

## Some quotes to ponder

### **Apostles of Youth**

In founding his Institute, Father Champagnat had more in mind than providing primary instruction for the children or even, than teaching them the truths of religion; he wanted to educate them, that is to instruct them in their duty, to teach them to practise it, to give them a Christian spirit and attitudes and to form them to religious habits and the virtues possessed by a good Christian and a good citizen.

Life, XXIII, p. 535

### **Respecting consciences**

Avoid constraint in religious matters. Religion does not impose itself by force, it has to penetrate the heart like a gentle dewdrop. Jesus Christ himself never wanted anything done through constraint: "If you wish to enter into life," He said, "keep the Commandments of God." It is of the utmost importance to understand that fully, because moral constraint doesn't make children virtuous, but hypocrites ...

Guide (1853), pp. 121-122

### **The Golden Rule for Marist Educators**

To bring up children properly we must love them; we must love them all equally. To love the children is to devote oneself completely to teaching them and to take all the means that an industrious zeal can think of in order to form them to virtue and prayer.

Life, XXIII, p. 538

Education does not consist in either discipline or teaching; it is not imparted by courses in politeness or even in religion, but by constant daily contact between students and their teachers, by personal advice, attention to details, encouragement, corrections, all other sorts of lessons to which this uninterrupted contact gives rise.

... Of all the lessons you can, and indeed must, give your pupils, the first and principal one, the most meritorious for you and the most efficacious for them, is your example. Education is assimilated more easily and makes a deeper impression by way of the eyes than by way of the ears.

Opinions, Conferences, XLI, pp. 310-312

### **Children and the Kingdom of God**

A child is one of the most loveable and most beautiful things on earth, "the flower and adornment of the human race", as St Macarius says. A child is a field God has given you to cultivate, a tender sprout, a weak plant who will one day become a great tree loaded down with fruit of all the virtues, casting far and wide its glorious shade. In a word, a child is humankind, no more, no less. A child is entitled to respect, and must show respect to others.

Opinions, Conferences, XXXVIII, pp. 398-402

### **The 'Golden Rule' for Marist Educators**

So love your students; fight ceaselessly against the indifference, weariness and annoyance their faults so easily arouse in you. Without closing your eyes to their defects, because you must correct them, keep in mind at the same time all the pleasant qualities they have, which deserve your attention. Give them credit for the good they do, no matter how imperfect, and for all the evil they do not do.

Opinions, Conferences, XLI, pp. 311-312

### **Mary, our ordinary resource**

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 .... It was from her protection that he expected everything and his favourite expression was: "Mary is our Ordinary Resource".

Life, XVI, p. 342

### **Pushing as little as possible**

Children are children. There are days, when you have no idea what is making them light-headed and indisposed to work. On such occasions, it is better not to force a show-down, which would only embitter and irritate them; but be patient and given them serious work to do.

Guide (1853), pp. 60-61

### **Everyone equal**

Equality ought to be the hallmark of Marist schools; no-one there should benefit from preference or privilege because of social standing or exterior qualities; each pupil, rich or poor, should be treated according to ability, virtue and personal worth.

Life, XXI, pp. 517-518