

# Catholic, Marist and Champagnat Culture

Schools develop their own culture. Sometimes this culture is called ethos, character or spirit. Catholic schools have their own character, based upon the values to be found in the Gospels. Most Catholic schools in New Zealand were founded by Religious Orders, or Bishops invited Religious Orders to teach in their schools. Religious Orders brought their own spirit, or charism as it is sometimes called, to the schools. This charism came from the Founder of the Order, a charism that has been refined by successive generations of the Founders' followers.

The Marist Brothers brought the charism of Saint Marcellin Champagnat to New Zealand as early as 1838 and it is to be found from one end of the country to the other. It too has been refined. Something of this charism is described here.

## **There is a priority on the quality and nature of relationships**

- To have a love of children, to be close to children
- Champagnat said "To educate children, first you must love them and love them equally."
- A "family spirit" is felt within the school
- There is a sense of community within the staff
- The atmosphere is warm and down-to-earth
- A welcoming atmosphere and spirit of hospitality

## **Zeal, hard work**

- Teachers, supervisors, and boarding staff and students work together to fulfil their potential in all aspects of College and Hostel life . Academic excellence is a valued goal, as is involvement in cultural and sporting activities.

## **Simplicity**

- Simplicity is seen as a Gospel virtue
- Relationships are characterised by simplicity of expression

## **Effective presence**

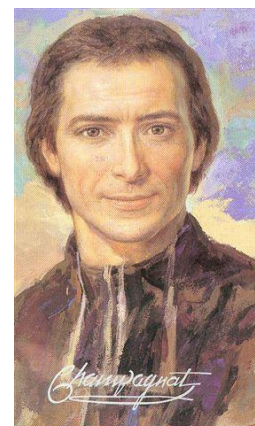
- Boarding and teaching staff in Marist schools aim to provide a Pedagogy of Presence.
- To "be present" and "to provide good example"

## **Central place and value of spiritual formation**

- The development of students in their knowledge and love of God is central.
- Marcellin Champagnat said: "I can't see a child without wanting to teach him about God".
- The Marist school sets out to form "good Christians and good citizens"

### Support for the students most in need

- Marist education aims to support students in need, as Saint Marcellin Champagnat would have it. These students include not only the materially needy, but also those who need spiritual, emotional, and intellectual support.
- A sense of youthfulness
- Confidence and optimism in the College and Hostel environment



## The Boarding Vision

The staff aspire to cultivate an ethos within the Hostel which witnesses to our Marist Tradition, our sense of family and our desire to share our Christian vision with the young man to whose care we have been entrusted. Integral to the achievement of these aspirations, we would encourage the growth of young men in:

<b>Self Identity</b>	<b>Trust</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Self Discipline</b>
<b>Respect</b>	<b>Integrity</b>		<b>Opportunity</b>

These values should be reflected in all aspects of College and Hostel life – spiritual, cultural, communal, academic and sporting. To enhance the attainment of these aspirations, we are conscious of our privileged position as role models. This involves acceptance, tolerance, consistency, encouragement, prayerfulness and belonging.

We respond to the needs and aspirations of the young men of today. We accompany them with care and practical concern, empowering them to take responsibility for their own lives, and, in their turn to take up the mission of Jesus.