

O, These Marian Feasts!!!

When we look at the Marian Feasts in August and September, it seems that we are inundated with a number of them. It starts on August 15, the Assumption of Mary and ends on September 24, Our Lady of Ransom.

These months also include August 22, the Queenship of Mary; September 5, Mary, Queen of Apostles; September 8, Birth of Mary; September 12, The Most Holy Name of Mary; September 15, Our Lady of Sorrows; and September 19, Our Lady of La Salette. And if one looks at the website [Catholic Tradition](#), there are plenty of Marian Feasts associated with various countries worldwide. It demonstrates the pervasive impact that Mary has had and still has in our world, especially when men and women of faith believe that Mary is very influential in their lives. It seems that Mary is called upon for many reasons, such as intercession for serious concerns, gratitude for favors received, seeking solace, asking for perseverance, assistance in vocation work, etc.

We, Marianists, since the time of our founders, have considered Mary to be essential in who we are in this world. Since the Sodality of Bordeaux began in 1801, Mary has been the most important role model for us in our lives and our works. Our vow of stability, whether as a committed lay person, religious brother, religious priest or religious sister, has symbolized our willingness to make Mary known, loved and served, and bear Jesus in our world just as Mary did. And as Blessed Chaminade emphasized, "We are all missionaries of Mary."

Let us now look at a few quotes from our founders concerning some of these feast days:

Blessed Chaminade - from a sermon on the Nativity of Mary

"Mary's creation in a state of grace was prefigured by a palace. "The work is great; this palace is not for man but for Yahweh God." (1 Cr 29: 1) God does for Mary what he had done for the angels in their creation: with one hand, he showers her with the most excellent gifts of nature; with the other, he lavishes the richest treasures of his grace on her." (Page 79, paragraph 169, William Joseph Chaminade: Marian Writings, Volume 1, Marianist Resource Commission, Dayton, OH, 1980)

Blessed Chaminade - on the Assumption of Mary

“Mary’s merits are essentially and basically the principle of the glory with which she is crowned. Who could imagine that the exalted throne which has been reserved for her in heaven has any other purpose than to honor her divine maternity?” (Page 104, paragraph 261, William Joseph Chaminade: Marian Writings, Volume 1, Marianist Resource Commission, Dayton, OH, 1980)

Blessed Adèle - on the Birth of Mary

“If only we could be reborn, my friend, along with our divine Mother: have a birth similar to hers and live as she did, in humility, kindness and submissiveness. We shall be happy if, after imitating her here below, we can join her one day in heaven to love, bless, and praise our divine Spouse.” (Page 202, letter 194: To Agathe Diché, Agen, September 8, 1813, Letters of Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, Volume 1, North American Center for Marianist Studies, Dayton, OH, 1999)

Blessed Adèle - on the Assumption of Mary

“The great feast of our Lady is almost here, very dear friend. The sight of the Blessed Virgin’s great love, so strong that it consumed her, should awaken ours. My dear friend, we cannot hope for such a great happiness, but we can and must live in that holy love.” (Page 253, letter 247: To Agathe Diché, Agen, August 9, 1814, Letters of Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, Volume 1, North American Center for Marianist Studies, Dayton, OH, 1999)