

MARIANIST FAMILY: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

“WITNESSES PROMOTE VOCATIONS”

World Council of the Marianist Family

April 25, 2010

THE VOCATION OF OUR FOUNDER

SUGGESTIONS FOR PRAYER

On this day, the whole Church is invited by the Pope to pray for religious and priestly vocations. In the Marianist Family we unite ourselves to the prayer of the Church in the context of our own particular vocation.

For this year we suggest a prayer guided by the testimony of the vocational experience of our founder, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, as he himself expressed it to Pope Gregory XVI in presenting his Institutes:



In order to construct a strong dam against a flowing torrent of evil, Heaven inspired me at the beginning of this century, to request from the Holy See the title of Missionary Apostolic, so as to enliven and rekindle on all sides the divine torch of faith by showing everywhere to an astonished world imposing masses of Catholic Christians of every age, sex and state of life, who, belonging to special associations, would practice our holy religion without human respect, in all the purity of its dogmas and its mortality. Filled with this idea and urged on by worthy prelates, I poured out the whole of my soul in a humble supplication at the feet of our Holy Father Pope Pius VII, who, deigning to listen favorably to my request, granted me the broadest of powers by a decree of March 28, 1801. From then on, Most Holy Father, fervent sodalities for men and for women were formed in several cities of France;

our religion had the happiness of counting a rather large number of them in a short time, and much good was accomplished.

But, Most Holy Father, this means, excellent as it is when it is wisely applied, was not enough . . .

In the sight of God, Most Holy Father, I believed it necessary to found two new Orders, one for young women and one for young men, who would prove to the world by the fact of their good example that Christianity is not an archaic institution and that the gospel can still be practiced today as it was 1800 years ago; and who would struggle against the propagandists of our times, who hide behind a thousand and one pretenses, for the domain of the schools, by offering instruction at every level and in every subject, particularly for the popular classes who are the most numerous and the most neglected.

That, most Holy Father, was the plan with which Divine Providence inspired me when I founded the Society of Mary and the Institute of the Daughters of Mary more than twenty years ago. . . .

These two Orders have taken as their distinctive name that of the august Mary; may they make her known, praised, and loved throughout the world! For I am deeply convinced that Our Lord has reserved to His Holy Mother the glory of being in a special way the support of the Church in these last times.

Bordeaux, September 16, 1838

For Reflection...

This text can help us reflect on some typical aspects of the Marianist vocation and apply them to our current situation as, for example:

- openness to the call of the Lord, listening and responding quickly;
- sensitivity to the situation of the world around us in relation to faith;
- the call of the poor;
- sense of community and church in our mission;
- Marian sense of our mission...

Prayers

LEADER: Protect, O Lord, your Church, for the life of the world

ALL.: *Lord, let the world's heart beat*

Bring all Christians together in unity

Lord, let the world's heart beat

Send Gospel workers to those who do not know you

Lord, let the world's heart beat

Give us new vocations to the priestly ministry

Lord, let the world's heart beat

Give us apostles of the Gospel of life

Lord, let the world's heart beat

Put witnesses of your unconditional love in all situations of suffering

Lord, let the world's heart beat

Awaken in young people the fascination of your beauty

Lord, let the world's heart beat

Increase the number of Christian families, the true domestic church

Lord, let the world's heart beat

Increase the testimony of Christians in the midst of the world

Lord, let the world's heart beat

Renew our community with the gift of new ministries and charisms

Lord, let the world's heart beat

By your incarnation

Lord, let the world's heart beat

SOME TEXTS

Let us suggest some texts of Scripture or a few prayers that might go along with them:

Psalms: 40; 119.

O.T.: Ex 3:1-12; Jer 1: 4-10.

N.T.: Lk 1: 26-38;

Jn 15: 1-17.

LEADER: You, who through the Incarnation wanted to open the horizons of family life to the fullness of your love;

ALL.: - accept the love of families as fertile ground to sprout vocations to the various states of Christian life.

Lord, guard the priests and ministers of your Church,

--- and let their faithfulness and example serve as a witness and call to many young people.

Good Shepherd, who gather your flock in the midst of the world, lead our families and communities to maturity in faith, hope and love,

-- inspire in them generous vocations to make visible your caring guidance of the Church.

You, who wanted to have children near you,

-- keep them in your friendship so they feel their Christian vocation being born and follow it with docility.

You who chose and called Mary in her youth to be your faithful partner in the work of redemption,

-- encourage in the hearts of young people the desire to offer the first fruits of their lives in following your call.

You who are the sun that illuminates and gives life,

-- awaken in many young people the call to prayer and contemplation.

Oh Christ, who with your redeeming sacrifice purify and elevate human love,

-- make our Christian homes quarries of vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life.

Send, O Lord, workers into your harvest,

-- to make your name known throughout the world.

To Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

Blessed Chaminade, our Good Father,
we stand before you in thankfulness and need,
your sons, conscious of our limitations,
but empowered by the Spirit who brought creation out of chaos,
filled the emptiness of Mary's womb with a new humanity,
and transformed the fearful hearts of the disciples with courage.

Continue to bless and watch over us.
Teach us words that speak to our times as you did to yours,
words, simple and wise, words to stir both mind and heart,
words to bring light to our lives and attract others to the gift you have given us,
words to rally ourselves and those to whom we speak
to the cause of justice, peace, reconciliation, and the integrity of creation.

Help us be a sign of hope in our world,
a spectacle to the nations, as we live together with others in the Marianist Family,
a People of Saints, who present Christ in every look and gesture,
missionaries of Mary, whose actions are both bold and watchful,
ready to go where we need to go, to wherever we are called for the sake of the gospel.

Ground us in your apostolic imagination:
to see richness in diversity and the face of Christ in every person;
to treasure our international character
and all the generations, classes, and races that comprise our brotherhood;
to venture beyond the closed circle of our experience to new inventive ways;
to picture a church with a Marian face,
to believe all things possible with our God of unbounded grace.



Center our minds for the Mission and renew them according to the mind of Christ;
school us to appreciate the value of learning and to cherish what we believe;
give us insight to integrate reason and faith for the sake of human good and the pro-
motion of faith;
endow us with perspective, clarity, and sensitivity to enable us to dialogue with
those of various cultures and religions and especially with those who have lost or
deny any meaning to life at all;
grace us with magnanimity and creativity that we may enlarge our understanding
with whatever is good and true, no matter from where it comes.

Harness our energies, powers, and passions for the sake of a new world of mercy,
care, and compassion, feeling, as Mary did, the plight of the poor, the isolation of
the exile, the alienation of the migrant, and the exclusion of the marginalized.

Make deliberate and strong our call to others to join us in our life and mission;
instill your spirit and faith of the heart in us that we may "do whatever he tells us."
In other words, Good Father, give us words, signs, imaginations, minds and passions like those of Jesus and
Mary that our lives may be continually converted to the coming of the Kingdom on earth.

We pray this of you, as you stand with Mary in praise of our one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

VARIOUS PRAYERS

- *(The proposed prayers of the Church for this day)*
- *For Marianist vocations (cf. Prayers on Page 2)*
- *To Blessed William J. Chaminade*



THE MARIANIST FAMILY IN SPAIN AND VOCATIONS:

AN INTERESTING INITIATIVE

In the context of the prayer and vocation ministry in the Marianist Family, we present what it is going on in Spain. Knowing the initiatives of different countries can serve as an incentive to all, and help to promote mutual co-operation in this important aspect of our common mission.

1. THINKING ABOUT AND PROMOTING MARIANIST VOCATIONS TOGETHER

For ten years, the Marianist Family in Spain has had a joint vocation team whose purpose is expressed in this type of introductory letter, published throughout that country in 2004 in the journal *Vida Marianista* [*Marianist Life*]:

"The National Council of the Marianist Family in Spain in 2000 established a commission (which we will henceforth call "community," because that is how we perceived it and how we have lived and are living it since then), to reflect on Vocation as a key to Marianist Family. The "community" consists of one member from each branch of the Family, and from each Province of Spain: Sodalties, CEMI, Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Society of Mary. Up to now we have taken four years to get to know one another, to share our vocational experience, and to consider how to respond to the goals set for us by the National Council, which are:

- sensitize the branches to discover the meaning of working for their own vocation and that of others;
- sharing what we live, feel and think about our vocation; define what is meant by "a Vocation within the Marianist Family "
- revitalize our own vocation,
- promote a sense of Marianist belonging;
- stimulate the development and dissemination of vocation ministry resources;
- form others in the Marianist charism.

The "community" has produced two leaflets to raise awareness of what is meant by "Marianist vocation" within this new family context as well as catechetical material to help work with and deepen this vision among youth and adults.

2. A SUGGESTED WAY TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

In 2005, the committee launched an attractive initiative: to create a kind of network [*RED*] of praying for vocations in the Marianist Family. The initiative took the name of the slogan with which it was launched: ¡**enREDate EN FAMILIA!** [Get Involved in the FAMILY!]

What is it? It is a personal invitation to commit oneself, with a simple daily prayer, to pray for vocations to the Marianist Family. The proposal was presented as follows:

- "The commission has a new initiative: to create a 'permanent base of prayer' directly dedicated to this theme: branches pray for vocations to the other branches.
- How? By creating an organized movement of prayer for vocations.
- Why? Because, first of all, it is for that which Jesus asked: 'Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest.'
- A 'Movement'? Not in the sense of an organization with an external and public type of 'membership.' But we want people to commit to pray daily and earnestly for Marianist vocations, each one praying *from* his/her branch *for* the others. The laity pray for vocations to the male and female religious. The religious pray for vocations to the laity, and friends of the Family pray for vocations to the Family.
- Obviously, we need a minimum of organization to maintain continuity and motivation. If not, it gets forgotten."

With this basic idea, the Commission issued the call:

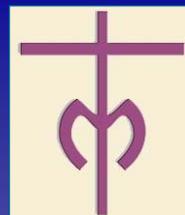
"If you're willing to commit, you need to know that the entire Marianist Family is involved in this *RED*. Each branch prays for vocations to the other branches.

To religious men and women:

You, as a religious take on the commitment to pray for lay vocations. This is the hour of the laity. In the Church and in the Marianist Family we need lay persons who are committed to the mission of Mary, through their presence in the workplace, at home, in the economy, in society, all the while effectively making the Gospel present. We pray for the emergence of these lay Marianist vocations.

To the laity:

You, as a lay person, take on the serious commitment of regularly



enREDate
EN FAMILIA



It is an initiative
that intends to create
a permanent base of
prayer directly
aimed at having
Some branches of the
Marianist Family pray
for vocations
to the other branches.

We are seeking persons
who
commit themselves
to fervently pray daily
for all Marianist vocations,

Will you join us?

praying for the Marianist religious. At this point, they are the ones who most urgently need vocations. It is up to you to pray fervently and faithfully for the birth of new vocations to the religious branches of the Family.

To all:

Do not think it is too much. It is an urgent call. The Family needs your prayers!

The Commitment:

Pray the following daily for a year for vocations:

- *A decade of the Rosary*
- *Or five minutes of personal prayer*
- *And the prayer below*
- followed by the Marianist invocation:
'May the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary.'

The prayer of the laity:

'Oh Jesus! Look kindly upon the Marianist Family.

You told us: "Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into the harvest."

We ask you humbly:

Let religious and priestly vocations be born
in our Marianist Family.

Look with love on the youth of our families.

Let your call be alive in them with joy and gratitude
and let them be a support for the vocation of their children.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary,
The Woman of Yes, your Mother and Ours.'

The prayer of the religious men and women:

'Oh Jesus! Look kindly upon the Marianist Family.

You told us: 'Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send
laborers into the harvest.'

We ask you humbly:

Let lay vocations be born
in our Marianist Family.

Look with love on the youth in our surroundings.

Let your call be alive in them with joy and gratitude
and let them commit themselves to a generous response.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary,
The Woman of Yes, your Mother and Ours.' "



3. The Red (Network)

Those willing to pray daily for vocations to the other branches of the Family have been registered. Periodically they receive a simple bulletin (one page), with some thoughts that help them keep their commitment active in their minds. There is a team in charge which collects registrations and is responsible for editing it.

The invitation to "enredarse" ["get involved" = commit oneself] was extended also to "friends" of the Marianist Family, laity, priests, cloistered religious ...

How many make up the RED? There are currently 405 registered. The enrollment has increased gradually over the years with new members added as follows:

195 in 2005 (half year)
136 in 2006
56 in 2007
16 in 2008
12 in 2009

In 2010 the campaign has been relaunched and there were 6 new registrants in the first month.



**World
Council
of the
Marianist
Family**

www.marianist.org

Quarterly, we will send you a sheet with vocation news of the Marianist Family, meditations, prayers ...

I want to receive the newsletter regularly at the following addresses (indicate whichever one you choose):

+ E-mail:

+ Mail:



BE AWARE!

Many of us pray for you and for vocations to your branch.

**YOU CAN do it too,
for the other branches of the
Family!**

Do not break your commitment!



**2005 Vocation Commission
Marianist Family Council
of Spain**