

# FOUNDATIONS IN MARIST SPIRITUALITY

## INFORMATION SHEET 4

### Challenges

“What challenges did they face?”

### KEY NOTES FROM SPEAKERS

Jean-Marie Chavoïn

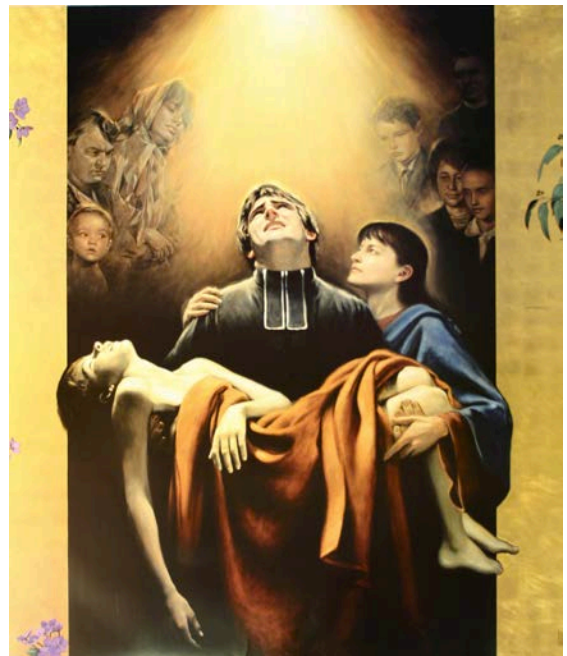
- She was prepared to wait.
- Challenges of the revolution and upheaval in France.
- Impact on the church as it was under attack.
- A lot of movement away from the church.
- Criticism of the hierarchy and pop.
- Jean-Marie did not focus on the evils of the church. Rather focusing on the new church and Mary's role.
- She is searching.
- Jean-Marie was a strong woman who was determined.
- The relationship with John Claude Colin was affected, but not until later on.
- 6 years in Cerdon she was given approval to start a community.
- There was a lot of communication and support. When she felt down she was encouraged by the Fathers. When the Fathers felt down, the sisters gave them support.

John Claude Colin

- The multi branched Marist Society was not recognised by Rome. Rome would not approve this.
- Mary's gracious choice enabled the vision to emerge.
- John Claude's main challenge was his personality. Early on he is quiet shy.
- There was conflict later on with the sisters.
- There were sensitive issues between the fathers and brothers.
- Colin is not the ultimate model of what it means to be a Marist. Mary is that model.
- Colin is too human.

Marcellin Champagnat

- Liminal experience- the Montagne incident. A boy who was dying did not know who God was. This prompted Marcellin to start the brothers.
- Many young men came to join the Marist Brothers in Lavalla.
- By 1824 Marcellin bought a property to build a large facility called the Hermitage.
- Finances were hard. They were poor. Their food was poor. Their clothing



was simple. The fees charged of students were minimal. They did not eat fresh meat.

- Champagnat did not look after himself. This would lead him to stomach cancer at an early age – by the late 1830s Champagnat’s health had deti
- Reputation to be a simple country yokel. A man who could not read and write well, teaching other people to read and write.

#### Francoise Perroton

- Church was reluctant to send women out to Oceania after the martyrdom of Peter Chanel.
- Left for Oceania in 1845.
- Captain Marso to accept her without financial payment but rather work.
- Father Colin was not asked approval.
- After 11 months travel the Bishop of Oceania refused to receive her because of the dangers faced by woman.
- Futuna – Peter Chanel was martyred – 1841.
- Francoise started on Wallis island and later moved to Futuna.
- Francoise was accepted by the chieftain of Wallis.
- The work was slow.
- Francoise never asked for French women to come out. She did not want other women to go through the suffering as a woman. To be so isolated.
- The first 3 women who came to join Francoise, they were quickly separated and scattered very quickly. They had to rely on letters
- The European women were very isolated and rely on the local women.
- The Marist priests felt these women had come out to look after them. There were clashes as the women did not want to just look after the priests and grow food. The women wanted to serve the people.
- The women had the Marist Missionary spirit right from the beginning.

#### Discussion Questions

1. What were some of the challenges faced by the founders? Can you relate to someone of them?
2. How did the founders deal with challenges?
3. Why do you think Jean-Marie did not focus on the evils of the church?
4. What does “Colin is too human” mean?
5. What is a liminal experience?