had been not permitted to wear for decades, but which he had kept). The encounter was apparently quite emotional as they knelt before Théophile. A photo was taken of Florentin in his soutane (which he was not permitted to keep wearing).

More than half a century after receiving the habit from Marcellin, this moving episode occurred when Florentin was 78. He died in 1903, aged 88 and is buried at Hunters Hill.

The Feast of Saint Marcellin in 2020 will be celebrated differently this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To assist us in marking the occasion, three resources are commended to you. First, Brother Peter Carroll, Provincial and Leader of the Marist Association of Saint Marcellin Champagnat, has produced a short [video](#) with a message to all Marists to mark the occasion of the Feast this year. It is a message of hope for staff, students and families in every Marist College throughout the country.

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Second, Brother Tony Leon, recently returned from Rome where he has been working with Marists internationally, has produced a 10 minute [video](#) for schools which explores stories of Marist life and spirit and showcases how the Marist vision is still being lived around the world today. It is ideal for use in class groups as a stimulus for reflection and discussion.

Third, is an essay titled [Courageous Marists](#), which has been written by an American Marist, Brother Ben Consigli. Ben was present at the Marist Association Assembly in Adelaide in 2018 and is a member of the General Council for the Marist Brothers. The essay explores three remarkable true stories from World War II, featuring Marists whose brave commitment to love and service in the face of hate and destruction, reflect the spirit in which Saint Marcellin lived the Gospel of Jesus.

Finally, the Mission and Life Formation Team under the leadership of Director Mr Tony Clarke, has provided excellent [resources](#) for schools to assist with prayerful celebration of the Feast of Saint Marcellin. In addition to these resources, is the launch on Monday 8 June, of a new online professional learning opportunity for staff titled [The Art of Reading and Praying Scripture](#). Saint Marcellin's knowledge and use of scripture in teaching and mentoring his Brothers is well documented. This course provides guidance for Marist educators in reflecting on God's presence and invitation to us through sacred scripture. The programme is in four one hour accredited modules.

Happy Feast Day!

Yours sincerely,



Dr Frank Malloy
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

1 <https://champagnat.org/en/publicacoes/the-arrival-of-the-marist-brothers-in-australia/>

REMINDER

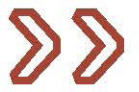
LAVALLA MAGAZINE

Please use Lavalla to share some news from your school with the rest of Marist Schools Australia.

The cut-off date for contributions for the next edition of Lavalla for 2020 is **Friday, 4 September**.

All submissions should be sent to Br Michael Flanagan
(michael.flanagan@marists.org.au).

THE FEAST OF SAINT



MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT 2020



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ST. MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT



COVID-19

UNITED IN PRAYER

Marist
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THE 2020 **MARIAN** LECTURE

with Christopher Lamb

**HAS BEEN POSTPONED
TO MAY 2021**

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**THE ART OF
READING AND
PRAYING
SCRIPTURE**

A newly designed e-learning formation experience consisting of 4 x 1-hour modules examining different methods of reading and praying Scripture. Each module focuses on a distinctive methodology to interpret and pray the Divine Word of God.

ENROL TODAY

<https://maristformation.thinkific.com/>



*“Go and make disciples
of all nations”*

Mt 28:19

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JOURNEYING WITH MATTHEW

A Mid-Winter
Online Retreat

9-10 JULY 2020

Join us online at 10:00am,
12:00pm and 2:30pm each day to
take up the themes in
Matthew's Gospel

Father Chris Monaghan CP

Chris Monaghan is a Passionist who is currently President of Yarra Theological Union. Since 1987 he has been lecturing at YTU in both Old and New Testament. The major focus of his teaching throughout these years has been Matthew, Luke-Acts and the letters of Paul. His enduring passion is making the Bible in its richness accessible to people at all levels.

REGISTER [HERE](#)

THREE JEWELS

Buddhists have a concept called the “Three Jewels”, or three precepts by which followers structure their lives. The first jewel is the Buddha, which includes the historical Buddha and the idea of buddhahood as the underlying state and goal for all; the second jewel is the Buddha’s teachings. The final jewel? The sangha, or spiritual community.

And what of our Marist Jewels?

Our jewels are, firstly, Christ and also the historical Jesus and Christianity as a way of living life. Our second is the Word - the scripture – the living presence of God. And our third jewel is our own Marist spiritual community, given to us as a gift by St Marcellin Champagnat. **The call to our community** is a call to belonging, to being part of something larger than ourselves.



Care for the Soul Retreat - 28 February 2020
Front row: Fr Gary Perritt, Sr Jimsy John, Sue Hunter
Back row: Br Bill Tarrant, Br Bill Sullivan, Catherine Slegers

For Marists, ‘our mission is communal. The community of Marist Apostles sustains and encourages us. We carry out our mission by building communities that are sacred spaces where people can find God and meaning for their lives.’

- *Water from the Rock, 140-141*

The source of all community is your most intimate relationship with the Lord because the deeper you enter into communion with him, the more clearly you will find that all those whom you love are hidden in his heart. This truth does not solve all our pains and problems, but it certainly can set us free at times to travel on and to move forward...

- *Henri Nouwen Society*



Footsteps 1 - 15-18 March 2020 Bruce Miller, Simon Huntly and Matthew McDonald

COVID-19 STAFF REFLECTION

“Work life has changed, family visits have changed and we don’t really know what the new normal is going to look like. I have found myself drawing strength from our Marist Family, where we have had many opportunities to engage in spiritual reflections and formation. I have been amazed, inspired, encouraged, by the way our staff have put the students first in providing a quality catholic education and their willingness to change their programs and pedagogy. I have no doubt Champagnat would be proud of what we have all achieved in ‘making Jesus Christ known and loved’.”

- *Simon Martino, Leader of Mission and Catholic Identity, Newman College WA*

Thank you to everyone that joined us for our first online event on Thursday April 30.

We were delighted we could introduce you to Elvino who was a previous student of Ponta-Leste, a youth centre in Baucau, Timor-Leste. For those who were unable to make it, Elvino tells us below a little about himself and how your support has impacted his life.

I first went to Ponta-Leste in 2010. I was one of those young people who was interested in learning English. Classes were scheduled at Ponta-Leste after school each day from 3:00-5:00pm, Monday to Friday. I spent four months learning basic English at Ponta-Leste and after my graduation I was invited to teach basic English at Ponta-Leste. I did this for one and a half years.

Spending time at Ponta-Leste was the beginning of a long and exciting journey for me. I started to have a big dream of one day being able to study overseas. It turned out to be far more than just a dream for me. I worked hard for it and eventually my efforts and commitment paid off when I was invited to study for a semester at an Australian university. This experience motivated me to see beyond my initial dream. My period of study in Australia motivated me to go further to pursue my studies outside of Timor-Leste. Due to the program which Ponta-Leste offered, particularly the grounding in English, my English skills satisfied the requirements for university studies in New Zealand. The New Zealand Government offered me a scholarship and I am now studying at the University of Canterbury.

The ambitious dream of one young boy from a remote and impoverished rural area in Timor-Leste had its origins at Ponta-Leste. Ponta-Leste is not only a learning centre, but for me and for others it is the place where big and exciting long-term dreams can be dreamed, and it can provide the foundations on which these dreams can come true.

When I finish my studies I look forward to returning to Timor-Leste. Australia and New Zealand are great, but they don't need me. My country needs me and I want to return and help make it even stronger for future generations.

Elvino



VANUATU - TROPICAL CYCLONE HAROLD RECOVERY APPEAL

On the same day that Queensland allowed all students to return to school, Monday, May 25, St Michel Technical College also did the same. Though, due to the extensive damage of the school, classes are being rotated as there is not enough room to accommodate all the students together. Years 10/11/12 have classes on Monday to Wednesday and Years 7/8/9 have classes on Thursday and Friday. Massive disasters require massive response efforts and support of our Vanuatu Tropical Cyclone Harold Appeal has been overwhelming and we would especially like to thank:

- Marist College Canberra
- Marist College Ashgrove
- Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes
- John Therry Catholic High School, Rosemeadow



We are currently in the process of obtaining quotes for the rebuilding of the College and early indicators are that the repairs will cost more than originally expected. **To donate to the Appeal please visit <http://bit.ly/helpAMS>**

Connect

Connect Night Queensland

MYM QLD facilitated the first ever online Connect Night for high school students. Despite a new and uncertain format, thirteen students participated representing three schools (Emerald, Ashgrove and Beenleigh). The evening further expanded the One Wild and Precious Life theme, focussing on the word "Wild" and what it means to live a wild life. Students shared examples of people who live wildly through their actions and influence. They reflected on the ways they might step out of their comfort zones in following Christ. The success of ministry through an online format creates new opportunities to engage students across the whole region, regardless of geographical restraints.

The following reflections come from students who participated in the evening:

I believe the call on Friday night was a great way for a lot of us to get involved and socialise with new people. Also talking about places we would like to go to and then turning it into looking at the more important bigger picture opened my eyes up to the realisation of a lot of people's everyday life. It reminded me that even though we are experiencing a pandemic, us in Australia are still lucky. - Marist College, Emerald QLD

When [our Campus Minister] first introduced the concept of an online Marist Connect Night - it would be fair to say that we were sceptical of how successful the program would be. However, I can say with complete sincerity that I truly valued the experience. Being able to have a meaningful conversation about the people that we admire because of their service of others was something that I enjoyed deeply. Honestly, I would definitely do an Online Connect Night again. It was a relaxing yet constructive experience for myself and I am sure everyone else. - Marist College, Ashgrove QLD.

Adam Burns, Marist Youth Ministry Brisbane



@maristyouthministry
@maristgamechangers



Marist Youth Ministry
Marist Game Changers

Connect Night Victoria

In a turbulent and everchanging world, the consistent dedication of both school staff and students has been incredibly affirming and inspiring for Marist Youth Ministry. On Thursday 28th May, over 50 staff and students in Years 11 and 12 from seven Victorian schools (*Marcellin College, Assumption College, Marymede Catholic College, Catholic College Sale, Galen Catholic College, Lavalla Catholic College, Marist-Sion College*) and one South Australian school (*Sacred Heart College*) gathered online for an Online Connect Night. Lead by MYM Melbourne and Br. James Hodge, students explored the stories of Mary and Champagnat, tapping into their own experiences of solidarity along the way.

The evening gave students a chance to share their experiences of solidarity with each other, and there was a deep richness in their reflections. One student noted that **“if you change one person’s world, you change the whole world”**. Another agreed; **“if I could make just a single person smile, or make one persons’ day, I’ve already saved the world”**. Hearing how Mary and Champagnat have impacted the students’ lives was simply superb. Time and time again, students acknowledged their call to honour their legacies by being people of service, dedicated to being present with each other and committed to persevering through times of challenge.

A sincere thanks to all school staff, particularly our Marist Principals, who make these incredible opportunities possible. While there was a newness to it all, we are deeply grateful that our Marist schools continue to lean into the newness with courage and like Mary, say “yes”.

Lachy Scott, Marist Youth Ministry Melbourne



The MYM Team at the Online Connect Night

Screenshot from our Online Connect Night

UPCOMING: Connect Night New South Wales

MYM Sydney is holding our Online Super Connect evening on the 12th of June. Please contact Jeni Miller for more information. Looking forward to seeing a great crowd from our NSW schools!



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