

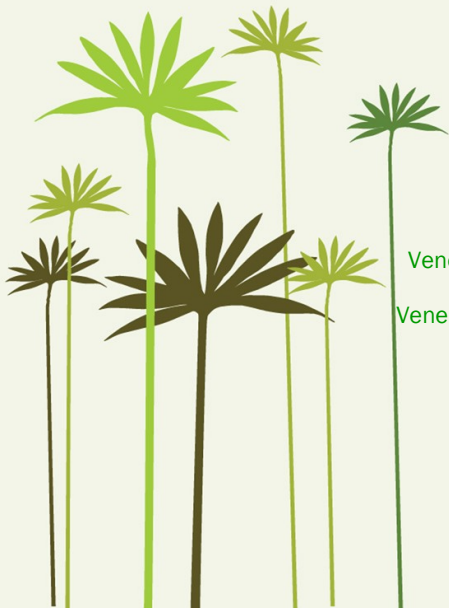
# Marianist Family Quotes

An easy to use resource for your parish,  
community or individual reflection.

From the North American Center for  
Marianist Studies, Spring of 2010  
Compiled by Alison R. Cawley



# Marianist Founders



Quotations from

Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

Venerable Marie Thérèse da Lamourous

Venerable Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon

“Ours is indeed a grand work, a magnificent work, and if it is universal in scope, it is because we are missionaries of Mary, who says to us, “Do whatever He tells you.” – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade,

*Letters*, August 24, 1839.

“O my God, my heart is too small to love you, but I will see to it that you are loved by so many hearts, that their love will compensate for the weakness of mine.” –

Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon,  
*Letters*,

May 4, 1818.



“Well then, let us multiply ourselves for the greater glory of God and may the name of the Lord be blessed from East to West, may He be known everywhere, loved by all hearts and served by all creatures!” –

Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, *Letters*, August 23, 1821.



“Father Chaminade was completely convinced that he had created a highly integrated system of doctrine, of organization, and of action which was uniquely powerful and effective, not to be changed without serious risk of working in vain.” – William Ferree, SM, *Texts of Capital Importance*, 1966 ed, #74 (52.1).

“Let us then courageously put ourselves to work, not letting ourselves be frightened by the greatness of the task.

Let us think only of what we are doing at the moment, of doing it well, for it is only in the fidelity and perfection with which we do our ordinary actions that our progress in virtue consists.” –  
Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, *Letters*,  
August 3, 1814.



“Faith, especially faith of the heart, is a great gift of God; and it is for that kind of faith that we should always pray: ‘Lord, increase my faith.’ God will give this grace readily, when we endeavor to perform acts of faith. ‘The just person lives by faith.’ What happiness for us if we walk for the rest of our lives on the beautiful pathways of faith, action only by faith, and living only by faith!” – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, *Letters*, January 23, 1833.



“Let us peacefully follow the path traced out by Providence and all will turn out for the best.”  
– Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, *Letters*, May 21, 1824.

"She was tempted to repeat her prayers, her good actions, and her promises for fear they were never quite good enough; she often asked questions in her doubts, then doubted she had explained the situation with sufficient clarity. When she did follow the advice given, she was subjected to new worries as to whether she had followed it correctly. Little by little, she would learn to trust her own judgment more, not to return again and again to what was past, and to place her confidence in the goodness of God rather than in her own perfection or accomplishment." – Joseph Stefanelli, SM, *Mlle de Lamourous*, 42.

"Like the Magi, let us not return from the crib by the same route.

That is, let us lead an entirely new life, a changed life, one transformed in God." – Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon,

*Letters*, January 6, 1807.

“Most of the *filles* who came to the Miséricorde were not hard-core professional prostitutes, although there were some. Most were young girls or widows who had been cast into the streets to fend for themselves; adolescents who had been seduced by the deceptive attractions of the life or forced into prostitution by families in financial need; or love-starved girls from unloving or broken homes who had run away simply seeking something better. But they had found their way to the loving arms of Marie Thérèse, and she could not turn them back into the streets.” – Joseph Stefanelli, SM, *Mlle de Lamourous*, 186.



“To make mental prayer is to raise my mind and heart to God in order to penetrate myself, in his presence, with some truth that will stimulate me to self-improvement.” – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, *Writings on Mental Prayer*, Art. 169.



“What is a sodality? It is a community of fervent Christians who, in imitation of the Christians of the early Church, endeavor by frequent meetings to have but one heart and one soul, to form but one family...the nature and essence is in the frequent gathering of the members.”

– *Spirit of Our Foundation*, vol. 2 § 657.

“Let us limit ourselves, my good friend, to doing, each of us, what God would wish us to do...in our houses...let us take care to have the same purpose, the same spirit, and a union of hearts.” – Marie Thérèse de Lamourous, in Joseph Stefanelli, SM, *Mlle de Lamourous*, 378.



“So it was that by means of directresses and supervisors, councils and meetings, minutes and reports, as well as through her own personal daily contact with the *filles*, Marie Thérèse kept abreast of all that was taking place at the Miséricorde, guiding, directing, organizing, delegating, demanding accountability, managing, feeding, and caring for a household of some 300 people.” – Joseph Stefanelli, SM, *Mlle de Lamourous*, 307.



“To love each other in God, for God, and because of God is to be sure of a lasting love.”  
– Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon,  
*Letters*, February 2, 1805.

“It seems to me that we must not become discouraged if we encounter some obstacle in the way of the necessary change. Never has change been done, and never will it be done, without difficulty. With patience we will accomplish all. Go with simplicity. Do not worry about the troublesome or disconcerting things which you will experience. Do your duties, try to please God and keep your peace.” – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, *Letters*, March 23, 1833.

“Let us work at becoming saints, and our communities will do well.”—  
Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon,  
*Letters*, December 11, 1821.



“As for the *filles* who come seeking admission and whom you hesitate to accept, I can only tell you what I have done, and what my conscience has always obliged me to do. I am not suggesting that you imitate me, but I think I should tell you: every time a stray sheep has come casting herself into my arms, if I sensed she had no other sure means of attaining her salvation and I had the least space available in the house, I would receive her without any other consideration, trusting entirely in him who said, ‘Seek ye first the reign of God and its righteousness and all else will be added over and above.’” – Marie Thérèse de Lamourous, in Joseph Stefanelli, SM, *Mlle de Lamourous*, 338.



“Courage, my dear child. Let us take care that while we are working at the sanctification of others we do not forget our own!” – Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, *Letters*, May 29, 1820.

“It had never been the clear intention of Marie Thérèse de Lamourous to found a religious congregation. At the beginning of her work with the penitents, she had simply wanted to recruit similarly-interested women to help her. Even when it seemed indicated that her house would be converted into a religious institute, she did not foresee it according to the model of so many other contemporary foundations. Not only were the penitents and their directresses to form one and the same community, but the latter were to exist only for the former.” – Joseph Stefanelli, SM, *Mlle de Lamourous*, 332.

“Take courage, be not dismayed by your disgust, your boredom, etc.; unite them to those of our Divine Master. What comparison is there between ours and those he endured for the salvation of our souls! Rejoice rather to share this little sample of his work, and thank him with all your heart for having chosen you to be associated with it in some small way. Courage, my dear child. Raise yourself above the feelings of nature by views of faith.” – Marie Thérèse de Lamourous, in Joseph Stefanelli, SM, *Mlle de Lamourous*, 342.

