



A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION
FOR THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CANONIZATION OF
St. Marcellin Champagnat

18TH APRIL 2024



PREPARATION

1. IMAGES

- a. Marcellin Champagnat
- b. The Good Mother
- c. Selected pictures of the canonization event, at least 10 pictures printed on A4 sheets. They will be displayed such that everybody sees them. The pictures can be downloaded from this link: https://www.flickr.com/photos/fms_champagnat/albums/72177720299440117/with/52113644057.

2. SONGS/MUSIC

- a. QUIET MUSIC for the moments of reflection.
- b. OPENING SONG: about praise and thanksgiving.
- c. ALLELUIA, as Gospel Acclamation
- d. CLOSING SONG: The Magnificat or a song about Champagnat

3. PRAYER GUIDE

- a. The prayer guide is available in both print and mobile versions. The animator may choose to print for each one or send to their mobile devices.

4. PROJECTOR OR TV SCREEN TO VIEW A CLIP OF THE CANONIZATION

(OPTIONAL):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-l8QzwhTPI> [minute 0 to 1:11]

INTRODUCTION

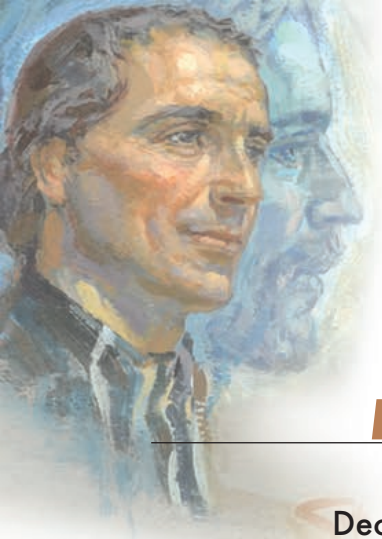
- Brief and spontaneous introduction by the animator, giving emphasis to the significance of this day, that is, the 25th anniversary of the canonization of St. Marcellin Champagnat.

CONTEMPLATING SOME PICTURES

- 1. The animator then invites the participants to look at the pictures and select one. Allow a moment of silence (3 – 5 minutes), with soft music in the background if possible.
- 2. Each one then shares why he/she chose the image and the feelings, memories and thoughts that are evoked by it.

OPENING SONG (ABOUT PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING)





READING OF THE "DECLARATION OF MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT AS SAINT"

Decretal letter with which the honors of the saints are conferred to blessed Joseph Benedict Marcellin Champagnat by John Paul II, servant of the servants of God, to perpetual memory

The cause of canonization began in Lyon with the Ordinary Process on August 2, 1888. Having fulfilled the provisions of the juridical norms of the time, our predecessor Pius XII, on 29 May 1955, proclaimed him Blessed.

In view of the canonization, on July 3, 1998, in our presence, the decree *super miraculo* was promulgated, which took place in Montevideo in 1976. Encouraged by the favorable vote of the Cardinals and Bishops gathered in consistory, we decided that the rite of canonization would be held in Rome on 18 April 1999.

That is why today in St. Peter's Square, during the sacred celebrations, we pronounced this formula of canonization:

To the honor of the Most Holy Trinity, for the exaltation of the Catholic faith and the increase of the Christian life, with the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul and of Ours, after much reflection, invoking divine help several times and listening to the opinion of many of our Brothers in the episcopate, we declare and define as Saints the Blessed Marcellinus Joseph Benedict Champagnat, [Giovanni Calabria and Agostina Livia Pietrantoni] and we inscribe them in the Roll of Saints and establish that throughout the Church they are devoutly honored among the Saints.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Spirit.
Moreover, what we have decreed we want to take effect now and, in the future, in spite of everything to the contrary.

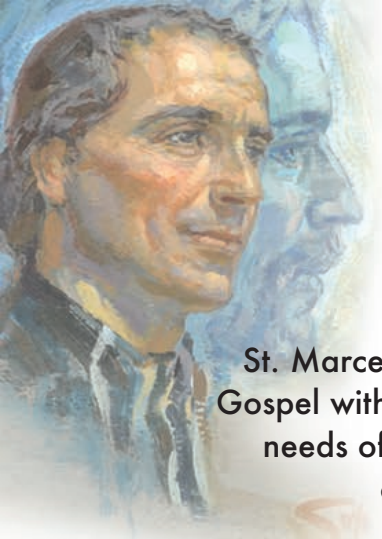
Given in Rome at St. Peter's on April 18 of the year of our Lord 1999,
the twentieth first of our Pontificate.

John Paul II Bishop of the Catholic Church

PRAYER TO MARCELLIN

(Based on the homily of Pope John Paul II on the day of the canonization)





St. Marcellin, captivated by the love of Jesus and Mary, you proclaimed the Gospel with a burning heart. You were sensitive to the spiritual and educational needs of your time, especially to the religious ignorance and the situation of neglect experienced in a particular way by the young.

By your pastoral sense, you gave us an example of how to be true teachers to young people seeking to give meaning to their lives, accompanying each of them on their way. Help us to be like you in looking with hope at young people, loving them with a total love which fosters their true human, moral and spiritual formation.

St. Marcellin, you also invite us to be missionaries, to make Jesus Christ known and loved, with Mary as our guide and Mother. Pray that the Lord will give us a heart that burns like yours, to recognize Him and to be His witnesses.

In the midst of a turbulent world and despite difficulties, may we have an unshakeable faith to remain faithful to Christ. May we discover the seeds of the Kingdom and put our energies in bringing them to fruition. Amen.

VIDEO CLIP OF THE CANONIZATION

(MINUTE 0 TO 1:11)

PSALM: CONFIDENCE IN GOD

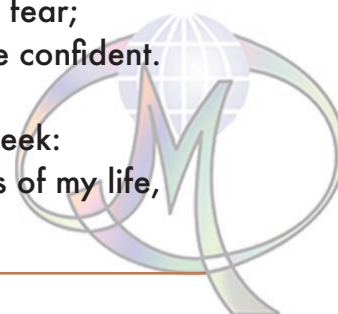
PSALM 27

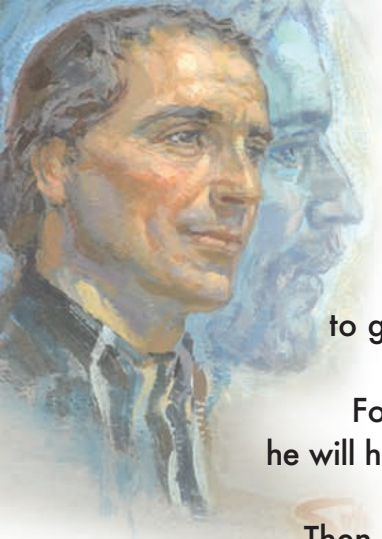
The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me to devour[a] me,
it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.

Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,





to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me.
My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek.

Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.
Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.

Teach me your way, Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.
Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me,
spouting malicious accusations.

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

ACCLAMATION: ALLELUIA

GOSPEL

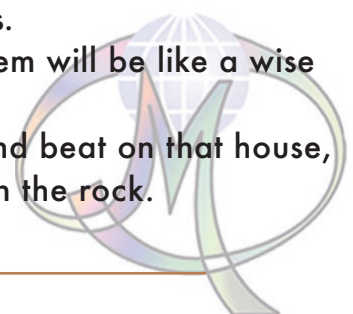
MATTHEW 7: 17-20, 24-27

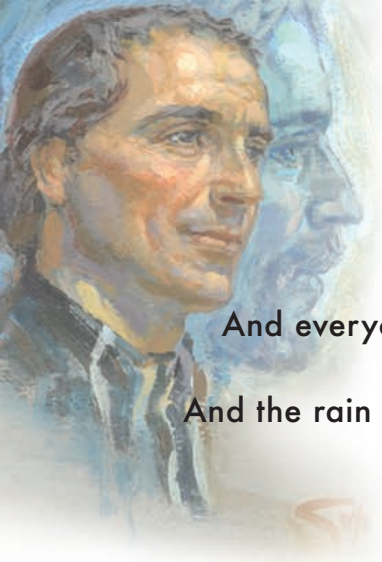
Every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.
A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.
Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Thus, you will recognize them by their fruits.

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise
man who built his house on the rock.

And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house,
but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.





And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

REFLECTION

- For about 3 – 5 minutes...
 - Think of the many virtues of Marcellin and choose one.
 - How do you understand it? What made you choose it?
- What do you need to deepen it in your own life as a Marist?

SHARING

LITANY TO MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

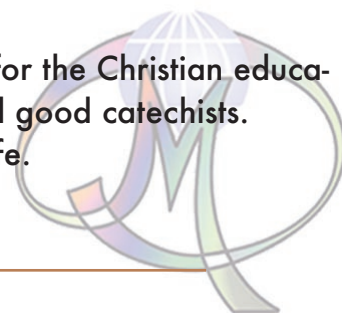
(Based on his Biography by Br. Jean Baptist Fure, this litany was first used in during the closure of the Year of Marist Vocations, 6th June 2023)

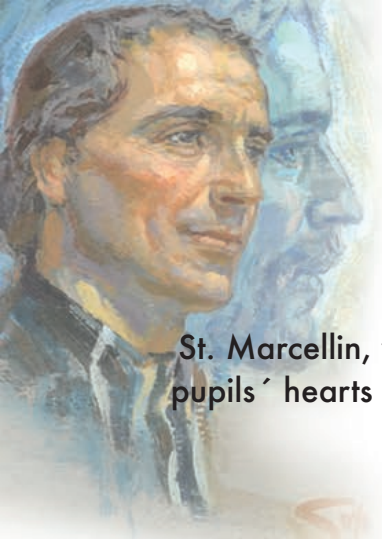
St. Marcellin, you gave your time and energy to form the brothers to virtue and keep them faithful and joyful in their vocation. Teach us to care for and generate Marist life.
St. Marcellin, you worked relentlessly to help the brothers in their human and spiritual development, perfecting their characters, inspiring them to love prayer, savor it and to always put Christ at the center. Teach us to care for and generate Marist life.

St. Marcellin, when you noticed that someone seemed dispirited or confused, you took time to listen to him with fatherly patience and a compassionate heart and encouraged him to be strong in the face of challenges and difficulties.
Teach us to care for and generate Marist life.

St. Marcellin, like the Good Shepherd, you constantly led your flock and with great care. You left the rectory to live with the brothers and take part in their daily life. You worked with them, whether in the garden or making nails, and joined them in recreation.
Teach us to care for and generate Marist life.

St. Marcellin, you instilled in the brothers the zeal and passion for the Christian education of youth. You taught them to be effective teachers and good catechists.
Teach us to care for and generate Marist life.





St. Marcellin, you developed in the brothers the necessary pedagogical skills to form pupils' hearts and consciences and instructed them in supervision and class discipline.
Teach us to care for and generate Marist life.

St. Marcellin, you visited and made yourself present in the classes to encourage the pupils and the teachers.
Teach us to care for and generate Marist life.

St. Marcellin, in your tender affection you visited the sick brothers frequently to see at first hand whether they needed anything; you consoled and encouraged them, taught them how to sanctify their sufferings and, when necessary, how to prepare to die a happy death. Teach us to care for and generate Marist life.

PRAYING WITH ST. MARCELLIN

(adapted from the prayers of St. Marcellin as found in his biography)

Oh Lord, everything in heaven and on earth is yours. I want to be yours too, by a free gift of myself so that I may do your holy will entirely and may work faithfully in the mission entrusted to me.

Mary, Good Mother, I earnestly ask you to take me under your protection and to intercede for me with your adorable Son. Ask him to grant me the graces I need: (pause)

I put all my confidence in you. I offer you;
I give you; I consecrate to you, my person,
my labors and all the actions of my life.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

(THE MAGNIFICAT OR A SONG ABOUT CHAMPAGNAT)

