

Causes of our Saints  
March 2013  
By **Fr. Paul Landolfi**

Much has happened this past month to help us get information on our Saints. For this I am indebted to Chaminade HS, Mineola, both the Marianist community and the School Staff. The Language Department is looking into translating some of the works we possess in French or Spanish.

In the February issue of *FamilyOnline*, we presented a short biography of Rev. Doming Lazaro, SM whose cause is being introduced. Thanks to Bro. Mike Galvin, SM for translating this.

In this issue you will hear about Venerable Faustino Perez Manglano, a Marianist Sodalist. Chaminade HS inaugurated a Faustino Club. Thirty boys joined it. I gave the talk that is presented here to tell them something about Faustino.

Thanks to Marie Cushmore from Florida, who translated the booklet *Fifty Times I Love You (Cinquante veces, te quiero)*, a book on the Rosary with thoughts from Venerable Faustino. This is being edited now. Hopefully we can have them printed for use this October.

We are almost ready with *The Decree on the Heroicity of Virtues of Therese de Lamourous*. Many thanks to Bro. Bob Facht, SM for his work on this document. He is also beginning to translate the book by Fr. Jose Salaverri, *Heloise*, who was highly influenced by Faustino and the way he dealt with his suffering. She had the same disease as Faustino and considered him her "coach" in dealing with the illness. Faustino has inspired so many young people.

Thanks also to Mrs. Mary Oliva, chairperson of the Language Department at Chaminade HS, who is coordinating translations of booklets on Faustino and also Jakob Gapp.

Finally some words from Blessed William Joseph Chaminade:

To L.Rothea: *How much I wish you to be a saint! Let us make synonymous the words saint and son of Mary.*

To Fr. Noailles: The main spirit of the society (the Marianist Family) is to present to the world the spectacle of a people of saints, and prove in this way that today,

as in the primitive Church, the Gospel may be practiced in all the vigor of its spirit and letter.

To Adele de Trenquellion: *With saints we will achieve everything. With ordinary or imperfect religious we will do almost nothing.*

Now on to Venerable Faustino!

**JMJCAJ**  
**Venerable Faustino Pérez-Manglano Magro**  
**The Faustino Club**

Chaminade High School, Mineola, inaugurated on Feb. 14, 2013, the Faustino Club. Faustino teams or clubs have expanded throughout the Marianist world. This one was established to inspire young men to search for their vocation as Venerable Faustino did. Recall the beautiful book by Fr. Jose Salaverri, SM, *Maybe God will speak to me*. Thirty students responded to this new activity. This was a talk given to introduce the young men to Venerable Faustino by Fr. Paul Landolfi, SM.

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There are two questions facing us : How does the Faustino Club fit into the overall plan of the Church? and What does it mean to be a saint?

How do we fit into the plan of the Church? Vatican II, inspired by the Holy Spirit, gave us a vision of the Church. The Constitution on the Church had 8 chapters.

The Mystery of the Church – centered on the Trinity

The People of God

The Hierarchical structure of the Church – Role of Bishops

The Laity

The Universal Call to Holiness

The Religious – The Charismatic dimension of the Church

The Pilgrim Church ( Heaven, Purgatory, Faithful)

The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church (Paul VI)

John Paul II preached holiness and the Universal Call to it. He followed up by beatifying, and canonizing thousands, while before him these activities were rare: mostly Bishops, Founders and Foundresses, Martyrs, Doctors of the Church. We admired them, stood in awe of them, but found it difficult to imitate them.

Why did John Paul II wish to increase the number of saints in all walks of life? All are called to holiness: men and women; old and young; married and single, healthy and sick, rich and poor. His message at the World Youth Days was a challenge to the young men and women present to be holy in the Church, become saints. Sanctity is a possibility, the norm, not the exception.

But what is it to be holy? A saint? Basically it is to love God and to love our neighbor. It means to live a life of love in whatever state of life God calls us. It is to be faithful to God's will because we love God. It does not require that we see visions, perform miracles, (though God may gift some persons with these powers). Read the lives of the saints and you will find all kinds of possible ways people become saints. John Paul II especially wanted married couples beatified and canonized. To be holy in all walks of life: some were hermits, some helped the poor ( Dorothy Day); some were great preachers (Bishop Sheen), others journalists, day laborers, politicians, or religious, . Yet all were holy because they tried to follow God's will with great love. Saints make saints. Personal holiness radiates a spiritual energy. God is able to work through our love of Jesus to touch hearts and truly be helpful to others.

So how does Venerable Faustino fit into all this. By the way, he is now called Venerable in Church terms because it was agreed that he lived a holy life, was heroic in the virtues of faith, hope, and charity, did much to help others. He is a true Servant of God and deserves special recognition and respect.

We still cannot honor him publicly in Church as yet, until he is beatified, but we can ask him to pray for us. Miracles will be needed to have him reach beatification and canonization.

Let's take a quick review of his life. I am indebted to Fr. Jose Salaverri and Fr. Enrique Torres for their work. Fr. Jose was his confessor and spiritual director. Fr. Enrique was the Procurator General who prepared the Cause and delivered it to Rome.

Faustino was born August 4, 1946 in Valencia, Spain. His Father was also Faustino and his mother Maria Encarna. He had another brother, Joaquin, and two sisters, Maria Encarna and Eugenia. Faustno was the oldest child.

He was baptized in the parish Church dedicated to St. Stephen ProtoMartyr. Centuries before. Faustino made his First Communion when he was 8 and confirmed a year later..

What was his education? Faustino spent kindergarten in Colegio Nuestra Sra. de Loreto with the sisters of the Holy Family. When he was six he began school at Colegio Nuestra Sra del Pilar conducted by the Marianists.

What kind of personality was Faustino? What did he like? He loved to play soccer (football), to go camping and field trips, swimming, reading novels, chemistry (in fact he thought he would like to teach chemistry), going to movies with friends. He had many friends. If you asked him what he would want to have with him on a desert island, he would say: my mother, the Eucharist, and my diary. A lot of these things we learn from his Diary.

The center of his life, however, was Jesus and Mary. He had become a Marianist Sodalist. His favorite prayer was the Rosary and when he walked to school alone, that is what he would be praying..

Today you hear words, from young and old, such as *awesome, incredible*. His favorite word was "*fenomeno*" (*phenomenal*). A favorite phrase was: *Say Yes to all that is good*.

Faustino did have a secret: his vocation – he wanted to be a Marianist Missionary; the special moment when he felt he heard God's call was at dinner while on retreat on Oct. 22, 1960 when he was 14.

The next year he developed Hodgkin's disease, a type of cancer, He asked to make his profession as a Marianist, even though he was young and sick. It was granted, but the papers came too late. He died March 3, 1963. He was 16.7 years old. In his heart he had given himself to Mary to help her in her mission.

In summary, here was a young man, normal, full of life, who centered his life on Jesus and Mary and tried to do what he could to help his family and school mates.

If he is declared a saint, he will be easy to imitate. Be your best self – like Jesus.

It has been amazing how his story has caught on. His biography has been translated into 11 languages (*Maybe God will speak to me*). In many of our schools in Europe or Africa, *Equipe Faustino* (Faustino Teams) have taken off. One example is that of a young girl, Heloise, who was a student in the College Marianiste de Bordeaux in France. She had the same sickness as Faustino, She read his biography, gathered some of her friends around her, formed an *Equipe Faustino*, and found inspiration to live their daily life as Christians. Heloise learned to deal with her suffering the way Faustino did.

Her friend Alexandra told us what she would say: "*Reach out towards holiness. This is what Faustino made us believe possible...Faustino was our "modern*

*coach" training us to believe that holiness is not a distant, far-off dream, but rather a path accessible to everyone."*

A parting thought: from Faustino: *Lord, I want to be yours. I want to share in your life. Mary, if I am transformed in Christ, then I am truly transformed into your Son.*