

A Marianist Moment

By *Bro. David Betz*

Our Marianist saints and the times of crisis

No doubt, we have had many questions and concerns during this COVID 19 crisis in our country and throughout the world. We may be asking: Why is it happening? What can I do to be safe? Why are people hoarding? Out of frustration and maybe even despair, some may ask: Is God abandoning us? Is this a retribution due to our sins? I believe that these types of questions are perfectly normal during moments of crisis because we are humans, and our emotions can run rampant at times. We may even feel out of control.

But let me say this: WE ARE NOT ALONE!

If we look to our Marianist saints, I believe that we can find some solace and even consolation. As we know from our Marianist history – Blesseds Chaminade and Adèle and Venerable Thérèse lived during a time of major upheaval where every segment of society was going through radical change. And because of a lack of hygiene protocols and poor medical practices, people became very ill, and many died. Our Marianist blessed martyrs in Spain and Nazi Germany suffered persecution because of their steadfastness in their faith. It is important to recognize that our Marianist saints trusted in the providence of God during these crises. They turned to their loving and gracious God and invited God to lead them in these moments.



For example:

1. Venerable Thérèse had her filles gather in the chapel when their food was running low and she did not know if they would have enough food to survive. Through their ardent prayer and their trust in God's Providence, food was provided.

2. Blessed Adèle wrote this to Sister Dosithée Gatty, Tonneins (483, Oct. 2, 1823 –during the severe illness of Sr. Thérèse de Jésus Yannasch): “Courage, my dear daughters, I am confident that blessings will fairly rain down upon the Institute. Great graces are always preceded by great crosses. God is sufficient to us and must surfeit the heart of his spouses. Courage, therefore. Let us cast ourselves into the arms of God and show that we are the worthy daughters of a Mother who stood at the foot of the Cross. Now it is time to prove our love for God by humbly bowing to his goodwill.”

Therefore, the invitation is extended to all of us during this present time of crisis to call upon God and his merciful love to grant us the courage to be steadfast in our concerns for ourselves and others. And let our Marianist saints be examples of faithful sons and daughters as we call upon Mary, our Mother, to hold us in her loving arms.

For further information on our Blessed Founders, please go to nacms.org.