

# Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

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### **Armbruster, Jean-Baptiste, SM. *The Armbruster Collection.***

Trans. Joseph Roy, SM, Joseph Stefanelli, SM, and Timothy Phillips, SM, and Frank O'Keefe, SM. NACMS, 2004, 135 pages.

Marianists who are seeking spiritual and formation insight into Father Chaminade's writings on direction, including the System of Virtues and the theological life, now have a new source. This monograph by Father Armbruster also contains material on Chaminade's understanding and use of the Apostles' Creed and the development of the Three O'Clock Prayer, as well as a look at five of the original brothers of the Society of Mary.

### **\_\_\_\_\_. *The Chapel of the Madeleine.***

Trans. Thomas A. Stanley, SM. NACMS, 2005, 63 pages.

Presented as a way to mark the bicentenary of the appointment of Father Chaminade as minister of the oratory to be established at the Madeleine, the booklet tells of the workings of Providence that brought Father Chaminade to the location and of the many uses and renovations the chapel has gone through during the past 200 years.

### **\_\_\_\_\_. *Mary in the Life and Teaching of Father Chaminade.***

Marianist Resource Commission, 1974, 115 pages. Excerpt in *Monthly Series* (Bulletin of the Marianist Resources Commission), vol. 4, no. 9. Marianist Resources Commission, 1974, 3 pages.

This monograph gathers conferences given at Pallanza, Italy, in July of 1968 for the purpose of producing a synthesized study, bringing to light what Father Chaminade thought, taught, and lived. The text was primarily for a Marianist audience.

### **\_\_\_\_\_. *To Know, to Love, To Serve Mary with William Joseph Chaminade.***

Trans. Joseph Roy, SM. Marianist Resources Commission, 1986, 93 pages.

This monograph, a revision of *Mary in the Life and Teaching of Father Chaminade*, delves into Mary in the life of Father Chaminade, Mary in his teachings, and the special doctrines Chaminade contributed to the Church's understanding of Mary. This text is offered to a larger circle of readers than the original and incorporates new studies on the topic.

### **\_\_\_\_\_. "The Spiritual Journey of the Founder."**

*Monthly Series* (Bulletin of the Marianist Resources Commission), vol. 5, 1974, 40 pages.

In 1966, Father Armbruster delivered three conferences to the capitulants of the General Chapter of the Society of Mary. The titles were "Faith," "To Regroup Christians," and "Mary"—the fundamental intuitions of Father Chaminade in regard to Mary. Taken together, these conferences outline Chaminade's journey to move forward in the uncertainty of his times and provide a direction for the brothers in theirs.

### **\_\_\_\_\_. *Devotion to Mary in Chaminade's Life and Thought.***

Trans. Joseph Roy, SM and Joseph Stefanelli, SM. Special distribution by the Province of the Pacific, 1998, 45 pages.

A paper presented by Father Armbruster at the International Mariological Congress in Levelaer in 1987. The text provides sources of Chaminade's Mariology, emphasizing the Scriptures upon which Chaminade drew, his reflections on Mary's name, and her mission to form us all as disciples of her son.

**Benloch, Eduardo, SM. *Chaminade's Message Today*.**

Trans. Robert D. Wood, SM. NACMS, 2001. 156 pages.

Are the aspirations and inspirations of William Joseph Chaminade still relevant in the 21st century? This question is thoroughly addressed as Benloch explores the influences and experiences of Father Chaminade's lifetime and how these translate into Chaminade's unfailing faith, devotion to Mary, and dedication to a life of prayer. Benloch unites Father Chaminade's message with the problems facing the world as the 21st century unfolds.

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**. *Origins of the Marianist Family, Notes on Marianist History*.**

Trans. Robert D. Wood, SM. NACMS, 2010, 362 pages.

Father Benloch presents our Marianist history, the true story of our origins, filled with moments of joy, betrayal, and uncertainty. While parts of this new work are devoted to the Society of Mary and Chaminade's connections to four of his followers, *Origins* also explores the beginning of the comprehensive Marianist Family and the development of the Marianist Sisters through the life and works of Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon and the numerous contributions of Marie Thérèse de Lamourous to the laity and beyond. Chapter 19 gives an essential explanation of Father Chaminade's last years.

**Bichelberger, Roger. *Walking with William Joseph Chaminade*.**

Trans. Arthur Cherrier, SM. NACMS, 2003, 102 pages.

Fifteen reflections on central themes in Father Chaminade's thought, such as living in the presence of God, faith of the heart, in alliance with Mary, we are all missionaries; and a people of saints. Bichelberger utilizes several Marianist sources in preparing these reflections, primarily *Writings on Faith, Marianist Direction, Marian Writings*, and the letters written by Father Chaminade.

**Bihl, Hugh, SM. "Chaminade's Vision of the Church."**

*Marianist Soundings*, vol. 2, no. 2. NACMS, 2002, 6 pages.

This article explores distinctions between local Church and the universal Church and posits that the Bordeaux Sodality was an expression of "local Church"—a community adapted to new times and that required new methods. Brother Bihl describes the principal features of the Sodality, such as the centrality of Mary as inspiration of all and how Chaminade fostered its complexity and depth.

**Buby, Bertrand A., SM. *Scripture and the Marian Writings of Father William Joseph Chaminade*.**

NACMS, 2000, 148 pages.

Father Buby reveals the background from which Father Chaminade developed his Marian teaching and devotion to the Bible, including the French School of Spirituality and his reading of the Fathers of the Church. Father Buby believes that although Father Chaminade was not a Mariologist, his love for and devotion to Mary prompted him to use the whole of the Bible to teach about Mary in a practical, wisdom-like manner. He observes that Father Chaminade has given us a Marianist heritage close to Vatican II's synthesis of Mary in the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church (*Lumen gentium*).

**Cada, Lawrence J., SM. *A Short History of Marianist Spirituality*.**

Madrid, 2000, 139 pages. Available from NACMS.

Brother Cada captures the essence of the origins and development of Marianist spirituality. Ever attentive to language, Cada examines the evolution of many phrases and concepts dear to Marianists and carves a solid analysis for why Marianist spirituality is fundamentally "lay," "adaptive," and "Modern."

**Chaminade, William Joseph. *The Chaminade Legacy. The English version of Ecrits et Paroles.***

Trans. Joseph Stefanelli, SM. Prepared by Jean-Baptiste Armbruster, SM; Serge Hospital, SM; Emile Weltz, SM; and André Fétis, SM under the direction of Ambrogio Albano, SM. Series of seven volumes, NACMS, 2006 to --.

*The Chaminade Legacy* is an edition of the written and spoken words of William Joseph Chaminade; because the letters of Chaminade have already been published, they are not included. These works are presented as an authentic course of Father Chaminade's intuitions, his thoughts, and his activities.

Volume 1, "The Lay Movement: Development of the Sodality of Bordeaux," 711 pages. Volumes 2, 3, and 4, "Notes for Conferences and Sermons" (1800-1809), intended for the laity; are a translation of *Notes d'instruction*; vol. 2, 487 pages; vol. 3, 620 pages; vol. 4, 688 pages. Volumes. 5 through 7 cover the Founding of the Religious Institutes; the English version is in development.

**. *The Letters of Father William Chaminade.***

Nine volumes; Marianist Resources Commission and NACMS, 1986-2004.

Also soon to be available on CD.

All the correspondence of Father Chaminade which is available to us is contained in these nine volumes, some with two parts. Helpful editorial notes are interspersed throughout the letters.

**. *Marian Writings.***

Ed. Jean-Baptiste Armbruster, SM. Trans. Henry Bradley, SM and Joseph Roy, SM. Two volumes. Marianist Resources Commission, 1980. Volume 1, 239 pages; volume two, 446 pages.

A complete collection of Father Chaminade's writings regarding Mary in Scripture and tradition including letters, sermons, notes, personal reflections, conferences, and loose pages taken from original sources and in Father Chaminade's own handwriting.

The volumes contain tables and indexes of Father Chaminade's biblical and non-biblical sources, including Chaminade's contemporaries as well as Saints Bernard, Augustine, and Ambrose. Cross-references and a table of historical introductions give insight into the origins of these documents. Also included is a key to foreign language titles to permit readers to go from an English title document to the original document in the language in which it was written.

**. *The Spirit of Our Foundation, According to the Writings of Father Chaminade and the Original Documents of the Society.***

Volume 4. Ed. Robert Wood, SM and Joseph Roy, SM. Trans. John Dockter, SM and Joseph Roy, SM. Marianist Resource Commission, 1977; 471 pages.

This final book in the *Spirit of Our Foundation* series, following the typescripts of Father Lebon, has five chapters. The first is a reprint of a document on mixed composition published in 1950, for individual copies were in short supply. In the second chapter, the compilers capture Chaminade's way of stating and applying principles for updating monastic observances. Chapter 3, "Formation of Candidates," has particular emphasis on the System of Virtues. Chapter 4 covers "The Direction of Our Houses." The final chapter is entitled the Government of the Society."

**. *Writings on Faith.***

Ed. Jean-Baptiste Armbruster, SM. Trans. Joseph Roy, SM. Two volumes. NACMS, 2005. Volume 1, 275 pages; volume 2, 434 pages.

Time and time again Father Chaminade urges his followers to live their faith . . . to inspire their behavior with the truths of faith and to allow the spirit of faith to transform their entire being, their intelligence, their heart, their will, and their decisions.

These selections are divided into three groups. (1) Letters of Father Chaminade; (2) Writings for the Lay People (1801-1844); and (3) Writings for the Religious Life (Constitutions, Retreats, Instructions and Conferences, 1815-1841).

\_\_\_\_\_. ***Writings on Mental Prayer.***

Ed. Raymond Halter, SM; trans. Robert E. Brown, SM. Marianist Resource Commission, 1979, 509 pages.

These selected writings are drawn from several sources. They begin with how the method of mental prayer developed through the work of Father Chaminade with Marie-Thérèse de Lamourous and the Sodality. There is a description of mental prayer as presented by Lalanne and by Chevaux, followed by Father Chaminade's "other method." A third section draws from various conferences and retreats and shows the development of the Method of Mental Prayer.

**Gadiou, Louis, SM, and Jean-Claude Délas, SM. *Marianists in a Continuing Mission.***

Marianist Resource Commission, 1973, 156 pages.

Relying heavily on primary sources, the authors chronicle the triumphs and sorrows of the Society of Mary through the eyes of its most prominent members. Their insights on where the Marianists have been and where they are going are very valuable. This text is a wonderful introduction to the Society's history. Chapter 11, "The Crucible of Satan," is a good short summary of the last years of Father Chaminade.

**Gascón, Antonio, SM. *Reason, Revelation, and Faith of the Heart.***

Trans. Thomas A. Thompson, SM. NACMS, 2007, 233 pages.

Father Gascón describes the atmosphere of renewal in France and the missionary nature of Father Chaminade's work to rechristianize France. He then considers writings of others who had influenced Father Chaminade's thought: 19th century Catholic apologists, members of the French School, and the apologists of reason. Gascón presents many selections from *Writings on Faith* directed to Mlle de Lamourous, the Sodalities, the religious orders, and the expanding foundations. The final section surveys the development of Father Chaminade's thought on faith over many years and his distinct contribution: to show that the heart, longing for completion and happiness and enlightened by divine revelation, may guide the intelligence toward the consent of faith.

**Gizard, Vincent, SM. *Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, Founder of the Marianist Family.***

Ed. Thomas A. Thompson, SM. Trans. Arthur Cherrier, SM. NACMS, 2000, 116 pages.

This short biography was prepared for Father Chaminade's beatification in September of 2000. From Chaminade's childhood to his challenging last years, Father Gizard covers the faith development and works of William Joseph Chaminade—the creation of the Sodality of Bordeaux, his long association with Marie Thérèse de Lamourous in the works of the Sodality and the Miséricorde, his meeting and work with Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, and the foundations of the Daughters of Mary and the Society of Mary.

**Hoffer, Paul Joseph, SM. *The Spiritual Life According to the Writings of Father Chaminade.***

Trans. Henry Bradley, SM, and Quentin Hakenewerth, SM. Marianist Resources Commission, 1969, 203 pages.

Father Hoffer wrote with the intention of helping the Marianist religious become acquainted with the thought of the Founder on the spiritual life and how the Marianist spiritual life distinguishes itself from other traditions with its repercussions on the Marianist apostolate. Depository item.

**Kramer, Herbert George, SM. *Chaminade Lore.***

Marianist Resource Commission, 1984, 439 pages.

This book is a collection of the 120 articles on William Joseph Chaminade written from Bordeaux by Father Kramer for *Maryhurst Messenger*, beginning in 1947 and continuing until 1962. A chronology of Father Chaminade's life and work, the articles include lore about the Chaminade family, the French Revolution, the development of the Sodality in Bordeaux, the founding of the Daughters of Mary and the Society of Mary, the work at the Miséricorde, the spreading of Marianist works throughout France, and Father Chaminade's last years. There are also over 200 photographs.

**Lackner, Joseph H., SM. *William Joseph Chaminade, His Apostolic Intent and His Engagement with Schools, Instruction, and Education. An Historical Portrait.***

NACMS, 1999, 64 pages.

This work is often recommended for school administrators and for those who seek to deepen their philosophy of Marianist education. (This work is an excerpt from Father Lackner's dissertation on Marianist education.) However, the first three parts of the monograph provide an exceptional summary of Chaminade's days during the French Revolution, his return to Bordeaux to begin sodalities, and the foundation of the Society of Mary and its journey into education as an apostolic priority.

**Landolfi, Paul J., SM. *Mary, Collaborator with the Holy Spirit.***

New York, 2000, 123 pages.

Father Chaminade's development of thought about the relationship between the Holy Spirit and Mary is at the heart of Father Landolfi's reflections on this profound example of collaboration. He draws from the writings of Father of Chaminade as he investigates the relationship of the divine and the human and describes how Chaminade's teachings line up with *Marialis cultus*. The second half of the book gathers texts from Chaminade relative to this discussion.

**Pierrel, Philippe, SM. *A Missionary Journey with William Joseph Chaminade, Founder of the Marianists (1761-1850).***

Marianist Resources Commission, 1986, 97 pages.

After the French Revolution, many people took up new missionary endeavors among people whose Christian faith had been seriously shaken. William Joseph Chaminade was among these leaders. His experience had taught him how to be a missionary according to the mind and methods of great reformers: Saints Ignatius Loyola, Charles Borromeo, and Vincent de Paul. Chaminade conceived new projects for evangelizing France. Rather than present a new biography of Chaminade, Pierrel invites the reader to take a missionary journey in the company of a man whose disciples proclaimed him as their guide in a new era of evangelization.

**Reile, Louis, SM. *Running Giant.***

Marianist Resources Commission, 1993, 117 pages. Revised edition of publication by the Maryhurst Press, St. Louis, 1966.

This novel is an especially helpful introduction to the beginnings of the Marianist Family. This book may be useful to teachers in a classroom environment or to promote discussion in small community groups. *Running Giant*, a top-selling Marianist publication, is an easy-to-read historical retelling of the life and times of Blessed Chaminade; it is true not only to the historical reality of Chaminade's life, but also to the suspense it contained.

**Roussel, Narcisse, SM. *Confidential Memorandum.***

Trans. Joseph Roy, SM. NACMS, 2002, 67 pages.

Narcisse Roussel, a member of the General Administration while Chaminade was Superior General, wrote the *Confidential Memorandum* to remove Chaminade from any influence in the Society of Mary and to position himself to assume the leadership. To those of us living in an age where fair

and just treatment under the law is fiercely guarded, the story is even more disturbing because Father Chaminade never saw the document with such damaging—and false—testimony against him.

To read this text is to gain entrance into the mind of Roussel, a troubled and calculating man. It is not an easy text to read as it rambles and is repetitious, but it is a necessary text to understand the scheme that led to such a sad last chapter in Chaminade's life. The fiasco did, indeed, delay the progress of Father Chaminade toward canonization. The truth of these events was brought to light through Father Vincent Vasey's work in the late 1960s, and Father Chaminade was beatified in 2000.

### **Simler, Joseph, SM. *William Joseph Chaminade: Founder of the Marianists*.**

Marianist Resource Commission, 1986, 567 pages. Trans. by Joseph Roy, SM of *Guillaume-Joseph Chaminade: Fondateur de la Société de Marie et de l'Institut des Filles de Marie* (Paris, 1901).

This text, the first biography of Father Chaminade published in French, remains the most comprehensive account of Chaminade's remarkable life. Father Simler, often called the "Second Founder," was endowed with a unique understanding of Father Chaminade's vision and charism. The text with its footnotes provides important detail for the serious reader and researcher. No doubt this book will serve another hundred years or more as the best resource available on Blessed William Joseph Chaminade.

### **Stefanelli, Joseph, SM. *Chaminade, Pragmatist with a Vision*.**

NACMS, 2000, 33 pages.

In this concise biography, Father Stefanelli highlights key moments in the life of William Joseph Chaminade. The reader enjoys glimpses along his faith-filled (and at times rocky) path as the Marianist Founder traveled from his life as a young child in Mussidan, France and his exile in Saragossa, Spain, to his beatification 150 years after his death. Stefanelli's telling of Chaminade's mission to rechristianize France is NACMS's best seller. It is an "easy read," but not short on salient facts or inspiration. This book is the first in a set of three biographies about the Marianist Founders.

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#### **. "A Fresh Start."**

*Marianist Soundings*, Spring 2000, 7 pages.

The year 2000 marked the turn of the century, the designation of a Jubilee Year, a Holy Year by Pope John Paul II, and the beatification of William Joseph Chaminade. In this article, Father Stefanelli weaves these events together as a reason to revisit the story of Chaminade's last years and to be called forward into his vision and all the good works God worked in him and, through him, in his Marianist Family.

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#### **. "Who Started All This, Anyhow?"**

*Things Marianist*, NACMS, 1994, 6 pages.

This is an easy-to-read history of the three people the Marianist Family call "the Founders." The lives and contributions of William Joseph Chaminade, Marie Thérèse de Lamourous, and Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon are highlighted. Readers can grasp the story of each and find reference material for more historical detail and context.

### **Vasey, Vincent, SM. *Chaminade: Another Portrait*.**

Marianist Resource Commission, 1987, 366 pages.

In this biography, Father Vasey searches "for Father Chaminade's personality in the events of his life, what in them speaks to us to discover the light which reveals the lines of his character, his style. What was the center, the secret of his existence?" Vasey has undertaken this challenging task so that by gazing intently at the portrait we may know our spiritual father and so better incarnate his spirit.

Vasey organizes his text around roles that Father Chaminade had to play in the drama of his life and times. Chaminade, the Man; the Priest Hero; the Creative Missionary; and the Doctor of Marian Spirituality are a few titles he uses as chapter headings.

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**. *Last Years of Father Chaminade: 1841-1850.***

Marianist Resource Commission, 1970, 152 pages. The original is *Dernières années du Père Chaminade: 1841-1950* (Rome, 1969).

For over 100 years, any person telling the story of the final period of Father Chaminade's life unwittingly misrepresented it. Complicating the matter is the fact that 50 years after the drama, a major biographer of Father Chaminade's found it a problem of conscience to disclose the whole truth and couched the sequence of events in a framework that was more palatable, but still not truthful.

All this changed with the work of Father Vasey. In 1966 he was elected Procurator General of the Society and Postulator of the Cause of Father Chaminade. He researched notes, letters, and legal documents related to the case. In 1970, he published the remarkable findings on the actual course of this aspect of Father Chaminade's history.

Vasey lays out the complicated legal issues that resulted in lawsuits against the Society and eventually, the resignation of Father Chaminade as Superior General. The terrible misdeeds and Chaminade's pain are all chronicled. Vasey rights a dreadful wrong. While relaying the complete story, he lovingly shows the courage, genius, and holiness of Father Chaminade.

**Verrier, Joseph, SM. "Chaminade."**

An article in *Commentary on the Rule of Life of the Society of Mary*, (NACMS, 1994, 45 pages).  
Electronic version available.

Verrier says he wrote this article "to simply underscore the creative ideas that inspired our Founder, the ones which explain his life work and which are, as it were, the directives he has left to us" (the SM). He chooses themes around dynamic communities to rechristianize France, vows, the foundation of new Orders, and his commitment to education and also Chaminade's inspiration and teachings around Mary and her mission. The final pages of the chapter contain a chronology of Chaminade's life and the stages in the cause of the Founder.

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**. *Jalons, The English translation of Jalons d'histoire sur la route de Guillaume-Joseph Chaminade.***

Trans. Joseph Stefanelli, SM. NACMS, 2001. Four volumes, ending with the foundation of the Society of Mary. Volume 1 contains Series One and Series Two of the French; 492 pages; volume 2 contains Series Three and Series Four of the French; 635 pages; volume 3 contains appendices and notes, and volume 4 is an index.

This work by Joseph Verrier presents the life of William Joseph Chaminade from 1761 to 1816, ending with the foundation of the Society of Mary. The French title images "following the guide markers along the road which William Joseph Chaminade has taken." The scholarship and dedication of Father Verrier have provided us with this detailed biography, which is based on original sources and includes detailed notes. This book is for the serious reader, someone willing to follow the path of Chaminade step by step.

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