



Marianist Moments

Feast of Our Lady of the Pillar, October 12

Anniversary of graces received by Father Chaminade in 1797

~ Meeting aid ~



Introduction

On October 12, we remember Our Lady of the Pillar. In 1797, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade was forced to leave France. He chose to go to Saragossa, Spain, to live near and pray at a shrine dedicated to Mary, known as Our Lady of the Pillar. While praying at the Shrine, Chaminade was inspired to establish what we now know as the Family of Mary. Since 1888, this feast has been celebrated by Marianists to commemorate Blessed Chaminade's Marian inspiration.

Prayer

Adapted from the Mass of the Feast of Our Lady of Pillar

† Eternal God, who gave the Blessed Virgin Mary, the glorious Mother of your Son, as a pillar of strength to all who call upon her, grant that by her intercession we may be strong in faith, steadfast in hope, and constant in charity. May the peace of Jesus be filled in the hearts and minds of all humanity today. We make this prayer through Jesus your Son. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 11: 27-28, RSVCE

As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!"

But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Silent Introspection

Marian Writings, Vol 2, 741, William Joseph Chaminade

Contemplate the following Marian text from the writings of Father Chaminade on honoring Mary.

. . .What do we commit ourselves to? To honor her with all our power, to spread her devotion, to instill confidence and devotion to her on all sides. We must not fear that the glory of God will be in any way diminished by this or that we will provoke a holy jealousy on God's part. Jesus loves his Mother tenderly, and there is nothing we can do more agreeable to him than to love and honor her as he himself has done.



On her part, what has Mary committed herself to? To protect us, to hear our prayers, to cherish us just as a mother cherishes her dearest children.

Group Sharing

Meditating on the feast of Our Lady of the Pillar, recall an experience wherein you felt a special sense of calling—as Father Chaminade did listening to the call of the Virgin of the Pillar in Saragossa.



(Image: Our Lady of the Pillar, Saragossa)

† May the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.