

Blessed William-Joseph Chaminade, priest and founder
January 22 Memorial
LITURGY OF THE HOURS
Office of Readings

William-Joseph Chaminade was born in Périgueux (France) in 1761. He did his ministry at the risk of his life. He founded a Marian Sodality of youth and adults that gave birth to two religious Institutes: the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and the Society of Mary. He died in Bordeaux, France, in 1850. He was beatified by His Holiness John Paul II on September 3, 2000.

Second Reading

From a letter of blessed William-Joseph Chaminade, priest (Letters 3.2, February 7, 1834, pp. 240-242).

Infirma mundi elegit Deus, ut confundat fortia.

Our Lord Jesus Christ wants to have all the glory of the good you will do and of the victories you will gain. Our Lord wants to have as participant in His glory, not you or your co-workers, but His August Mother, the most holy Virgin, under whose protection and guidance you have surmounted all obstacles.

Infirma mundi elegit Deus, ut confundat fortia.

Why, my dear son, do you not place all your confidence in Jesus and Mary? Do you believe that St. Peter established the Apostolic See in Rome by his education, by his knowledge, and his wisdom - his natural means? Do you not believe he succeeded only as a result of the confidence he put in the Master who was sending him? If you pray and do not obtain, why not continue to pray until your prayer is heard, in the meantime doing all that He inspires you to do?

It seems that your arms fall helpless when you see the young men who surround you and who have the same mission as you, full of good will but lacking in experience. Where did you learn the twelve apostles and the seventy-two disciples drew upon their experience before working at the great undertaking that had been assigned to them? They had good will, that is true, and that's all they had. The disciples of our Lord had no more aptitude than the apostles. They knew, as the apostles knew, their insufficiency only too well; but also like them, they had entire confidence in Him for the mission He had given. Oh, how much we have degenerated! Where is then our faith, our faith in Jesus Christ? I have no intention here, my dear son, of humiliating either you or your collaborators; but to awaken you all from the kind of stupor into which you seem to have fallen and to recall to you what you all are by your entrance into the Society of Mary. You are real missionaries. The education of youth, whatever form it may take, is certainly not the end you must have proposed to yourself in consecrating yourselves entirely to God, under the protection of the August Mary. Teaching is but a means we make use of to fulfill our mission, to introduce everywhere, so to say, the spirit of faith and of religion and to multiply Christians. You are all missionaries, fulfill your mission! Real missionaries must in no way count on themselves alone, on their talents or their industry: rather they must put all their confidence in the grace of their mission and also in the protection of the Blessed

Virgin, who is working at this undertaking for which she was elevated to the divine Motherhood. All must be well-penetrated with the importance of the salvation of souls redeemed by the price of the blood of Jesus Christ. The principal end which all must propose to themselves, in all their efforts, but particularly in their spiritual exercises, must be the salvation of the pupils, the amendment of their vices and their progress in virtue. They must all act together. The work is common to all, and each one is jointly responsible, in a certain measure, for the entire thing.

Responsory Mk 16, 15; Co 1, 27

R/ Go into all the world: * And proclaim good news to the whole creation.

V/ God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong:

R/* And proclaim good news to the whole creation.

V/Glory to the Father...

R/ Go into...

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