



MY STORY

ST MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

Hi, I'm Marcellin Champagnat and I'm a living saint. I had a passion for living like Mary to become closer to Jesus and to share his love with the world.

I was born in La Valla, France where my family had a farm. When I first went to school, the teacher was so mean to the students that I left and never went back. I spent the days helping my father with the farm, then one day a travelling priest allowed me to see that God's call for me was to join the priesthood.

It was a real struggle for me to learn and study though as I had never finished my schooling, but I persisted and eventually completed my studies and was ordained as a priest. The men I was in the seminary with also had a strong dedication to Mary and so Mary became our guide towards Jesus.

One day I met a teenager who was very sick and when I came to anoint him, he told me he didn't know God. This made me very sad that he did not know how much God loved him. From that day forward I knew I had to make sure children knew that they were unconditionally loved by God. With a few of my friends, we sent up an order of brothers called the Marist brothers or the Little brothers of Mary. Our soul mission was to make Jesus known and loved among all children and young people. We did this by setting up schools across France.

In my writings, there are 5 different traits that I encouraged everyone to live by. Presence, simplicity, family spirit, love of work and in the way of Mary. Through these ways of living, we can grow closer to Jesus and make him known and loved all over the world.