

Three People, One Mission

PART 1: Introduction

The French Revolution brought about chaos, violence, and upheaval throughout France. The Church was all but dismantled. Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, and Marie Thérèse de Lamourous, Founders of the Marianist Family, were called to participate in Mary's mission of bringing Christ into the world. Each of these people shared a strong faith, relentless hope, and unabashed courage. However, it was through the collaboration of their individual gifts and virtues that they established the Marianist Family whose spirit is still alive today. The following chart shows their unique contributions to the Marianist Family.

PART 2: Reflection

Take a few minutes to read the chart below. After reading it, ask yourself the following questions:

1. How or where do I see Mary inviting me to participate in her mission?
2. What **gifts** do I bring to my community to help accomplish this mission? What **gifts** do others bring that complement mine?
3. What **virtues** do I possess that make my community stronger?
4. What **legacy** do I hope to offer the future of the Marianist Family?

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Blessed William Joseph Chaminade
"The Head"

Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon
"The Heart"



Marie Thérèse de Lamourous
"The Hands"

- **Visionary**—saw need after French Revolution for Christian formation; had foresight and imagination to make dramatic change
- **Collaborator**—shared vision with Marie Thérèse and Adèle; accepted their help and advice to accomplish his goal
- **Servant leader**—worked under guidance and patronage of Mary, Mother of God

- **Empathizer**—recognized the needs of the poor and uneducated and responded to those needs
- **Networker**—attracted others to her ministry and built community to support each other in their work
- **Motivator**—enthusiastic about her ministry; willing to commit herself entirely to the will of God

- **Problem solver**—helped priests in exile continue ministry during French Revolution; kept parish in Paris thriving
- **Practical**—persevered despite odds against women at the Miséricorde, found ways for these women to become self-sufficient
- **Advisor**—Chaminade often asked her for advice regarding finance and other matters

- **Patience**—waited for signs to move forward; formed many in the Marianist Family at their own pace
- **Forgiving**—allowed others to stumble; offered reconciliation and encouragement
- **Humility**—willing to entrust his work to God

- **Compassionate**—nurtured relationships with family, friends, members of her Association, and those with whom she ministered
- **Trusting**—accepted decisions made by Father Chaminade and others regarding the establishment of the Daughters of Mary
- **Peaceful**—remained confident that she was following the Spirit's call throughout trials and hardships

- **Selfless**—accepted the challenge of becoming director of the Miséricorde despite her initial abhorrence of the task
- **Steadfast**—remained determined despite attempts by government, police, and even some of the women at the Miséricorde to dismantle her efforts
- **Loyal**—faithful, trusted, beloved minister, friend, and model as a "Missionary of Mary"

Society of Mary, SM

- Throughout the world including Africa, India, and Mexico
- Numerous ministries, support of underprivileged through providing education and economic strategies
- Approximately 1,350 members

Daughters of Mary, FMI

- Have had presence in 15 countries
- Will soon establish community in India
- Serve as educators, lawyers, environmentalists, and champions for the poor, throughout world
- Approximately 380 Marianist Sisters

Marianist Lay Communities, MLC

- Found on six continents
- Each community has own unique ministry that it offers the Church and the world
- Approximately 5,200 (2003 statistic)



Gifts

Virtues

Legacy