



24 August 2007

Dear Brothers,

Although the church sets aside the month of May for special devotion to the Blessed Virgin, for us Marianists the month of September includes important Marian and Marianist feasts. I encourage you to mark these upcoming events in a special way in your community. Attached is a document with the dates of the feast days. The Marianist *Ordo*, distributed at the beginning of the liturgical year last fall, offers guidelines for the liturgical celebration. The *Marianist Book of Feasts* also contains pertinent information for communal prayer.

So much of our religious history highlights the need for remembering. These September feasts give us a chance to *remember*—our history, our forbears, our commitment to Mary, our vocation, our charism. Let us mark these days with solemnity, celebration and thanksgiving.


A great Marian theologian, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, wrote this about Mary:

In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name depart from your lips, never suffer it to leave your heart. And that you may more surely obtain the assistance of her prayer, neglect not to walk in her footsteps. With her for guide, you shall never go astray; while invoking her, you shall never lose heart; so long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception; while she holds your hand, you cannot fall; under her protection you have nothing to fear; if she walks before you, you shall not grow weary; if she shows you favor, you shall reach the goal.”

No doubt Blessed Chaminade meditated on these words in his own reflections on Mary. What strong motivation for us to rededicate ourselves each day to her

service! In the days and months ahead, Brothers, let us give our energy to making her known, loved and served!

With my fraternal affection,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

George J. Cerniglia, S.M.
Assistant for Religious Life