

A YEAR OF FAITH

July reflection from Fr. Paul Ladolfi

Blessed Fr. William Joseph Chaminade, founder of the Marianist Family, an ecclesial movement, was beatified Sept. 3, 2001, in Rome. To be beatified, if you are not a martyr, there must be a genuine miracle. Through Fr. Chaminade's intercession a woman in Argentina was cured completely and permanently of a growth on her thyroid. The medical doctors declared there is no human explanation for this occurrence.

Beatification is a statement by the Church that a person is with God and can receive our prayers so as to present them to God. Fr. Chaminade was completely dedicated to Mary and spent his life trying to help her bring Jesus to the world and the world to Jesus. He founded the Marianist Family, which included the Sodality of Bordeaux, the Daughters of Mary, and the Society of Mary.

For a Beatified person to be canonized by the Church, another miracle is required. Presently Church officials in Rome are studying the complete healing of [Rachel Baumgartner Lozano](#), who prayed through the intercession of Fr. Chaminade and seems to be completely cured of a rare form of cancer.

It is most timely now that we are considering these wonders, for Pope Benedict XVI has asked the Church to renew itself through a Year of Faith beginning Oct. 11, 2012, until Nov. 24, 2013, feast of Christ the King. Oct. 11 was chosen, since it is the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican Council II. Two hundred and fifteen years earlier, on Oct. 11, 1797, Providence led Fr. Chaminade into exile in Saragossa, Spain, to the feet of Our Lady of the Pillar. Mary had supported the Apostle James to be strong in the faith. It was there that he received the inspiration to found the Marianist Family, an assembly of communities of faith focused on Mary.

Adele de Trenquelléon would tell her Sisters that when Fr. Chaminade visited them, they should ask him to speak about Faith. His best conferences were on Faith. He tells us: "Faith is the root of all virtues. It is from faith that they draw the sap that makes them sprout and grow, as the root supplies the tree with the sap which gives it life. The more the roots spread themselves, the stronger the tree grows, so the greater our faith, the stronger our virtue becomes. Let us multiply our acts of faith during the day."

In a special way the Marianist Family is being invited this coming year to increase our faith, to purify our faith, and to live by faith.

Have a good summer.