



The Marianists

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FamilyOnline

A monthly email newsletter for The Marianist Family



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CELEBRATING CHAMINADE, MARKING MARIANIST HERITAGE WEEK



*It was a joyful Founder's Day celebration at Chaminade College Prep in West Hills, California. Marianist Provincial **Fr. Martin Solma** (center) celebrated an outdoor Mass and was joined by concelebrants, **Fr. John-Paul Gonzalez** (left) a local pastor and CCP alumnus, as well as Marianists **Frs. Ted Ley** and **Jim Mueller**.*

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Marianist Heritage Award winner **Stephanie Ward** is applauded during a Mass at St. Mary's University. Robin Jerstad photo



Bro. William Chewing is greeted during the Mass at St. Mary's. He celebrates 75 years as a Marianist this year. Robin Jerstad photo

Marianist schools and ministries across the country marked Marianist Heritage Week with Masses and special celebrations. The annual event commemorating the death of Marianist founder **Blessed William Joseph Chaminade** on Jan. 22 often includes special recognition for those who continue Chaminade's mission.

Read about the [celebration at CCP](#), which included a Mass for more than 2,000. See [photos](#) from *Semana del Fundador* at [Colegio San José](#), as well as [more photos](#) from [St. Mary's University](#) celebration. Watch a [lei ceremony](#) at [Chaminade University of Honolulu](#).

A STEP TOWARD SAINTHOOD FOR MOTHER ADELE



The international leadership of the Marianist Sisters announced last month that the sainthood cause of their founder, **Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon**, has made a key step forward.

On Jan. 19, the Vatican's Congress of Theologians determined that all conditions of a miracle have been met in the healing of **Sr. Michela Messina, FMI**, through the intercession of Venerable Adèle. With one miracle verified, Adèle becomes eligible to be called "blessed," although that official designation may be some time off.

Two miracles are required for sainthood, and the examination and verification process may take years or even decades. Still, **Sr. Evangeline Escobar**, provincial of the Marianist Sisters in the United States, called the news "a very exciting event." She drew parallels between Adèle and a more contemporary figure.

"In her day, Adèle lived what **Pope Francis** is living now. They both ask us to live the present with passion, embracing the Gospel, serving God's people and witnessing to God's love and mercy," Sr. Evangeline said.

THREE QUESTIONS WITH ...

Bro. Dennis Schmitz

Bro. Dennis Schmitz serves at the Marianist Center of Hawai'i in Honolulu. He also makes a

month-long visit three times a year to the Marianist District of India, which is a dependent unit of the Province of the United States.

What is the Marianist Center of Hawai'i?

The [Marianist Center](#) serves as a "landlord" for the campus that includes [Chaminade University](#) and [Saint Louis School](#). I plan spiritual events for the center, and I'm part of a team that invites prominent Catholic figures to give lectures, workshops and conferences.

What do you do in India?

My official title is "Provincial Visitor." I visit all of the communities and their ministries, and I work with the district administration. The Indians are marvelous religious. My job is simply to walk with and encourage them.

What do you admire most about the Indian Marianists?

The Indian brothers are dedicated to the poor and are very faithful to a life of prayer. Meditation is in common in the mornings and evenings in almost all of the communities. In many ways, they guide me more than I guide them.



Bro. Dennis Schmitz with youngsters at a REDS playschool in Ranchi, India.

HONORING OUR BICENTENNIALS – A PAGE FROM THE FAMILY ALBUM

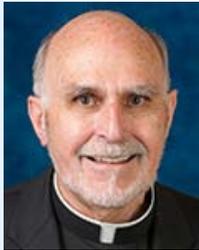
To celebrate the bicentennials of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and the Society of Mary, *FamilyOnline* is featuring occasional peeks into the past.



Ohio was the first home of Marianists in the United States, and it has remained a stronghold. This 1911 (or possibly 1912) photo is from St. Peter's in Cleveland, where the Marianists ministered from 1863 – 1922. At back is **Bro. Bernard Weppelmann**. The priest

(seated) was identified as **Msgr. Pfeil**. At least two of the altar servers pictured became Marianists.

WHO'S DOING WHAT AROUND THE PROVINCE



Fr. Ralph Siefert will be honored with the 2017 “Lead. Learn. Proclaim.” award from the National Catholic Educational Association. Fr. Ralph will receive the honor at the NCEA convention in St. Louis in April. Fr. Ralph is president of [Chaminade College Prep](#) in St. Louis.



In light of recent national events, [University of Dayton](#) President **Eric Spina** wrote about how Marianist values call the UD community to embrace its Muslim students, faculty and neighbors. [Read the article.](#)



Fr. Kujur Sudhir will become district superior for the Marianist District of India effective in June. Fr. Kujur assumes the leadership role from **Bro. Augustus Surin**, whose term is expiring. Fr. Kujur currently is serving as the district’s assistant superior. The district is a dependent unit of the Province of the United States.

12th MLFI COHORT COMPLETES PROGRAM

The 10 members of the 12th Marianist Lay Formation Initiative cohort completed their formation program with a retreat at [Bergamo Center for Lifelong Learning](#) in Dayton on Jan. 8.

As part of their retreat, group members learned about the work of the [Marianist Social Justice Collaborative](#) and celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany with the Marianist Sisters.

It was the final group shepherded by longtime MLFI coordinator **Pati Krasensky**, who has moved on to a



Members of the Marianist Lay Formation Initiative meeting in Dayton included, front row: Annette Kovarik, Christie Catterson, Amy Franco; middle row: Jacob Alexander Henson, Pati Krasensky, Matthew Keller; and back row: Beth Blackburn-Fedick, Kelly Bremner, Mark Zeitmann,

new role.

CONGRATULATIONS, BRO. JOO!



A happy group of friends was on hand to congratulate **Sung Hyuck (Joo) Choi** as he professed first vows in the Society of Mary in Seoul, South Korea, on Jan. 22. Bro. Joo (center) made his novitiate in Dayton, Ohio. American Marianists helped establish the Region of Korea beginning in the 1960s, and close ties remain between these units of the Society of Mary.

FROM OUR SPONSORED MINISTRIES

MARIANIST SCHOOLS CONNECT GLOBALLY

How could the nearly 100 Marianist schools around the globe share ideas and collaborate on curricula?

That was the question **Jack Wilson** and his faculty colleagues at [Chaminade College Preparatory](#) in St. Louis were kicking around. Jack coordinates the [Global Reach](#) program at CCP and is always looking for ways to connect students with the larger world.

The quest has morphed into an online community called the *International Marianist School Consortium*. With a secure platform designed by computer specialists at Chaminade, students and teachers are beginning to interact online with those from Marianist schools across the globe.

While using technology to connect the schools offers new learning opportunities, one of the main benefits is that students will gain “a much bigger notion of what it means to be part of the Marianist Family,” Jack said.

He envisions a variety of projects. “I am most excited about our teachers sharing ideas promoting the Marianist charism and collaborating on curriculum,” he said.

Nineteen schools from seven countries are now part of the IMSC, according to Jack. “We’re hopeful that others will come on board as they see the benefits of these global



connections," he said.

Learn more about [IMSC](#) or contact [Jack Wilson](#).

SURROUNDED BY MATH AT ST. JOHN VIANNEY



At St. John Vianney High, "360 Math" classes mean students solve on their feet.

Everyone's at the board in **Bob Prost's** math classes at [St. John Vianney High](#) in St. Louis. Bob has implemented a program called "360 Math," which involves all students solving equations on dry-erase boards around the room.

The approach makes it clear who needs assistance and enables students to easily get help from their teacher and their peers. The program was featured in a [recent article](#) in the local archdiocesan paper, the *St. Louis Review*.

TAKING THE 'CULTURE OF LIFE' ON THE ROAD



Vianney students pause on the National Mall during their time in Washington, D.C., for the March for Life.

Nearly 50 students and chaperones from [St. John Vianney High School](#) joined the throngs in Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life Jan. 27. "I am proud of the culture of life we have created at Vianney," said **Fr. Tim Kenney**, the school's chaplain and director of campus ministry. "'Generation Life' is a movement among young people to witness to the Gospel values of life from womb to tomb," he said.

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT MARIANIST-SPONSORED MINISTRIES

FamilyOnline is eager to share the good news about events and programs at Marianist-sponsored schools and ministries. Send information and photos to [Carol Dexter](#).

PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY MEMBERS

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS



✦ **Bro. John Haster**, age 77, died Jan. 16. He was a Marianist for 58 years. Bro. John was a longtime teacher and principal at Marianist high schools in California, and also served in administration for the former Province of the Pacific. Read his [obituary](#). See [more photos](#) of Bro. John.

- ✦ [Recent deaths of Marianist Family members and friends.](#)
- ✦ [Those in need of prayers for healing.](#)
- ✦ [Obituaries of Marianist brothers and priests](#) (U.S. Province) since 2007.



A MOMENT WITH VENERABLE ADELE

"Let us make a pact between our heart and our tongue, never to speak when the heart is unsettled. If we had the courage to do this, we would avoid many failings, would acquire many merits, and would draw down many graces from heaven."

RESOURCES

JOIN US! MARIANISTS OFFERS TWO 2017 EUROPEAN TRIPS

As part of the celebration of the Marianist Bicentennial, the Marianists are offering *two* European trips in 2017.

SPAIN AND FRANCE WITH FR. TIM

From April 22 – May 2, **Fr. Tim Kenney** will guide a trip through Spain and France, with stops in Madrid, Zaragoza, San Sebastian, Lourdes, Bordeaux and Paris. It will include a special focus on the life and work of Marianist founder Blessed William Joseph Chaminade. The all-inclusive trip costs \$4,299. [Learn more](#).

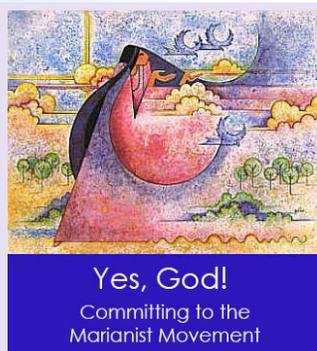
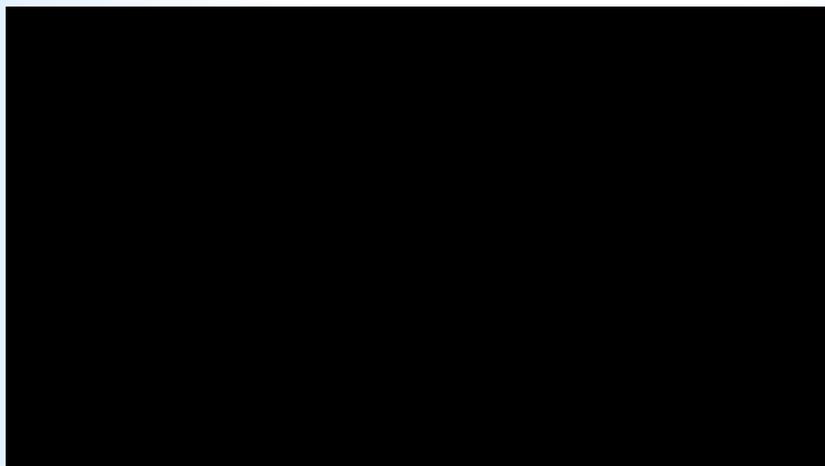
SPAIN WITH FR. RUDY

From May 21 – 31, **Fr. Rudy Vela** will host a more academically oriented trip to Spain,

with a focused study of Fr. Chaminade's time in Zaragoza. Other stops will include Madrid, Sigüenza and Barcelona. This all-inclusive trip costs \$3,899. [Learn more.](#)

ORIGINAL BICENTENNIAL HYMN

[St. Mary's University](#) chapel choir director **Maria Smith** created an original composition in honor of the Marianist Bicentennial. The work has been shared at a prayer service for the visit of the bicentennial icon, and was featured at the university's Marianist Heritage Mass last week. Check it out in the video below! Get the [sheet music](#).



MARIANIST LAY ASSEMBLY: 'YES, GOD!'

Registration is now available for the Marianist Lay Assembly July 13 – 16 at the University of Dayton.

This family-oriented event is open to all who embrace the Marianist charism. [Learn more.](#)

LENTEN SERIES: WITH MARY, TOWARD RACIAL JUSTICE

St. Louis-area members of the Marianist Family will want to make plans to attend a series of presentations on Wednesday evenings at [St. Mary's High School](#).



The series begins March 1 and is sponsored by the Growing with Mary Marianist Lay Community. It includes a presentation by **Bro. Mike Murphy**. [Read more.](#)

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS

Feb. 2 – Presentation of Our Lord

Feb. 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes



Mar. 1 – Ash Wednesday

BLOGS

[Bro. Phil Aaron](#)

[Srs. Gabrielle Bibeau and Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch](#)

[Fr. Mike Nartker](#)

[Fr. John Thompson](#)

[Susan Vogt](#)

[Bro. Brian Zampier](#)

NEWSLETTERS

[Gifts & Tasks](#) from the International Organization of Marianist Lay Communities

[Justice Jottings](#) from the Marianist Social Justice Collaborative

[MLC-NA E-News](#) from the Marianist Lay Community of North America

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MARIANIST BIRTHDAYS - [February and March](#)

2017 **FamilyOnline** [production schedule](#)

MAY THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT BE GLORIFIED
IN ALL PLACES THROUGH THE IMMACULATE VIRGIN MARY



Editor: Carol Dexter; assistant: Ann Mueller. This monthly email newsletter produced by the Society of Mary features news about the Marianist Family: Marianist brothers and priests (Society of Mary), Marianist Sisters; and Lay Marianists. Fr. Martin Solma, SM, provincial; Bro. Joe Kamis, SM, assistant provincial. Send news, digital photos and comments and suggestions to editor [Carol Dexter](#) using *FamilyOnline* as your subject line.

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