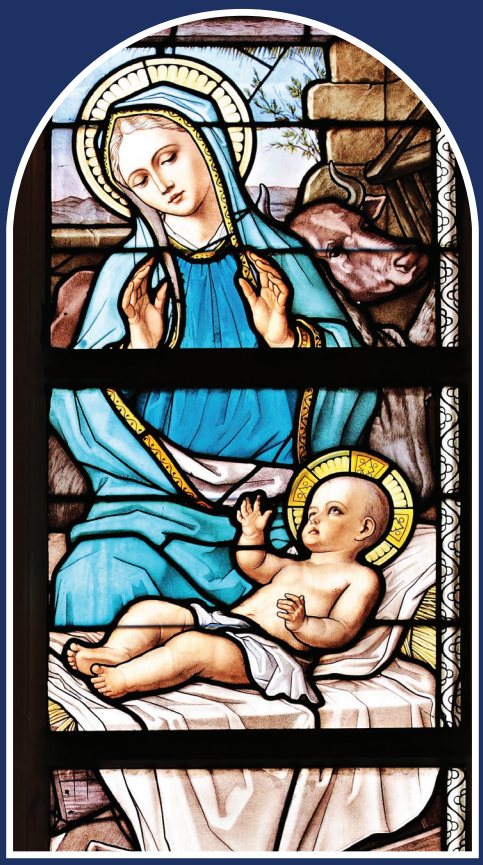
Venerable Jean Claude Colin

ON THE EDUCATION OF YOUTH AND SCHOOLS

Instructions for Marist Educators

Constitutions of the Society of Mary
1872 nos. 451-465



Following Jesus as Mary Did



The Marist Way

The Marist Way refers to a certain way of living the Gospel and that is the way Mary lived it as understood by a group of religious and laity called Marists. This Marist Way of living the Gospel describes how Marists strive to breathe in her spirit so that in all things they may think, judge, feel, and act like Mary, the first disciple of Jesus and model of discipleship. To live the Marist Way is to be engaged in "The Work of Mary" to which Marists are called by a gracious choice of hers.

The Mission of the Marist Way

In order to maintain and deepen the Marist ethos of the school and to advance its mission, the Marist Way forms and develops its participants in the spirit of the Society of Mary by embracing a life of prayer, community, learning, service and vocation. As a result of their participation, some may wish to partner with the Society of Mary in advancing the mission of Marist School. Others may identify themselves as Marist Laity while still others, called by a gracious choice of Mary, may want to undergo the formal process of becoming a Lay Marist.

INTRODUCTION

Very Reverend Father Founder, Jean-Claude Colin, had always intended leaving an article on the education of youth. His illness prevented him from completing it before the volume of Constitutions of the Society of Mary was submitted for examination and approval by the Holy See.

Since, however, he had already outlined some principles on this subject, the General Chapter of 1873 collected them with great respect and joy, and submitted them to Father Founder for examination. He fully ratified and approved them and wholeheartedly agreed with the chapter's desire to include them at the end of the Constitutions.

Fr. Thomas Ellerman, S.M. rewrote them in contemporary language to make them better understandable and applicable for educators teaching in a Marist owned or sponsored school.



Fr. Jean Claude Colin
Founder – Society of Mary (Marists)
August 7, 1790 – November 15, 1875

RULE I

Let those engaged in the education of young people in the schools understand that they have been entrusted with a lofty ministry, a heavenly work, a truly apostolic task. Youth are the paramount hope, not only of civil society, but also of Christ's Church, and so their teachers must undertake to form them according to the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are truly children of God, and so it is to God, that their minds are to be directed at an early age and with perseverance by teaching the Good News of Salvation and through example attracting them to lead the Christian life.

NOTES

RULE II

This high purpose cannot be achieved unless the task and efforts of all the educators, who cooperate in this work, proceed from God and are referred back to him. Since they act as God's ambassadors, they are to be led primarily and, in all things, by the spirit of God. Their efforts will promote not only the eternal salvation of their students, but their own as well.

NOTES

RULE III

Educators have a threefold duty towards their students:

a. To form them into strong and faithful disciples of Christ;

b. To encourage and to instruct them how to know and exercise their responsibilities and rights as honest and upright citizens, useful to society;

c. To teach them the humanities, sciences, technical skills, critical thinking, and life skills.

NOTES

RULE IV

Marist educators must form the minds of their students with an accurate knowledge of the teaching of the Church and direct them towards the good so that they can live the Christian life out of conscience, with a free and sincere heart. Let them be trained in self-discipline through spiritual, rational, and physical training.

NOTES

RULE V

Care should be taken that, by means of catechetical and religious studies classes, teachers teach and students receive religious truths as a matter of upmost importance, the study of which requires their highest efforts. Let the students view the world in which they live in light of the Gospel and the social teaching of the church.

NOTES

RULE VI

The second duty of the Marist educator is to form the character of their students so that these young people do not grow up filled with pride, but show due respect and honor to all, exemplary in their Christian politeness. Marist students should be modest in speech, have proper decorum, be polite in their movement, wear appropriate attire, speak clearly and be dignified in their gestures.

NOTES

RULE VII

Thirdly, Marist teachers, must do everything they can to ensure that their students acquire a deep knowledge of the humanities and the sciences by inspiring them to study through a love of learning and a desire for the truth. They are to develop in their students critical thinking skills and the ability to view what they learn in the light of teachings of the Catholic Church. The search for and the love of truth leads them to God and to the discovery of the meaning of their lives.

NOTES

RULE VIII

Marist educators resolve to imitate our Lord Jesus Christ in his reverence and respect for all human beings, even the most vulnerable. Let their hearts be filled with a religious respect for their students, lest they harm them in anyway. Teachers will be pleased to relate with them with patience, a firm kindness, and appropriate correction. Marist teachers are aware that with faults due to the restlessness of adolescence, they should more often than not pretend not to notice, and that not everything needs to be exacted down to the last detail.

NOTES

RULE IX

Let them think often of Mary, Queen and perpetual Superior of the Society of Mary, who, together with Saint Joseph, was the first teacher of Jesus. The students in Marist Schools are to be regarded as placed under her protection in a special way. Therefore, let the teachers realize that they represent Mary, the Seat of Wisdom: following her as leader and protector, they shall strive to form their students in the likeness of Jesus Christ and discreetly try to persuade them to honor her especially through prayer, to receive the sacraments, and to learn more about her, thus enabling their young hearts to be alive with her spirit.

NOTES

RULE X

Marist Schools are schools of the Lord's Service and of spiritual growth. Let all educators, therefore, exercise the highest and most vigilant care to counteract any kind of student behavior that would be inconsistent with the following of Christ and the teaching of the Catholic Church. Let every means be used to keep the students from embracing the false values of this secular age. Marist Schools must be careful to admit only students of good character, lest other students are corrupted by bad example. Those who have been dismissed by other reputable institutions for behavioral problems should not be admitted unless there is good hope of their correction. Those who would give bad example or scandal to others should be sent away, while safeguarding their reputation in the best possible way.

NOTES

RULE XI

The number of teachers and staff members should be sufficient so that no one is overburdened with work nor lacks the time needed to devote oneself to personal studies and spiritual development. Competent personnel should be available to be guides in spiritual growth and to help deepen theological knowledge. All teachers should encourage students to receive the sacrament of reconciliation and to receive holy communion. Faculty, staff, and students working together, with all their strength, shall strive to respect levels of authority in all things, for the greater glory of God and the honor of the blessed Virgin.

NOTES

RULE XII

Marist Schools must not forget their students who, having finished their studies, are engaged in earthly concerns; but they shall try, as best they can, through various forms of outreach to provide for their perseverance and salvation, so that they may live out the spirit and principles they imbibed in Marist Schools.

NOTES

RULE XIII

All teachers and staff members must be on their guard, lest they neglect themselves while caring for others. They must devote sufficient time to their own personal development and to study whatever concerns their spiritual, psychological, social, intellectual, and physical growth, so that they may mature in learning and experience.

NOTES

RULE XIV

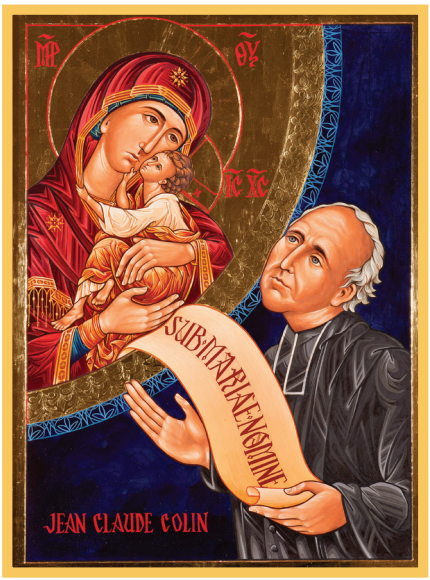
It should not escape all those involved in Marist education that Divine Providence offers them many occasions and innumerable means to promote the glory of God and the salvation of human beings. Whenever there is question of progress and salvation of their students, therefore, let them not spare themselves.

NOTES

RULE XV

These are the grave obligations binding all educators and on which God will one day judge them. Since they cannot possibly fulfill them without God's grace, if they are not to work in vain, they must be people of prayer. Let them frequently remember the students in prayer. Let them keep close watch that, entangled by their duties, they fail to pray and neglect their spiritual lives. In this way, by the mercy of God and the intercession of the Mother of God, they will be able to promise themselves a most abundant fruit from their efforts and receive a great reward from God, who is Wisdom Herself.

NOTES



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Founder – Society of Mary (Marists)
August 7, 1790 – November 15, 1875

Prayer for the Canonization of Jean-Claude Colin

God our Father, in your servant Jean-Claude Colin you gave your people
a zealous and religious founder dedicated to serving
the Church in the spirit of Mary.
We ask you for the glorification of your faithful servant in the midst
of your Church to grant us the favor which we ask now through
his intercession:

(mention request)

This we ask through Christ our Lord.

Postulator of the Cause and Graces Received

If you receive any grace through the intercession of Fr Colin,
please advise the Postulator of the Cause:

Fr Carlo-Maria Schianchi SM
Padri Maristi
Via Alessandro Poerio, 63
00152 Rome, Italy
postulator@maristsm.org


PRAYER • COMMUNITY • LEARNING • SERVICE • VOCATION
THE
MARIST WAY