



EAST ASIA PROVINCE HOLY WEEK MARIST BROTHERS AND LAY JOINT RETREAT

SNIPPETS:



The retreat was simply delivered, but deep in meaning. To bring it to fruition there is a vital need for an individual Brother and then a communal in-depth spiritual journey for better and brighter transparency.

Br. Eugene Pius Tajo, FMS
Marist Lagao Community



It was a nice retreat. It guided me to recall my family experiences while inviting me to share these values and gifts. It also helped me to be aware of what desires I have and challenged me to have God as my only desire.

Br. Pedro Zhang, FMS
Marist District of Asia



The invitation for Lay Marists to attend the retreat of the Marist Brothers facilitated by Br. Ernesto Sanchez was indeed one of the most unexpected gifts this pandemic. It gave the Lay a great opportunity to have a renewed appreciation of how we could jointly be in the same shared mission and experience. With our 'freshly baked bread' (Homes of Light) I believe to have been touched by the Spirit and hope to be able to share more intensely in the spirituality and participate in the dream of St. Marcellin Champagnat.

Ms. Marjorie Rañeses
Marist School, Marikina



From this retreat, I learned and re-learned the beauty and importance of “Homes of Light” family (Immediate Family). Like the table of La Valla that welcomes all the Marists of Champagnat around the world, we are called to be the light and table in this turbulent world.

*Br. Jo-an Legaste, FMS
Marist Cotabato Community*



I regard the joint retreat of the Marist Brothers and the Lay Marists as one of the concrete manifestations of our partnership, communion, and shared mission, to be the Homes of Light! The brevity of Br. Ernesto’s retreat input did not diminish the depth and breadth for reflection and introspection; it even contributed to attain deeper essence and meaning. Moreover, what I love about the inputs is that they are modestly for, with and of Marist Spirituality. One can smoothly transition from one talk to the other with ease in comprehension, reflection, appreciation and finally propel each of us to concrete action. I anticipate with joy that similar activities will take place in the near future. Let us form Homes of Light with the young people!

*Christopher James Ferrer
Notre Dame of Kidapawan College*



The Holy Week online retreat was a significant event as we Brothers and Lay accompany one another in prayer and reflection. Each day Br. Ernesto shared via Zoom his retreat input accompanied by suggestions for prayer and action. This online retreat had provided Brothers and Lay an opportunity for spiritual renewal as we participate in the reflections and exercises.

*Br. Tri Joseph Nguyen, FMS
Marist District of Asia-Vietnam*



Thank you so much Br. Ernesto for the wonderful, fruitful, and meaningful Holy Week retreat. You are truly an inspiration not only to the Marist Brothers but also to the Lay Marist partners as well. You gave us the light to be able to understand and see what is happening around us, at home, and in our communities. You shared with us that we can look at Mary as our beacon of hope and by following the insight of Marcellin Champagnat, we can say that everything that is happening in the world today are just but temporary. You also reminded us Lay Marist partners of the importance of our mission and our spiritual and religious obligation which is to generate light and be witnesses to the young especially to those struggling with their spiritual lives. *Muli, marami pong Salamat!*

*Mr. Enrique Gayda
Affiliated Member: Marist Brothers East Asia Province*



The Holy week retreat of 2021 was indeed a grace-filled occasion for me. It is not only because our facilitator was the Superior General himself but also because of the presence of the Lay Marist for the first in the history of the province. This joint spiritual exercise of the brothers and lay had concretely demonstrated and had given a much deeper meaning to the two key phrases “caring for life and generating new life” of Bro. Ernesto’s circular the Home of Light. With Mary and Marcellin, I hope and pray that this new experience together may help each one of us to generate new life and care for life in our respective homes and communities as well as workplaces.

*Br. George Valle, FMS
Glasnogor-Bangladesh*



Br. Mark Roberth Laurea, FMS
Marist Jolo Community

There is evidently and consistently a great “sense of urgency” to care for our “HOME”, from the encyclical (Laudato Si) of Pope Francis and the circular (Homes of Light) of Br. Ernesto. I personally feel guilty and ashamed that I only feel the “sense of urgency” to care for our “home” when the environmental destruction or abuse is right in my face. However, in my regular routine, daily decisions and actions, I don’t seem to have a genuine consciousness and commitment to consistently and persistently make choices and actions that protects our environment or that generates life. Thus I asked myself, “Am I a person of integrity?” Finally, during the duration of the retreat I was also struck and challenged by the idea that, “The best ecology always has an educational dimension”. Our school with thousands of children, youth, benefactors, and lay partners play a vital role in co-creating the dream of God, hand in hand with our students and Lay Partners. Let us remember that we are the FACE and HANDS of God’s tender mercy.



As A Marist Lay – it is essential to cultivate interiority which can be achieved through silence. “I cannot give, what I do not have.” Passion- Spirituality has been developed to care for self and others. Mt. 5:6 “ Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Mission – St. Marcellin and the Blessed Mother as my inspiration to build Homes of Light, generating life by my integrity characterized by transparency and genuineness everywhere I go. To act and do things in the Marist way. It was indeed an amazing, awakening spiritual journey. Thanks Br. Ernesto and the Marist Brothers.

*Ms. Rhonna dela Cruz
Lay Marist, Doha, Qatar*



Every day, I looked forward to the Reflections and Life stories that Br. Ernesto shared during the Retreat on his Circular, Homes of Light: Caring for Life. Generating New Life. During the retreat, I realized that my life is like the two sides of the coin, working with the children in Kindergarten and at the same time living with older brothers in the community. The two sides of the coin could be caring for life and generating life. It’s an affirmation for me in caring for the life of the children and generating new life for the older Brothers. It could be the other way around. the children take care of my life and my life will be generated by the older brothers. Therefore, I need to take care of my life and as well as I need the light of Christ, the homes of light shine in my heart so that I can generate new life to people

around me. Thank you, Br. Ernesto and all of the Marist of Champagnat for the wonderful Retreat 2021. Indeed, the retreat was a life-giving experience and really generated new life for me.

*Br. Elmer Jandic, FMS
Marist Community Singapore*

THE CHALLENGES FOR MARISTS OF CHAMPAGNAT IN CREATING HOMES OF LIGHT: THE MARIST BROTHERS AND LAY JOINT RETREAT- MY PERONAL REFLECTION

By: Ophelia Cruz-Marcelino
Former Marist School Administrator
CMMF, Marist Volunteer



The East Asia Province Holy Week Retreat was held on March 29 to April 3. Br. Dominador Santiago, FMS, the Provincial, said that this retreat is historical and very significant during this time of the pandemic. For the first time, the lay Marists were invited to join the Brothers in their retreat. As observed daily, there were more lay participants. This is not surprising because there are more lay Marists than Brothers. Brothers and lay participants joined the retreat from the different sectors of the East Asia Province.

Br. Ernesto Sanchez Barba, FMS, was the retreat facilitator. Br. Ador had a comprehensive introduction of Br. Ernesto, which was very helpful for us lay participants to know more the Superior General.

During the sessions Br. Ernesto emphasized that the Holy Spirit is the real master of the retreat. It is the Holy Spirit who leads, moves, and guides the participants in their journey during moments of reflections, sharing, prayers and discernment. The content of Br. Ernesto's inputs and sharing dealt on the key points of his Circular, **Homes of Light, Caring for Life, Generating New Life.**

Br. Ernesto gave a brief introduction, pointing out the highlights of the 22nd General Chapter. "A global charismatic family, a beacon of hope, in this turbulent world." He said, "we are called to care for life and to generate new life in moments of great fragility and vulnerability in the world." He raised the point of adaptation because of our different realities. There is a need to adapt to one's circumstances or situations in life, in the family or in the community.

Daily morning and night prayers were prepared for use by the different communities of the Brothers and of the lay. The lay also gathered later in the day and had their night prayers and sharing of reflections which helped deepen their experiences.

Day 1 – Themes: Our Personal Experience of “Home,” and Mary, transparent to the light.

Br. Ernesto presented the following key points:

- La Valla, is the first home of light. The table in La Valla is symbolic; it welcomes all Marists of Champagnat, a table accessible to all members of the Marist Family, students, alumni, parents, teachers, personnel and friends.



- Our personal experience of home; we ask ourselves, “What is my experience of home?” It is important to go back and examine the past events and experiences in life and recognize one’s experiences of home, may it be good or not. How are those experiences shed light on one’s life? It is essential in human interactions, both personal and communal relationships that one recognizes the past experiences and open to the inner light to be able to accept those realities to move on. Those past realities could impact on the quality of relationships of the person, positive or negative.
- The fundamental aspect of forming homes of light is to be found in being deeply spiritual persons, as individuals and together as families or communities.
- In Mary, the light of God could be seen, a light streaming out from within. The heart of Mary is so free and full of God, and therefore transparent to the light. She was able to accept her own reality because her heart is full of the warmth of God.
- The heart is often mentioned in the Bible as the inner place within humans. It is the seat of ideas, feelings, and memories. It is where the divine Being can be perceived and sensed, since this is the mystery of incarnation.
- “Mary treasured all these things and pondered everything in her heart.” (Lk 2:19)
- Mary’s heart is transparent to light because it is a heart that is so free and full of God and described as;
 - A heart that listens, meditates, ponders and discerns, is the ideal place for radiating light and ultimately, letting God’s light shine through.
 - A heart that has the capacity to reduce the force of the ego because it makes greater room for God’s presence.
 - A peaceful heart, busy with her household tasks, and sensitive to needs of others.
 - A heart that recognizes the signs of relational difficulties.
 - Mary’s face, her smile, her attitude, her words and her patience, all made visible the light coming from within that was constantly replenishing her, the very light of God.
- Mary together with Joseph and Jesus creating a home, a home of light.
- “Let Mary’s heart beat in us: the great gift that Marcellin left us.”

- In contemplating Mary, as Marists of Champagnat, have we sufficiently understood what it means to bear the name of Mary?

For our personal reflection:

1. Am I thirsty and longing for God? Deep down, is my heart in tune with the presence of God dwelling in me?
2. Do I really want to be free of all the attachments that are paralyzing me, that stop me from getting ahead and that prevent me from being open to newness and change?
3. Do I have a heart that is open to the needs of others and ready to serve without counting the cost?

Day 2 – Theme: A Spirituality That Lights Up Our Days

The following were highlighted in his presentation:

- Allow oneself to be moved by the Spirit; *“Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.”*
- In the 22nd General Chapter, in proposing that we be *“beacons of hope in this turbulent world,”* was not just issuing a personal invitation but rather a call to the whole Marist community; *to be light as a charismatic global family. Let your light shine!*
- The available documents, like, Constitution and Statutes, Rule of Life, Water From The Rock, Gathered Around The Same Table, and other Marist documents and traditions, are helpful resources in the process of looking deeply into one’s interiority.
- Br. Ernesto believes that the rebirth as an Institute and its future will depend a lot on the concrete commitment of each of us, Marists of Champagnat, to be serious about how our interior and spiritual lives are going. Added to this, is our commitment to encourage one another in this process so that we can speak of a common effort and not just as an individual.
- He quoted as a reminder; *“In their eagerness to meet the needs of the mission, Brothers may fall victims to the temptation of activism... Activism will quickly empty them of evangelical motivations and prevent them from contemplating God’s work which is being done in their apostolic action. Allowing themselves to be carried away by activism, they end up replacing the search for God and His will with the search for themselves.”* (The Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church, 40)
- In walking and making the way for one’s spirituality, these were emphasized:
 - Interiority is a place where we are accountable to ourselves. It is that dimension of ourselves that allows us to calmly accept our feelings and the world of emotions.
 - Interiority prepares our hearts to be open to the Mystery, thus making room for a spiritual experience, to be open to the encounter, recognizing our longing to share Jesus’ dream... *if you knew the gift of God* (Jn 4:10).
 - It is important to cultivate interiority and spirituality, often and with perseverance *going into our inner room, shutting the door, and praying to our Father who is there unseen* (Mt 6:6) It means experiencing **silence**. In experiencing silence, one becomes in touch with the deepest rhythms of one’s being; giving insight into the gift represented by each moment, by each event; one best discovers the fire that dwells inside; and one is able to sense the intimate presence of God.



- Spiritual experiences are sometimes weak, feeling empty at times, there are difficult moments and one experiences spiritual dryness. Pay attention to the aspects of life or some areas in oneself that need to be addressed. Spiritual dryness could be a wakeup call, be open and try to seek help for someone to accompany you in the journey.
- Quoted from the Marists Brothers' Rule of Life, Wherever You Go, 27:



Like Elijah, the prophet, never hesitate to be still and to cherish silence. Become aware of God's presence in the gentle breeze or the quiet whisper (1Kgs 19:12)

Each day put aside time to be with god and to discover the peace that you experience when you are in his presence. Let him speak to your heart; listen to the Spirit who cries out: Abba! (Gal 4:6; Rom 8:15)

We ask ourselves... What am I thirsty for? Am I truly thirsty? When I feel thirsty, do I look for the living water to drink?

"Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty..." (Jn 4:15)

A person needs to recognize spiritual thirst. Allow oneself to have a quiet space and be open and attentive to the Spirit, the light within.

- Spirituality is unique to each person. Do not copy and paste. It is an individual's unique personal relationship with God in making his/her own journey;

a journey that never ends. There is a need to update one's relationship with God and move forward in the journey.

- Personal journey is important to be able to establish good relationship with oneself, with others and with God. It is never too late to start again when one falters and fall. Seek help when necessary and face the newness and change.
- In the experience of silence, one cultivates interiority and spirituality, becoming open to the encounter in recognizing one's longing to share in Jesus' dream. In silence, one keeps in touch with the deepest rhythms of one's being. It gives insight into the gift in every moment (live in the present); one discovers the fire that dwells inside, the inner light that makes a person at home with oneself and able to sense the intimate presence of God. Let God speak to your heart.

For our personal reflection:

1. What am I thirsty for?
2. How is my spiritual search going?
3. What concrete methods do I use to satisfy my thirst for God?

Day 3 – Themes: Living In A Community/Family As a Founding Experience, and Caring for Ourselves/Caring for Others

To be pondered in our hearts are the following key points:

- Homes of light, caring for life, means, taking care of the light of the house, the home, to keep it lit and burning. Caring for ourselves, for those with whom we live, for those who visit, for our common home, and ultimately, "caring for God."

- Living in community as a founding experience; the word brother is inseparable from the word community; they are intrinsically connected. In the context of the lay, it is the family. The members, father, mother, brother/s and sister/s are inseparable from the word family. (Adapt into one's context). The interactions that we want for our communities/families/fraternities find their inspiration in God, who is pure relationship, since "Trinitarian love is the wellspring of all community life." The source of community life is God.
- The community is, for brothers, an experience more than a place. *"...Brothers responding to the call to be experts in communion."* (VC 46)
- Br. Ernesto posed this... *I wonder if in our communities, fraternities, and families, we often recall our common roots, what unites us and is essential, the why and in the name of whom we have come together. Maybe we do not do this enough and this can lead us to fixating on our differences...*
- A comparison of a HOME and a HOTEL...Living in a community is living in a home, where members care for each other; while in a hotel, people just come and go not even knowing the occupants next door. We do not like communities to be just like hotels. In communities/families/fraternities, inclusion is an essential value in constructing homes of light. It means knowing and accepting one another in our differences and complementarity. In communities/families, the joy of feeling accepted unconditionally should prevail. There is accepting and welcoming atmosphere, and when necessary fraternal corrections need to be practiced, and not ignored.
- Caring for ourselves has three dimensions:
 1. Taking care of our health and balanced life (being healthy and fit, prayer life)
 2. Self – knowledge, to accept and value our self (recognizing talents and limitations, self – identity)
 3. Caring for the gift of our own vocation (recognizing self – worth and purpose in life)
- Caring for others (situate also in the context of the family)
 1. The virtue of Family Spirit is strong in us as Marists. This Family Spirit is characterized by, listening attentively, being available, being honest, patient, gentle, hospitable, mutual support, courtesy, tolerance and service to our sisters and brothers.
 2. Care for the elderly: How do we take care of them, and learn from their wisdom and experience?
 3. Caring for the middle – aged brothers (confirm decisions in life)
 4. Caring for the younger generations (understanding their own realities, bridging the gaps, understanding their "language")
 5. Caring for the lay people with whom we share life and mission. (How do we take care of the lay?)
- In our communities/families:
 - Are we building walls, or bridges?
 - What unites us, what does not?
 - Do we communicate with transparency and genuineness?
 - Are we accepting/welcoming or discriminating/rejecting of others?
 - Why are we together in the community/family?
 - Jesus is the one binding us in our community/family.



For our personal reflection:

1. How do I take care of myself? (health/my rhythm of life/my spiritual journey)

2. In relation to my own vocation, what aspects do I consider are helping me? What aspects do not favor me?
3. What aspects of your community or family make it a living experience, rather than a place?
4. What could be done better? Point out some concrete actions you could make to improve the experience.

Day 4 – Themes: We Care for Our Common Home, and We Care for the Light, We Care for God



Today is holy Thursday. Before proceeding to discuss the important highlights of the theme, Br. Ernesto presented a beautiful parallelism of Jesus' breaking of bread and washing of feet. In these events, when Jesus took the bread is paralleled when He got up during the washing of feet of the disciples. These two events point to the following:

- To accept and own one's life
 - A grateful acceptance of the gifts and aptitudes received, as well as limitations, pains, and wounds, with everything that they imply and an openness to possibilities.
 - Assuming this as the starting point is the only way we can give ourselves.
- The second parallelism is when Jesus broke the bread, and He took off His outer clothing in washing the feet of His disciples. These two events point to the following:
- We exist to give ourselves.
 - Sharing ourselves does not mean disintegration, but openness, sharing the being that I am.
 - But this does not occur without some kind of loss or death...
- The third parallelism is when Jesus gave the bread and He began to wash His disciples' feet. These two events point to the following:
- Distribute
 - Giving expands the self...
 - Sharing myself reaches out to others by making me no longer live in myself or for myself, but for others.

The key points of Br. Ernesto's discussion on the care of Our Common Home revolved on the following:

1. As introduction he quoted, "Our planet is a gift from God, but we also know how urgently we must act on the unprecedented socio-environmental crisis we are facing. We need an ecological conversion to respond properly." (Synod of Bishops, 6-27 October 2019, Final Document, *The Amazon: New Paths for the Church and for an Integral Ecology*, n.65)



2. Professional studies on the topic of ecology keep pointing to the growing urgency of collective action, or else we will continue to suffer the consequences and our legacy to future generations will be an uninhabitable planet.

3. He zeroed in on Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si*, 219, and discussed excerpts from the encyclical. "...it is not enough for each one of us to take more care if we are to resolve a situation that is as complex as what is facing the world today. Social problems demand community networks, not just the sum of individual good works. The ecological conversion required to create lasting change is likewise a community conversion."

4. With integral ecology a new paradigm of justice emerges, since "a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor." (LS 49) integral and global ecology, which combines care for the environment and human development as inseparable.

5. The 22nd General Chapter mandates creating an integral ecological awareness in all our communities and different ministries and developing policies at all levels of the Institute that strengthens our commitment to the care of our common home.

6. *Each of our communities and families, as homes of light we want to form, can be an active laboratory for the care of our great common home.* (Hogares de Luz. P. 52)

7. We are being challenged:

- *What positive outcomes would result if we Marists took some collective action, doing our bit in the 80 countries where we are present?*

- *Could we start with some personal action that has a ripple effect in our Provinces, Districts and the General Administration?*

What it means to care for the light, we care for God?

- It means –

- remembering God,
- holding God close,
- personal and community relationship with God,
- being people who discern God's will, and
- taking care of the places of God, which we consider "sacred"



- Discussing the topic on generating new life with integrity, Br. Ernesto shared with the participants his experience in the USG Assembly with Pope Francis and the Superiors of different congregations. He had a question, and an answer was given by Pope Francis, just one word...Integrity. Br. Ernesto mentioned that it is not easy to live with integrity; integrity in principles, integrity concerning reality, integrity in the witness we give. This is the conversion we must undertake in life; to give witness. Beg for forgiveness for our infidelities, as humans we are always a work in progress.
- Integrity does not mean perfection, but rather transparency and genuineness. He said, young people do not want us to be perfect, they want us to be transparent and genuine.
- Trying to live with integrity in our personal, community or family lives is when general youth ministry and vocational ministry today starts to make sense.
- Another key word in generating new life is to dream. We have to dream. To dream, what must we be and do? Is, "to look to the future, nourish our enthusiasm, cause dreams to emerge, awaken prophecies and enable hope to flourish. Even the elderly should dream, so the young people will not lose clear sight of the horizon. It is important to dream WITH young people and not FOR young people and encourage them to take a leading role. Understanding the language of the youth is essential in the present generation.
- We are sent today to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to the young. We need to love this time with all its opportunities and risks, its joys and sorrows, its riches and its limits, its successes, and failures. We need to be witnesses with great hope. Encourage new life that is coming in life, to give hope.



For our personal reflection:

1. How do I dream of Marist life in the future?
2. What should I live and do to make this dream concrete?

Day 6 – Themes: Generating New Life with Young People, and A Future with New Marist Life

Highlights of these themes:

- We want to form homes of light with young people. Young people bring life to us. Their contribution and creativity allow us to breathe fresh air.
- Humbly we need to position ourselves more as disciples than as teachers, and seek to create the dream of God, hand in hand with the young people.
- In generating new life with the young people, we should;
 - Have a renewed culture of vocation
 - Connect and be in tune with the new generation
 - Have a positive outlook
 - Get the language right

- Understand the context such as it is
- Create situations where young people are given the lead to be the architects of their own vocations
- There is a need to a new perspective, a new culture of vocation, where the focus of attention is on each young person, mentoring and helping the young in their discernment and development of their own gifts, perceived as a call from God.
- There is also a need for a new paradigm regarding the Marist charism, both in the way we conceive the Marist vocation as well as in the way we make it known and accompany those who feel the call to live it.
- Living our vocation with passion and integrity, open to a new perspective, ready to welcome the 'new' that the Spirit is inspiring.
- A future with new Marist life entails the following:
 - Brothers and lay people together
 - Accompany the families
 - Training Brothers and Lay people
 - Interconnection
 - Personal accompaniment
 - Prayer life
 - Vocation ministry
 - Connecting with the young/university students
 - Self – sacrifice and solidarity
- Let us give space to imagine and dream about Marist life in the future, what it means to be a brother, and what it means to be a lay Marist.
- Br. Ernesto emphatically mentioned that he will spare no effort in making the investment of human energy and financial resources needed to invigorate and follow through on our efforts regarding vocations.

For personal reflection:

1. How do I position myself in a new perspective of creating vocational culture? What can be my concrete collaboration?
2. How do I place myself before a new paradigm of Marist vocation: Brothers and Lay Marists sharing the gift of the charism? What makes me move forward? What do I resist?
3. Throughout these days of the retreat, what is the main call I have felt from the Spirit? How can I respond concretely?



My reflections:

The Holy Week retreat indeed presented the challenges for Marists of Champagnat in creating homes of light, caring for life, and generating new life. At the center of all these is the person or the “being” of every Marist Brother and lay. What is very essential is the journey inside, to get a very close look at the inner recesses of the heart, its wholeness, and its brokenness. To become a light to others, one needs to have a deep and strong spirituality. It is only when a person knows fully well one’s spirituality and practices it in daily life, that one could genuinely be able to become a light to others. Simply put, one can only share to others what one has. Deeply spiritual persons could share themselves to others

authentically and radiate the light that will shine to others like rays of the sun that give nourishment to fellow human beings and continue to touch their lives and have impact on their formation as well. This would hopefully have a domino effect. With hope, it is a way to “Widen the Tent” and “Keep the Fire Burning.”

In the process of soul searching, looking closely into our interiority, the journey inside, we put ourselves in the presence of God in faith. A genuine self-examination seeks for Divine assistance and acknowledges the painful memories. In silence we listen to the gentle voice of God talking to us in our inner sanctuary. By doing this, we will free ourselves of negative thoughts and feelings. We will start to cleanse our human warehouse of the repressed emotions. Our repressed emotions affect our responses and reactions to the events in our life. With Divine assistance we can learn to let go and move on. For deeply seated painful emotions, one needs Divine therapy to heal. Divine intervention helps and results to Divine healing that makes possible healing of the painful memories and release the individual from the bondage of human misery. A deep spiritual journey could help in the processing of one’s emotions that could result to psycho-socio-emotional balance. Attaining personal balance would make possible our dream of becoming homes of light, caring for life genuinely and ultimately generating new life.

St. Marcellin lived by the light and was a light to others. St. Marcellin’s own vocational journey was guided by the light of Jesus Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary. That beam of light shone brightly, guided Marcellin’s life in his becoming a priest who faced struggles during his time, yet he was “Daring in Hope” when he founded the Little Brothers of Mary. St. Marcellin Champagnat’s charism and spirituality live on today through the Marist Brothers and lay Marists. It is indeed necessary to live by the light in order to become a light to others, and this has to be radiated in every Marist’s thoughts, words, and actions, and a strong manifestation of harmony of one’s faith and Marist life. If there is unity in thought, speech and action, which is a demonstration of wholeness of an integrated person, a person with integrity, this I believe is most important and essential to become a light to others.

