

I BELIEVE IN THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS

It is now about six months since I started delving into the lives of our Marianist “saints.” It has been a life-giving experience. I am finding out that the Communion of Saints is “up front and personal.” Though our “saints” died or were martyred, they are now very much alive since they are with Jesus in glory. With them the mystery of the Resurrection comes alive. No, you can’t see them, but you know they are close by. You can talk with them, chat about special incidents in their lives, ask them for guidance, and above all, count on their intercession for special needs. Our very special gift from God to us is to believe in the Communion of Saints.

On their part our Marianist “saints” still see themselves as part of the Marianist Family. They are still interested in every aspect of it. They are grateful that the Church has declared us an Ecclesial Movement. They are concerned about our growth, the difficulties we face. They cheer us on encouraging us to fulfill the commitment we made by dedicating ourselves to Mary. Now in glory, they are in a privileged position to accompany us, walk by our side, enlighten us by their wisdom, and pray for us. Each time we gather together to celebrate the Death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus in the Eucharist, they join us along with Mary and all the angels and saints. The whole court of heaven is there.

Hopefully we will become more aware of our Founders, William Joseph, Adele and Therèse; our Martyrs, Carlos, Jesus, and Fidel Fuidio, Jakob, Fidel Leibar, Florencio, Joaquin, and Sabino; our Sodalist Faustino; and so many others in the Marianist Family who, like Domingo Lazaro and Vicente Lopez, followed Jesus and Mary in faith and lived a life of love.

We take these men and women in the Marianist Family very seriously. Our faith tells us they are not dead but are living a different kind of life – eternal life. Our challenge is to get to know them, begin a running dialogue with them, and discover God’s gracious action in them and through them for our benefit. May this really happen.

Calendar

On May 10, 1909	Blessed Florencio Arnaiz, martyr, was born.
On May 20, 1955	Venerable Faustino was confirmed
On May 26, 1782	Blessed Fr. Chaminade received the sub-diaconate.
On May 31, 1793	The reign of terror in France began.

On June 2, 1803

Pius VII commended the Sodality of Bordeaux for its good works.

A CALL TO THE MARIANIST FAMILY
LOOKING FOR PERSONS
WILLING AND ABLE
TO TRANSLATE STORIES OF OUR "SAINTS"
FROM SPANISH OR FRENCH
INTO ENGLISH

Email zarchimo@gmail.com

Thank you very much.

BLESSED FR. CHAMINADE LEARNS THE HARD WAY

Is it possible to be too grateful? We receive many gifts not only from God but also from others. If we forget to say *thank you* it shows we are really out of touch with reality. We are focused on the gift, not the giver. Yet it happens so easily. We forget.

When quite young Blessed William Joseph Chaminade learned this lesson the hard way. His mother gave him a small present. He was so excited, tore open the wrappings and marveled at the beautiful gift. Immediately he ran off to use it. Later that day, his mother gently asked if the gift was so cheap that it did not deserve a thank you. Her words hit home. Blessed Chaminade never forgot the lesson.

During his life, Blessed Fr. Chaminade was alert to the favors, the protection, the goodness that other people offered him. He was grateful for the protection of Mary during the Reign of Terror and to the people who were risking their lives to help him

continue his ministry. He did not take their goodness and kindness for granted. Sometimes it was a very close call. Often it was young boys and girls who put their lives on the line.

Every day we pray for many intentions and situations – a good diagnosis for a serious illness, a pending surgery or test, needing a job to support the family and other economic needs, success in a proposed project, and many other requests both communal and personal.

There are so many needs within the entire Marianist Family. Marianists are encouraged to pray through our Marianist “saints”. It is appropriate then that, when God hears our prayers through our Marianist “saints”, we give thanks for these favors. Giving thanks will encourage us all to seek their intercession even more.

An example blessed our community in Rockaway Park, NY. We were asked to pray for Mary Mahoney who was in a severely critical state. We added her name to our prayer for the beatification of Venerable Adele de Batz de Trenquelléon. We asked Adele to intercede for this poor woman. Mary Mahoney clung to life in Intensive Care for more than two weeks. As we continued asking Adele to pray for Mary, we heard that she had been dismissed from ICU and was well enough to go to Ozanam Hall for on-going care. The last report we received is that she was been sent home. Her spirit is filled with thanksgiving. Her focus now is on those who seem more needy than herself. Prayer does marvelous things. Knowing of favors granted inspires us with confidence to persevere in prayer.

We encourage all in the Marianist Family, when receiving a favor through the intercession of one the Marianist Blesseds or Venerables, please notify Bro. Mike McAward on the Marianist website.

the international Marianist Website: www.marianist.org
under the “prayer intentions” heading.

Happy Eastertide