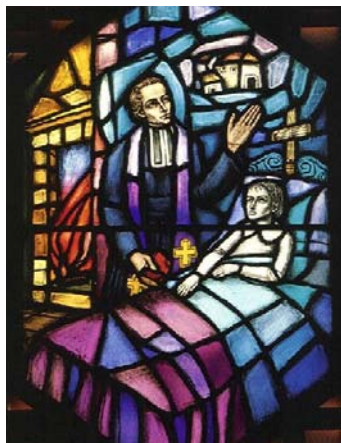


## **The Jean-Baptiste Montagne Experience**



### **THIS DAY IN HISTORY**

“Shortly afterwards occurred an event that was a sign to Marcellin that his idea of founding a teaching congregation was something that had

to be pursued. He had been called to a carpenter’s home in Les Palais, a hamlet beyond Le Bessat, where a youth, Jean Baptiste Montagne was dying. When he found that the lad, sixteen years of age, was ignorant of matters of the Faith, Champagnat set about the task of instructing him, after which he heard Montagne’s confession and prepared him for death. After ministering to another sick person in the neighborhood, Champagnat returned to the Montagne home, only to learn that the lad had died. As he walked the long journey back to La Valla, the young curate decided to put his plan into practice. He would ask Jean-Marie Granjon to become the first member of a community of teaching Brothers.”

Strong Mind, Gentle Heart  
Brother Frederick McMahon, FMS

### **SUNG RESPONSE**

*Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you! Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!*

### **READING 2**

“Marcellin’s visit to the bedside of Jean-Baptiste Montagne just weeks after his appointment as curate to La Valla is well known to us. In the context of our Marist culture, it holds a place as one of our sacred stories, a defining foundational experience. For us who seek to be Marist Educators in the Champagnat way, the story should not be seen as simply the tale of the incident which galvanized Marcellin’s resolve. Much more than that, it can help Marist schools and ministries test the authenticity of their current practice against the standard of the founding charism.”

Contemporary Marist Schools and the Founding Charism  
Brother Michael Green, FMS (Sydney)

### **SUNG RESPONSE**

*Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you! Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!*

### **READING 3**

“Whatever other aspects of Marist schools which a particular diocese or parish may find attractive – its spirit, the quality and generosity of its staff, its climate, its’ extra-curricular programs – it must also respect its rights to welcome and deal with the kinds of students and families for whom Marcellin began his work, the Jean-Baptiste Montagnes. There is something intrinsically missionary about Marist Education.

Contemporary Marist Schools and the Founding Charism  
Brother Michael Green, FMS (Sydney)

### **SUNG RESPONSE**

*Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you! Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!*

### **PAUSE for REFLECTION**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**Leader:** Marcellin Champagnat, generous presence to youth, man of simplicity and brotherhood, sensitive follower of the Spirit:

*All: Walk with us!*

**Leader:** All you Marist Brothers and Marist Educators, who brought the good news of the Gospel to the Montagne's of your own time with the example of your lives:

*All: Walk with us!*

**Leader:** Joseph of Nazareth, man of faith, hard worker and fond of family life:

*All: Walk with us!*

**Leader:** Mary, transparent presence of God and living example of Gospel values and attitudes:

*All: Walk with us!*

**Leader:** Jesus, Lord of life and Lord of human history:

*All: Walk with us!*

**Leader:** Jean-Baptiste Montagne, icon of our mission and commitment to young people:

*All: Walk with us!*

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord God, you moved Marcellin Champagnat to action through his visit to Jean-Baptiste Montagne.

As we reflect on the significance of this incident, may we see again and again in our ministry and in our lives occasions for us to respond with audacity and hope like Father Champagnat did. Amen.

Saint Marcellin Champagnat, *pray for us!*

Mary, our Good Mother, *pray for us!*

Jean-Baptiste Montagne, *pray for us!*

A stylized, handwritten signature of the name 'Champagnat' in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the main text.