

Room of the first Community

In this room, Father Champagnat gave his instructions to the Brothers and received the last sacraments.

In 1839, Brother François was elected Superior General there.

It therefore seemed natural to create a Marist atmosphere in this room and to evoke some of the spiritual themes familiar to Father Champagnat.

The symbolic paintings date from 1958 and are the work of Mr. Gérard Crépin. The strength of character of Father Champagnat is symbolized by the very accentuated lines of the paintings.

Marist simplicity is recalled by the search for raw materials: walls coated with lime, frescoes in sober colors, oak ceiling and woodwork.

These are not figurative paintings. The author did not want to represent Christ or the Virgin. Nor, either, abstract paintings, a simple play of colored shapes. But symbolic paintings, which aim to suggest, not scenes or objects, but spiritual thoughts: for example, not the Virgin, but the attitude of humble and joyful confidence of the Virgin in her Fiat and her Magnificat .

These paintings therefore imply, not a simple look, but a reflection, a contemplation. Like the sculptures in cathedrals which, symbolically, contain an entire religious teaching, each painting evokes a thought from Holy Scripture and a Marist thought.

