



Resurrection:

By Bro. David Betz

On the third day he rose again from the dead (The Apostle Creed)

And rose again on the third day in accordance to the Scriptures (The Nicene Creed)

When one engages in the study of Marianist History, you can see the many roles that Blessed Chaminade had during his lifetime. He was an educator, a spiritual mentor, an Apostolic Missionary, a founder, and a pastor. In all these roles Blessed Chaminade was a strong believer in the Providence of God, and it was his primary motivation in all the different endeavors that grew out of these roles. He believed that being a faithful person was essential to his goal of revitalizing the Christian faith in France after the French Revolution. He strove to witness this faithfulness to his disciples, lay and religious, as well as calling his disciples to do the same when they gathered in community and went out to share the Good News. And for Blessed Chaminade, a tool that he used to stress this faithfulness was the Creed.

Blessed Chaminade felt that a goal of Marianist Life was to live the mysteries or the attitudes of Jesus Christ. So, it was necessary to get to know who Jesus was and meditating on the Apostle Creed was and is a means to this goal. Bro. Stephen Glodek, S.M. in his article on prayer (Things Marianist: What is the Marianist Tradition of Prayer) states that “Meditating on the Apostle Creed for Blessed Chaminade was meditation on the whole mystery of Christ. The Creed provides an itinerary, as it were, of Christ from birth to death to resurrection. That itinerary, for Marianists, is to become our itinerary and the pattern of our lives.” And living out this itinerary and pattern is how we witness to our faithfulness in today’s world.

And since we are in the Easter Season, part of our witnessing involves celebrating the New Life given to us by Jesus in his Resurrection. Saying yes to that we believe in Jesus' dying and then rising to bring about renewal is what we are called to do. Just as the Apostles did starting with the Day of Pentecost: "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear" (Acts 2: 32-33) and "that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." (Acts 4: 10b-12). Just as Blessed Chaminade called his followers to emulate the early Christian community in this task of spreading the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection, we, members of the Family of Mary today, are also called to do the same. And so let us look at words of Blessed Chaminade that can assist us:

Question: Why did we make it a point throughout our history to prove the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ? It seems all religion consists in believing this mystery.

Answer: Because of the miracle of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is an irrefutable proof of his divinity, and because faith in the divinity has converted the world. And it is through this same faith that the world, which enthralls us and whose maxims corrupt us, must be sanctified in us. "Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? [1 Jn 5:5]. (Paragraph 772, Writings on Faith, William Joseph Chaminade, Volume 2, trans. by Joseph Roy, SM, North American Center for Marianist Studies, Dayton, OH, 2005)