

25. Mary, Our Ordinary Resource

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t pour* From the very beginning, Marcellin Champagnat believed that "Mary has done everything for us". Mary is our Mother. From this flows her care for us. As is true for every child, Marcellin looked at her as his main support, his ordinary resource. His trust in her was without limit.

Once Father Champagnat had put any matter in Mary's hands, he remained at peace and full of confidence, whatever turn things might seem to take. "Have no fear", he would insist, "appearances are against us but Mary will arrange everything; she will be able to ward off difficulties, and control events, turning them to our advantage". The remarkable thing is that his confidence was never misplaced. Hence, in every need, in all difficult circumstances, he had recourse to Mary; he wanted to be indebted for everything to her alone, after God; it was from her protection that he expected everything and his favourite expression was: "MARY IS OUR ORDINARY RESOURCE".

Invariably, when instructing the Brothers to pray for the virtues and temporal blessings they needed, he would add: "You know to whom you should go for these favours, to our Ordinary Resource. Don't be afraid of calling on her help too frequently: her power is unlimited; her kindness and her store of grace are inexhaustible. Besides, she is responsible for us, being our Mother, our Patroness, our Superior and our source of hope. This community is her work; it was she who brought us all into this house; so she ought to give each of us the virtues she wants us to have as well as the temporal goods we need."

Life of Marcellin Champagnat, Bicentenary Ed., II, p. 342

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chacun* 'Our Ordinary Resource' is one of the most common ways for brothers to address the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is still used today when we are confronted with some group need or a troubling situation of whatever sort, to express a profound feeling of trust and calm thanks to Mary's presence among us. This title is an integral part of the spiritual heritage that defines us, both personally and as a group.

