ST. MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT AWARD

“The Lord wants us to belong to a Church that knows how to open her arms and welcome everyone. Not a house for the few, but a house for everyone, where all can be renewed, transformed, sanctified by his love, the strongest and the weakest, sinners, the indifferent, those who feel discouraged or lost. Are we a Church that calls and welcomes sinners with open arms, that gives courage and hope, or are we a Church closed in on herself?”

Pope Francis, The Church of Mercy, Darton, Longman & Todd, 2014

St Marcellin Champagnat established the Marist Brothers to respond to the needs of disadvantaged young people. He wanted the Brothers to work in the locations with children lacking access to education. Today, this Marist mission is no longer the exclusive property of the Brothers; it is open to all lay Marists who want to incorporate Marist values in their lives, and to share in Marcellin’s fundamental plan of action each in his or her own unique way.

As a Catholic school and as part of the mission of the Marist Institute, it is appropriate that Marcellin College engages in social action opportunities which are both educative and practical in outcomes. Our focus is young people and we seek to make a positive difference in their lives, especially those who are poor, deprived of education and most in need of our support. Whether it be working with the Brothers in Pailin, Cambodia, or assisting an indigenous community in Bourke, NSW, or supporting the work of local initiatives like the Exodus Community, the College remains committed to providing opportunities for our boys to contribute to society, giving witness to St. Marcellin’s solidarity with people in greatest need. It is through these experiences we are reminded to be a presence in the lives of others, to live with simplicity, to have a love of work, demonstrate family spirit and to live In the Way of Mary.

Three2Six project
The Three2Six project is run by a Marist school, Sacred Heart College, in Observatory, Johannesburg, South Africa. In 2008, Sacred Heart College started this project aimed at offering a place of hope for refugee children. Besides offering academic and social bridging into the South African schooling system, the project also aims to offer protective factors that can build resilience and reduce vulnerability.

Most of the children are refugees from Central Africa and live in very difficult conditions, their families struggling for survival. Three2Six provides educational support, a nutritious meal each day and most important of all, hope for a brighter future. Two hundred students and six teachers who are themselves refugees use the school’s facilities each day from 3pm to 6pm and Three2Six works with the children and their families to build skills and educational foundations and then to help transition the students into local schools.

Exploring Faith in Action
The Three2Six project runs two week holiday programs annually. They require Australian and South African volunteers to come and help run games, sports, science, arts and craft, computer sessions and to help with reading practice and literacy and numeracy revision. Details of the annual holiday programs and information regarding last year’s August program can be viewed via: http://www.326project.com/annual-holiday-programme.html. An interview with last year’s award recipients can be viewed on the Marcellin College YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WN7DspNOyss

Following the success of last year’s partnership, in solidarity with Sacred Heart College in Observatory each year Marcellin College will offer an immersion experience to Johannesburg, South Africa, for two Old Collegians.

Travel Costs and Accommodation
The St Marcellin Champagnat Award covers the cost of return airfares and travel insurance. The Three2Six Holiday Program coordinator will arrange safe local accommodation. Successful applicants are expected to contribute to a small group allowance for meals and groceries. Successful applicants will also need to cover costs, at a reduced price, for a weekend safari with other volunteers over the weekend in the middle of the program.

The holiday program will run for five hours each day. There will also be opportunities for successful applicants to experience other local projects, sights and experiences.
Immunizations, passport application, personal spending money and personal items (power adaptors, money changing, exchange rate /cards, international phone cards, roaming for mobiles) are additional costs at the successful applicants' own expense.

**Passports**

It is important that all applicants hold a valid passport before departure and that it is valid for at least six months whilst he is in the country. Please ensure that your name is correct on the passport and that it matches with all other travel documentation and airline tickets.

**Criteria for Selection**

To apply for the St Marcellin Champagnat Award you must submit a formal letter to our Principal, Mr. Mark Murphy. Applicants must be between 18-25 years of age. Your application must outline your reasons for applying for the Award.

Applicants must address the following criteria in their application:

1. Commitment to the Catholic ethos and Marist mission
2. Ability to be flexible and supportive of the Three2Six Coordinator and work as an active member of a team
3. Ability to demonstrate proven success with positive relationships with a range of students and adults
4. Possess high levels of adaptability and interpersonal skills
5. Be able to demonstrate necessary travel skills

Successful applicants should be open and have a willingness to learn from new experiences. Successful applicants will be expected share their experience with our community via our various Ministry programs upon return.

It is vital that all applicants understand that this trip may require physical stamina and an ability to cope with demanding situations.

Applications must be submitted by **June 2nd, 2016**.

Address your application to:

*St Marcellin Champagnat Award*
*Mr Mark Murphy*
*Marcellin College*
*160 Bulleen Road, Bulleen VIC 3105*

All applicants will be interviewed by a panel.