

## **A Marianist Moment**

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### **What's In a Name? - Blessed Marie de la Conception de Batz de Trenquelléon**

The process of naming a child involves various factors. Couples may look at family traditions, the cultural situation of their families and the religious situation. Some will choose names that are common among their ancestors. In Catholic families, couples will look at the communion of saints to find a name. Today some couples will find unique names they feel will stand out as different from the common ones used, even if it involves being creative in picking names that may say something about the child. Whatever name is chosen, there is a hope that it is meaningful for the child as they grow up.

But this process can be stressful. We see in the Gospel of Luke that when it came time for Zechariah and Elizabeth to choose a name, John was chosen. Their families were perplexed and amazed at this name because it was not a family name. They expected the child to be called Zechariah after his father, and this change caused them to wonder what it meant for the child's future.

In religious life, there was a tradition of changing names at the entrance to the novitiate or first profession. It symbolized the dying of one's old self and a transformation to a new self. This was very common among the women's religious communities and even some men's communities before Vatican II. The practice ended for most religious communities with the call to renewal of religious life with *Perfectae Caritatis*, a document by Pope Paul VI in 1965.

Blessed Marie de la Conception was born on June 10, 1789, and was named Adelaide Marie Charlotte Jeanne Josephine (her mother's name included Marie and Josephe, and her father's name included Joseph and Marie.) Still the diminutive of Adelaide, "Adèle" became the name she used most often. She used "Marie" frequently because it was her patronal name, remembering the Feast of the Assumption celebrated on August 15. When the Daughters of Mary were founded in 1816, she took the name Marie de la Conception. It was the practice to take a new name when entering religious life in the 17th Century. This name may have been chosen due to some influence from Blessed Chaminade, who had a strong devotion to the Immaculate Conception. From this time forward, she signed her letters using Maria de la Conception or Sr. Marie de Trenquelléon until her death on January 10, 1828.

So when the process began for the canonization of Mother Adèle, she was known as Marie de la Conception, and the Congregation for the Causes of Saints used this as her official name in all its investigations and paperwork. Adèle was beatified on June 10, 2018, as Blessed Marie de la Conception. Therefore, when we refer to Blessed Adèle from now on, we are asked to use the official name recognized by Rome, **Blessed Marie de la Conception de Batz de Trenquelléon.**

[Please click here](#) to see the letter from Sr. Susanna Kim, FMI, the Superior General of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, to Sr. Gretchen Trautman, FMI, Provincial of the Marianists Sisters in the US. It helps us to understand this change.