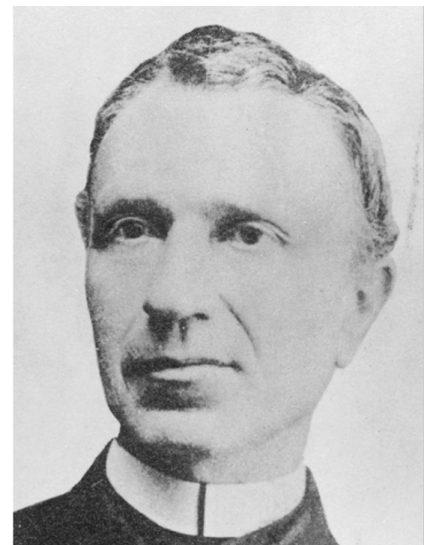




Our Moment of Renewal 2022

Our Superior General, Br Ernesto Sanchez Barba writes ...

*From our origins, the eyes of so many children and young people in need, and particularly the eyes of the young Montagne, captivated Marcellin Champagnat. The love of God that he experienced in himself and what he saw in those eyes led him to respond with audacity. His generosity, commitment, and passion for caring for young people have defined us from the beginning. We are an Institute that, for more than 200 years, has been dedicated to the education and evangelisation of young people, trying to give priority to caring for the poorest and most needy. This is what we have done and continue to do, always seeking to ensure that children and young people “**have life and have it to the full**” (Jn 10:10).¹*



Above: The first Marist Brothers' school at the Rocks, Sydney and Br Ludovic

In this sesquicentenary year of Marist education in Australia, we reflect upon the audacity of Br Ludovic and his companions. The vulnerability of Ludovic and the inexperience of his fellow Brothers was of deep concern to many of the Brothers in senior roles in Europe, especially in light of the colourful accounts of the challenges being experienced by those new to this ancient land. Yet amid the swirling uncertainties we read from Ludovic's journal, words that reflect a man of faith with great trust in God and a determined focus that echoed the Marist vision so firmly established by Marcellin. He wrote:

“In my anxiety of seeing the land I got up at 2.30a.m. I was the first among the passengers to see it. My first sentiments and actions were... consecration of myself, of my Brothers, to Jesus through Mary for the Christian education of the children of Australia to whom we are sent”.²

1. Homes of Light, p76. Link [here](#).

2. MSA Newsletter 1: 8 Feb 2022. Link [here](#).

3. 'We Marists', 2015. Link [here](#).

Moment of Renewal

Leader: Mindful of our desire to actively participate in the life of the Church and her mission as Marists, we dedicate ourselves as contemporary witnesses of faith and disciples of Jesus Christ.

All: We **Marists** are a vital faith community, an expression of Church that embraces **God's mission** with Marian joy, hope, and audacity.

Our **discipleship** of Jesus Christ and the priorities of all of our ministries are inspired by the **Gospel passion** and compassion which fired **Saint Marcellin**.

We remain **attentive** to the God of all life, and we are **committed** to nurturing our spirituality through **ongoing formation**.

We draw on both Marist **tradition** and **imagination** to be game-changers for young people, particularly those most on the peripheries.

We foster connectedness and **communion** among ourselves as an Association, with the Marist **spiritual family** around the world, and with the wider Church of which we are part. ³

Saint Marcellin Champagnat,
Mary of the Cross MacKillop,
Mary Our Good Mother,
And let us always remember,

*Pray for Us
Pray for Us
Pray for Us
To Pray for One Another*



May Miracle Painting

A moment to gaze...

This painting represents the difficult situation that the first community of Marist Brothers had in establishing the school at the Rocks, in Sydney in 1872. Put simply, the students were undisciplined and out of control! It wasn't until the Brother in charge invited the students to build an altar to Mary and to pray to her daily during the month of May, that things turned around. You will notice that the chaotic bottom of the painting quickly gives way to the more ordered church stained glass windows. The bright golden intrusion of colour from the top left hand corner suggests that this change of attitude and behaviour was a gift of the Holy Spirit. The Marist mission to make Jesus known and loved had come to birth in this young colony in Australia.

Artist: Michael Galovic (2016)
Location: Marist Centre Sydney
About: One of four paintings commissioned by the Australian Province of the Marist Brothers to celebrate the bicentennial foundation of the Little Brothers of Mary by St Marcellin Champagnat, 2 January 1817.

