

# Things Marianist

## Talking Points for Boards

A Publication of the North American Center for Marianist Studies

### *Who started this, anyhow?*

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Reflection questions on the origins of Father Chaminade, Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon and Marie Thérèse Charlotte de Lamourous

Note: These reflection questions are based on the different sections from this particular *Things Marianist*. You may go through each section or use this guide as a starting point for a board discussion, Copies of *Things Marianist* can be obtained at [www.nacms.org](http://www.nacms.org).

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**Opening Prayers:** Take a moment and bring yourself into the presence of our loving God.

A Litany in Honor of Mary  
Joseph Lackner, SM  
*Marianist Family Prayer Book*

Holy Mary, pray for us.  
Mother of God,  
Mother of our redemption,  
Mother of a lost child,  
Mother of comfort and understanding,  
Mother who shares our joys,  
Mother who endures our sorrows,  
Mother whose heart was pierced by a sword,  
Mother most merciful.

Woman responsive to God's word,  
Woman willing to believe the impossible,  
Woman who rejoices in her lowliness,  
Woman with an undivided heart,  
Woman of perfect freedom,

Woman wrapped in mystery,  
Woman champion of the poor and lowly,  
Woman graced by a husband's love,  
Woman widowed by a husband's death,  
Woman at the cross,  
Woman patient and waiting,  
Woman clothed with the sun,

Queen of the fullness of times,  
Queen of beauty unalloyed,  
Queen of integrity,  
Queen of painful meetings,  
Queen of all our heart's treasure,  
Queen of our destiny,  
Queen of peace.

Mary, you are mother and virgin, wife and widow, peasant and queen blessed for all time. We need the comfort of your prayers. Remember us always to our Father through your Son, Jesus Christ, who is our Lord forever and ever. Amen.



*Reflection Questions*

***William Joseph Chaminade***

What qualities of Father Chaminade do you admire? What has struck you in a new light after reflecting on this reading?


Chaminade was exiled to Saragossa, Spain, where he spent three years praying at the shrine of Our Lady of the Pillar, thinking, planning, listening to the word of God. Is there anything a board can learn from Chaminade's three years that might provide a framework for board decisions?

Chaminade's vision was of communities of all types of peoples working together to bring forth Christ into our world. How do you see this vision in the decisions the board makes about policies that affect the school?

***Marie Thérèse Charlotte de Lamourous***

During the revolution, Marie Thérèse spent her time secretly ministering to people in her parish and attending to the needs of the faithful when there was no priest to be found. How does her story speak to you as a board member?

When first asked to take on the work of the Miséricorde, Marie Thérèse refused, but soon the women and work at that home became her life. How does her example of courage and faith resonate with the your work as a board member?





***Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon***

Adèle started the Association as a way to be more mindful of her relationship with God and others. What creative ways does the board use to grow in relationship with God and others?

Adèle's energy and passion for God led her to live a life that was dedicated to love. What inspired you about Adèle's life story? How do you see her life reflected in the staff and faculty of your school?

Her concern was always for the spiritual and physical needs for those immediately surrounding her, whether it be her sisters or the poor families who lived near the Château of Trenquelléon. What can you take away from Adèle's life that will help you to bring Christ into this to the school? What are the needs in your local area that you are called to minister and support?

***Suggested scripture for closing prayer***

A reading from the Gospel of John

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. (Jn 19:26-27)