**OFF - MARCELINO – MARCELINO CHAMPAGNAT**

**Take 101**

**MARCELINO 6**

Auntie, what’s the Revolution? A person or a wild animal?

**DAVID off 18**

Marcellin Champagnat’s innocent question to his Aunt Louise, makes us smile

**EVELYN off 18**

But, David, it makes sense.

**PADRE 40**

Hey Marcellin! You’re a young man now. You were born the same year as the Revolution, in 1789, on the 20th of May. I defend all that’s good about liberty, equality and fraternity, but I’m horrified there is so much cruelty.

**MADRE 41**

Daddy worries about atrocities that could take place in Marlhes.

**Take 102**

**TÍA 43**

… and they respect him. Learn from him and you’ll be good and just.

**MARCELINO 6**

I’d like to, and Mummy is teaching me to pray to the Virgin so that I can be like that.

**JUAN**

Here, where Marcellin was caught in a huge snow storm, I’d like to look back at his life with you, Evelyn and David.

**EVELYN**

His mother, Marie Thérèse Chirat, and Aunt Louise, her sister-in-law, were very influential in Marcellin’s religious awakening.

**DAVID**

He was a bad student, right Juan?

**JUAN**

See for yourselves. He was very shy and on his first day at school…

**Take 103**

**MAESTRO 50**

Marcellin come up and read.

**NIÑO 8**

Can I begin?

**MAESTRO**

I didn’t ask you!

**MARCELINO 10**

How unfair! I’m not coming back!

**PADRE 44**

All right, so yesterday was your first and last day of school! But you’ll help me on the farm and at the mill.

**EVELYN off**

He had success rearing lambs, but one day the words of a visiting priest made a striking impression on him.

**Take 104**

**MARCELINO 14**

I’m really sure now that I want to become a priest. It’s God’s will.

**PADRE 48**

It has been difficult for us to accept that.

**MADRE 49**

You’ll have to study hard, you have very little education. But we have faith in you.

**JUAN off**

He went into the minor seminary in Verrières. Being 16, he was older than his class mates, and was a member of the “Happy Gang”. He failed that year and they sent him back home.

**DAVID off**

What a disaster !

**MARCELINO 16**

Mother, we prayed together to Saint Jean-François of Regis in the shrine. I really want to study hard so as to become a good priest.

**Take 105**

**MADRE 51**

I’ll help you, Marcellin, so that you can get back into Verrières.

**EVELYN**

So that’s what happened. His conduct was excellent, his studies were mediocre.

**DAVID**

No wonder, he had a lot of failures!

**JUAN**

Finally he got into the Saint Irenaeus seminary in Lyon.

**SACERDOTE 1 40**

This is a really good group, they’ll be talked about in the future.

**SACERDOTE 2 50**

I admire Champagnat. He has made such progress in his studies! In his spiritual life! Such determination to reach out to the most uneducated lads!

**SACERDOTE 1 40**

In the holidays, young people and adults don’t miss a word of his catechism.

**Take 106**

**MARCELINO 27**

I like your plan to found the Society of Mary, Courveille, a tree with many branches so as to spread the faith in mission lands. But I think one very important part is missing, teaching here in France.

**COURVEILLE 25**

It wasn’t envisaged in the original project but we’ll think about it.

**EVELYN off**

They were ordained on 22nd July 1816. The following day they went up to the shrine of Fourvière.

**COURVEILLE 25**

Our Lady, we come to entrust the future Society of Mary to you.

**EVELYN off**

Marcellin returned alone, with one plea to the Virgin:

**Take 107**

**MARCELINO 27**

We need Brothers!

**JUAN off**

Champagnat was sent to La Valla as assistant to the parish priest. He caught sight of the church bell tower.

**MARCELINO 27**

I am a poor sinner, but you entrust me with your flock, Lord. With your mercy and the help of Mary, I will do my utmost for my parishioners, showing a lot of kindness to all of them.

**DAVID off**

On a cold Autumn night a young man came to find him.

**GRANJON 23**

Mont Pilat is a very rugged area but Montagne is seriously ill.

**MARCELINO 27**

You are a good lad, Jean-Marie, and you’ve listened to his poor mother’s request. Let’s go!

**Take 108**

**MADRE MONTAGNE 50**

Only 17 and he’s dying! He’s never been to school and knows nothing about God.

We’ve been abandoned here for so many years.

**EVELYN off**

He consoled him lovingly and spoke to him about God.

**MARCELINO 27**

You don’t know him, but God has always loved you and you will be happy with him, Jean-Baptiste. You are in his hands! I’ll come back soon.

**EVELYN off**

Montagne’s death made a big impression on Marcellin and on his return, he made the decision of his lifetime.

**Take 109**

**MARCELINO 27**

We need Brothers. It is essential to educate children in a Christian way, especially the most in need. With your blessing, Good Mother, I begin humbly.

**MARCELINO 27**

I’ll take care of your training. You, Jean-Marie Granjón and you, Jean-Baptiste Audras, will be the first brothers, and this small house your home.

**Take 110**

**GRANJÓN 23**

Shall we give it a name?

**MARCELINO 27**

Yes, we’ll make a sign saying: “House of the Little Brothers of Mary.”

**JUAN**

On the second of January 1817 the Institute of the Marist Brothers was born, quietly like a small bud which promised life.

**DAVID**

That is how God works.

**AUDRAS 15**

How clever we are at making nails to earn our living!

**GRANJON 23**

And how well Father Marcellin has taught us!

**AUDRAS 15**

Now that we have more brothers, the children’s classes are going very well.

**Take 111**

**GRANJÓN 23**

Cooking, praying, studying, lots of things! We live with joy!

**AUDRAS**

Ow!!

**MARCELINO 34**

We’ve given comfort to our sick brother, and now you can’t succumb, I’ve hardly any strength. Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary!

**MARCELINO34**

They’re coming to rescue us. Thank you, Good Mother!

**EVELYN**

With the help of Courveille, Marcellin managed to buy a plot of rocky land, near the river Gier.

**MARCELINO 35**

We work hard, it is important to help out.

**Take 112**

**HERMANO 20**

We do it with enthusiasm, Father, and with the sweat of our brow.

**MARCELINO 36**

La Valla is the cradle, the Hermitage is the family home, happily inaugurated this month of May in 1825. You are the first to have your formation here after La Valla.

**DAVID**

There were already thirty, and the schools continued to open.

**JUAN**

Marcellin also had to put up with a lot of disappointments. Interference and jealousy from Courveille upset him and discredited him.

**EVELYN**

He eventually became seriously ill.

**DAVID**

But he recovered and got going again!

**Take 113**

**MARCELINO 38**

To educate children you have to love them, and love them all equally.

**MARCELINO 47**

We’ve been through some difficult years both inside and outside the Congregation. Colin, Superior General of the Marist Fathers is asking me for Brothers to go to Oceania.

**MARCELINO 47**

How I’d love to go with you, Pierre!

**CHANEL ?**

I’m going happily. I’ll give it my all!

**JUAN**

Pierre Chanel was the first Marist martyr.

**MARCELINO 50**

I thank God that it is you, Francois, who has been chosen by a majority to be my successor.

**Take 114**

**FRANCISCO 39**

When I met you, Father Marcellin, I was 9 and your catechism for the First Communion impressed me.

**MARCELINO 50**

And you soon added to the small initial community, becoming the sixth Marist Brother.

**FRANCISCO 40**

At daybreak on 6th June, 1840, Marcellin Champagnat began the everlasting life in our Father’s house.

**FRANCISCO off**

We will live like you: “All for Jesus through Mary, all to Mary for Jesus”.

**Take 115**

**JUAN off**

Marcellin was canonized by Pope John Paul the Second in 1999.

**JUAN**

Two hundred years after the founding of the Marists, we have a challenge: a new beginning. Well, there have been a lot of new beginnings.

**EVELYN**

Of course, we’re not starting from zero but it’s about taking on the Champagnat style in our changing times.

**DAVID**

You are a great lay Marist!

**JUAN off**

It’s true. Now lay people can become part of the Marist family, which was impossible in the early days.

**Take 116**

**DAVID**

Montagne affected Champagnat. What would that mean today?

**JUAN Off**

Multiplying the interest and effort so as to get to the farthest peripheries that need the light of the Gospel: “with Mary, go in haste to a new land”.

And we want to contribute, so that many of our brothers live in strength, light, the consolation of our friendship with Jesus Christ, offering a prospect of life and meaning, just as Saint Marcellin Champagnat did in his day.