On August 24 it will be exactly 175 years since Fr. Chaminade addressed to the annual retreat preachers a letter that would become one of the most essential of his writings for understanding our charism.

At the time this letter was written, he had just received a Decree of Praise from Pope Gregory XVI in response to the submission of the 1839 version of the Constitutions of the Society of Mary in view of their approbation. The Founder now wished to share with all his brothers his joy in seeing such an encouragement for the life and mission of the young Society of Mary. He saw in the pope’s words an appeal to redouble their efforts to be faithful, not only to the letter of the Constitutions, but above all to its profound spirit.

Even more, Fr. Chaminade wanted to lead all the brothers to what constitutes the heart of the missionary charism of the congregation which God had inspired him to found: the missionary covenant with Mary, in order to teach the faith to “all classes, sexes and ages.” As he put it: “we have committed ourselves by a special vow, that of stability, to assist her with all our strength, even to the end of our life.”

This anniversary can be for each one of us a good occasion to re-read that important text and to renew ourselves in the spirit that Fr. Chaminade handed down to us. Several profound commentaries have been written on that letter; they too can help us to experience all its richness.
**Reappointment of Fr. Francisco Canseco, SM, as Rector of the International Seminary**

Fr. Francisco Canseco, SM, has just been named, with the consent of Fr. Miguel Angel Cortés, his provincial (Spain), to a second mandate in the service of the International Seminary in Rome. This mandate is for three years, beginning September 1, 2014.

Guiding an international formation community like the Chaminade International Seminary is a rewarding but complex task. The seminarians, their Unit superiors and all who have occasion to pass through our house these last years have seen how Fr. Francisco (“Pachi”) accomplishes that task with great generosity and a constant care to serve the welfare of the seminarians, the Units and the Society of Mary. The presence of Bro. Lester Kaehler, SM (USA), has been very valuable. Their collaboration in writing the *Directory of Priestly Formation in the Society of Mary* (2013) was crucial for completing that document which sums up our current vision of priestly preparation in the Units and in the Seminary itself.

We thank them for the important service they render to the entire Society of Mary and we assure Fr. Francisco that our prayer and our support go with him as he begins this new period in his charge.

**Bro. Jack Ventura, SM, Reappointed as Director of the ICMF**

Recently, Fr. Manuel Cortés, SM, Superior General, in conjunction with Fr. Martin Solma, SM, Provincial of the Province of the USA, confirmed the reappointment of Bro. Jack Ventura, SM (US), to a second term as Executive Director of the International Center for Marianist Formation. Bro. Jack, for the past three years has directed this Center, which serves as a resource for the Marianist Family throughout the world. During these years, the staff at ICMF, which is located in Philadelphia, USA, has assisted in the current study of SM works, through the General Administration's Office of Education, the organization of Horizons (ongoing formation program for young perpetually professed in the SM and FMI), coordination of SM members in the Marist Renewal program at Manziana, Italy, and several other initiatives and projects of the General Administration. In addition, Jack remains in contact with the other continental centers of Marianist Formation located in the various Zones throughout the world to support and assist their development. We congratulate Bro. Jack on this reappointment and thank him and the staff of the ICMF for their continued commitment to this important work. For more information and resources, visit the ICMF website at: [http://www.icmf.info](http://www.icmf.info)
Completion of Diocesan Inquiry into a Miracle Attributed to Mother Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon

On Thursday, June 12, in the chapel of the Villa Chaminade, Pallanza (Italy), the formal closure took place of the diocesan inquiry on the apparently miraculous cure of Marianist Sister Michela Messina, attributed to the intercession of Venerable Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon.

The Diocesan Tribunal of Novara was appointed by Bishop Franco Giulio Brambilla on November 4, 2013. After hearing 15 witnesses the Tribunal held its closing session in the presence of Sister Michela, her parents and friends, Dr. Ernesto Meriggi, Italian Provincial Fr. Luigi Magni, the new Regional Superior Bro. Damiano Tonello, Superior General Mother Franca Zonta, Assistant General for Temporalities Sr. Gretchen Trautman, Italian Provincial Mother Laura Betti, Bro. Lester Kaehler as representative of the Marianist Seminary in Rome, Vice-Postulator Massimo Manzini, and Postulator Fr. Antonio Gascón.

Now the Congregation for the Causes of Saints must examine everything to see if a genuine miracle actually took place. The administrative process in the Congregation is not a down time, but a period of work by many people; so it is a time of constant prayer in order to keep alive the devotion to Mother Adèle.

Coordinating Team for Horizons 2016 met in Rome

On June 11 to June 16, the coordinating team for Horizons 2016 met in Rome at the General Administration House of the Society of Mary. Horizons is a program for perpetually professed members of the Society of Mary and the Marianist Sisters who have been professed between one and ten years. The goal of this international ongoing formation program is to deepen and broaden the identity of the young adult Marianist religious as committed global missionaries of Mary. While the exact dates and location of Horizons 2016 has not been decided yet, the theme for this 25 day experience will be the same as the theme of the bicentennials of the foundation for the Marianist Sisters and Brothers – To Know, To Love and To Serve. More information will be coming as the coordinating team designs the program.
SECOND SURVEY ON MARIANIST APOSTOLIC WORKS COMPLETED

Under the direction of the Office of the Assistant General for Education, and with the cooperation of the ICMF and a special committee, the second survey regarding Marianist apostolic works has been completed and is currently being studied. As you may recall, the last General Chapter called for a review of our works, with particular attention to articulating the conditions and criteria that give them an authentic Marianist identity. Last year, a survey directed to members of the Society of Mary began this effort. Over the most recent months, a second survey, directed towards those leading and collaborating in our works, has been circulated. Participation in this second survey has been very good. The committee received more than 700 responses from all parts of the Marianist world and is grateful to all our collaborators for such a large participation. Now with both of these surveys, the committee has a great deal of feedback, from both religious and lay collaborators in our works, and can move forward in its work. Once these results of this latest survey are fully compiled, they will be integrated with the results of the first survey. A summary of both will then be prepared and circulated to Unit Administrations for comments. Finally, in the early part of 2015, using the survey results and subsequent feedback, the committee will draft a document to be presented to the General Leadership Assembly, planned for the summer of 2015.

ADDRESS CHANGES
- E-Mail of the New Region of Italy:
  regionale@marianisti.it

G.A. CALENDAR
- June 7 - 17: International Meeting of Formators (EN Speaking Group), in Rome.
- June 21 - 31: International Meeting of Formators (FR Speaking Group), in Rome.