



Incarnation and the Marianist Journey!

By Bro. David Betz

This Marianist Moment begins with a reflection written for my Christmas Letter to the Marianist Affiliates since I believe it is appropriate in sharing the Good news about our Marianist Saints:

Recently a line from Romans 10: 9-18 grabbed my attention, “**How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news.**” Paul was quoting from Isaiah 52:7 where the prophet was calling the exiled People of God to a hopefulness that they will be delivered. He was inviting the people to participate in sharing the good news about this possibility. Questions that arise are, “What is the good news that I am being called to share on my life journey?” and “Where are my feet taking me when I share this good news?” These are questions that many of us may have considered in these past 19 months of COVID. We need to reflect upon what is the good news that we are being called to share and what is the best possible way, using our gift and talents, to do the sharing. Of course, I cannot answer these questions for you, but it may be important to put one’s trust in the God, in whose image we are made when discerning these questions. At this time of year as we celebrate God’s indwelling with the People of God, maybe we need to see the beauty of God’s love for us as we seek to understand our role in the Reign of God. Of course, this is done with Mary as a guide. Be assured of my prayers in this endeavor as you continue your Marianist journeys.

And when looking at our Marianist Saints, they, too, had to discern what was the best course of action for them of bringing Jesus to the world around them. They looked to Mary as the model of prayer and openness as they considered the will of God in their lives. Turning to Mary was seen as foundational when it came to discerning their paths on the Marianist Journey and Blessed Chaminade said:

It is and will always remain true that, having once received from her the universal principle of grace, we shall also receive through her mediation its various applications in all the stages of the Christian life. Since her love contributed so much to our salvation in the mystery of the Incarnation, which is the universal principle of grace, she will forever contribute to it in all the other operations which flow from it. Mother of the natural body of Jesus Christ, Mother of the Mystical Body, Mother of Christ, Mother of Christians. “It is from her blessed womb that issued in all abundance that spirit of holy fervor which first absorbed her and then inundated the whole world.” “She received such an abundance of grace that she arrived at a very close union with the author of grace, and merited to receive in her the One who is filled with all graces. In giving birth to him she, in some manner, caused this grace to flow to all men (and women).” (See page 48, William Joseph Chaminade: Marian Writings, Volume 1, Ed. by J. B. Armbruster, S. M., Marianist Resources Commission, Dayton, 1980)

Blessings for the Christmas Season! May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Amen.