



# Basic Handbook of Marianist Studies

Fourth Edition

Updated and Corrected

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# Basic Handbook of Marianist Studies

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## Preface

This *Basic Handbook of Marianist Studies* grew out of notes I made as hand outs for the Marianist history course I began teaching to SM novices in Dayton starting in 1975. Through the years, the hand outs were augmented and their number grew. During the years from 1997 to 2005 when I was assigned to Prague, Carol Ramey took over teaching the novitiate course. She improved the notes and added to them. Since 2005, she and I have taught the course as a team. As we worked together, I shared with her my dream of some day compiling all the notes plus much other material in my files into a Marianist reference book, a kind of mini-encyclopedia and dictionary, that could be used for Marianist Studies by students and writers in the future. I doubted, though, that I would ever get around to it.

When Carol and I were planning the novitiate history course for the 2009-2010 school year, she suggested that we make a stab at putting together the notes into a compilation that could be given to the novices as a unified text right at the start of the course. She asked Patti Gehred, a member of the NACMS staff, to lend her computer design skills and Marianist talents to help. Much to my delight, we produced the first edition of the *Basic Handbook* in an attractive layout that included illustrations (both black-and-white and color). This was better than I expected.

The previous editions of the *Basic Handbook* were incomplete in various ways, due in part to the haste with which they were prepared. However, they turned out to be very good first approximations of what the complete *Basic Handbook* would eventually be. This fourth edition is another step toward that goal. It, too, is incomplete; but it is better than the previous editions. Still needed are things such as good reading lists and annotated bibliographies on key Marianist topics (such as Stability, Chaminade and the French School, the System of Virtues, etc.); more entries for the Marianist persons, places, and terms section; additional articles for the monographs section; and better indications of sources for the various sections and entries. I have every hope that there will be further editions that will reach the goal of an easy-to-use reference tool where Marianists can look things up quickly for multiple purposes in their life and work.

Lawrence Cada, SM  
Dayton  
January 2013

# Marianist History Course

Marianist Novitiate – Dayton, Ohio

## Syllabus and Course Outline

1. Introduction
  - a. The SM and FMI today; present situation and statistics
  - b. Quick Overview of the History of Religious Life (*Shaping*, Ch. 2)
  - c. Life Cycle of a Religious Community in General (*Shaping*, Ch. 3)
  - d. Life Cycle of the Marianist Family
2. Historical Background and Trends
  - a. The Modern Era (1500-2000)
  - b. 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century France
  - c. French School of Spirituality (Bérulle, Olier, et al.)
  - d. Jansenism
  - e. Enlightenment
3. Political and Religious Situation in France Before and During the Revolution
  - a. Condition of Religious Life and the Church
  - b. French Society and Culture in the Last Years of the *ancien régime*
  - c. Estates General and the Outbreak of the Revolution
  - d. Phases of the Revolution: First Republic, Reign of Terror, Directory
4. Chaminade's Early Life (1761-1800)
  - a. Boyhood in Périgueux (1761-71)
  - b. The Mussidan Years (1771-91)
  - c. Bordeaux during the Revolution and Reign of Terror (1791-97)
  - d. Exile in Saragossa: Chaminade's Vision (1797-1800)
5. Adèle's Early Life (1789-1803)
  - a. Girlhood at Trenquelléon (1789-97)
  - b. Exile in Portugal (1797-1801)
  - c. New Start at Trenquelléon (1801-3)
6. Foundation Period (1800-45)
  - a. French Political History and Church History of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
  - b. The Bordeaux Society

- c. The State
  - d. Difficulties with Government during the First Empire
  - e. Role of de Lamourous in Foundation Period
  - f. Adèle's "Association." Contacts with Chaminade
  - g. Foundation of the FMI. Death of Adèle (1828)
  - h. Foundation of the SM
  - i. Revolution of 1830 and the July Monarchy; Difficulties, Death of de Lamourous (1836), Constitutions
  - j. Last Years of Chaminade (1841-50)
7. **Expansion Period (1845-1905)**
- a. External Expansion of the SM during the generalates of Caillet, Chevaux, and Simler
  - b. External Expansion of the FMI during the generalates of St. Vincent, Marie Joseph, Sophie, and Marie Stanislas. Breakdown of links between SM and FMI
  - c. Internal crises of the SM: 1865 Animadversions, Mixed Composition, Constitutions
  - d. Collège Stanislas, Sillon Movement, Modernism and the SM
  - e. Expulsions: especially from Alsace after Franco-Prussian War and from France in 1903, Stories of Mechtilde
  - f. Expansion of SM beyond France: Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Japan, Spain
  - g. Foundation of American Province of SM: Leo Meyer and the four pioneers
  - h. Expansion of the SM in America after the Meyer years
  - i. Reestablishment of links between SM and FMI
8. **Stabilization Period (1905-65)**
- a. Consolidation of SM as a successful Teaching Congregation
  - b. Growth of FMI in France; Mechtilde Mauriez, the Second Founder
  - c. Revival of Interest in Chaminade: Rehabilitation of Founder's Reputation. Causes of Chaminade, Adèle, and de Lamourous. Other Marianist Causes.
  - d. SM in North America: the American Catholic Experience, grade schools to high schools, division of Provinces, professionalism
  - e. Foundation of American Province of the FMI
  - f. Spread of SM and FMI throughout the world
  - g. Revival of Adult Marianist Lay Communities: France, Spain, US, South America
  - h. Condition of SM and FMI at the time of the Vatican II (1962-65)
9. **Breakdown Period (1965-90) and Transition (1990-2015)**
- a. Onset of breakdown: Drop in Membership
  - b. Conflict and Change; from Schools to Diversity of Ministries
  - c. Entering Transition: Merger of US Provinces, speculation about where we are headed

# Marianist Studies Topics

compiled by Lawrence Cada, SM  
(revised September 2001)

The topics suggested in this outline are proposed as a survey of the content or subject matter that is commonly understood to constitute Marianist Studies.

## 1) Marianist Spirituality

### Christ

Christ in the Thought of Chaminade and de Trenquelléon

Elements of Marianist Christology

Jesus Christ, Son of God, Become Son of Mary for the Salvation of Humankind

The Incarnation in Marianist Spirituality

### Mary

Mary in the Thought of Chaminade and de Trenquelléon

Mission of Mary

Marianist Stability: Source and Summit of Marianist Spirituality

Stability and Marian Consecration

The Vow of Stability and the Vow of Teaching Christian Faith and Practice

Chaminade's Reading of the Marian Texts of Scripture

Analysis of Contents of *Marian Writings of WJC*

### Faith

Faith as a Foundational Theme of Marianist Spirituality and Ministry

"Faith of the Mind, Faith of the Heart, and the Faith of Action"

Analysis of Contents of WJC's *Writings on Faith*

### Community and Church

Baptism and the Vocation Common to Everyone in the Church

WJC's Theological Rationale for Community: The Trinity and the Church as Local Assembly

### Marianist Prayer

Prayer of Faith

Living the Mysteries of Jesus and Mary

The Three O'Clock Prayer

Analysis of Contents of WJC's *Writings on Menial Prayer*

### System of Virtues

System of Virtues and Growth in the Spiritual Life

System of Virtues and Three Offices as the Embodiment of Christ's Attitudes and Ministries

Relationship between the System of Virtues and the Classic 3 Ways of the Spiritual Life

Analysis of Contents of *Marianist Direction*

Pauline Basis of the System of Virtues

### **Marianist Spirituality and the French School**

Bérulle and the Principal Figures of the French School  
Christocentric, Theocentric, and Incarnational Spirituality  
Marian Spirituality  
States and Mysteries of Jesus and Mary  
Chaminade's Reading of Olier

### **Characteristic Marianist Virtues and Traits**

Chapter 30 of the 1891 Constitutions of the SM  
Syntheses of Simler, *Spirit of Our Foundation*, Neubert, Gadiou

### **Various Studies**

Cole's Thesis  
Stanley's Thesis  
Hakenewerth's Writings

### **Special Topics**

Immaculate Conception and the Marianist Charism  
Feminist Thought and the Marianist Tradition  
History of Marianist Spirituality and Piety

## **2) Marianist History and the Marianist Charism**

### **Marianist History Topics**

Secular and Political Events of Chaminade's Time  
The Enlightenment and the French Revolution  
Biography of Chaminade and de Trenquelléon  
Chaminade and Normal Schools during the Restoration  
Sillon Movement  
Modernism and the Marianists  
Coming of the SM to Various Countries  
The Rise of Marianist Lay Communities

### **Marianist Charism**

What is a Founding Charism? Theological Questions  
What is the Marianist Charism? Chaminade's Charism?  
Sociological and Historical Models of a Charism and its Dynamics  
Can there be authentic developments of the Founder's charism which he did not foresee and which he would have disowned in his day?

### **Classic Studies of the Marianist Charism**

Simler, Klobb, and Lebon: *The Spirit of Our Foundation*  
The Two Syntheses of Ferree  
Windisch's Thesis

### **3) Marianist Mission and Ministries**

#### **Marianist Apostolic Method Multiplication,**

“To Multiply Christians”

Universality

Mary’s Apostolic Mission, “Missionaries of Mary”

Mary and the End Times in the Thought of WJC

The Marianist Mission and the Problematic of the Modern Era

#### **Marianist Family of Mary**

Evolution of the Concept of “Family of Mary”

Branches of the Family of Mary and their Interdependence

Chaminade’s Implicit Ecclesiology

Meaning of “Sodality Director who never dies”

#### **Marianist Education**

Marianist Pedagogy and Teaching Method

Marianist Schools

The Marianist Philosophy of Education, Characteristics of Marianist Education

#### **Other Marianist Ministries**

Parishes

Social, Human Services

Art, Music

#### **Implantation of Marianist Charism in Diverse Cultures**

Effects of French Culture on Chaminade and his Thought

Marianist Charism and Various Cultures

Is the Marianist Vision Euro-centric?

#### **Social Justice and the Marianist Tradition**

Marianist Ministries of Justice

Is there an intrinsic connection between Social Justice and the Marianist charism?

#### **Distinctive Features of Marianist Life, Spirit, and Method**

Three Offices

Mixed Composition of the SM

Three Categories of Persons

The Third Object

The Fifth Vow (of Teaching Christian Faith and Practice)

## **4) Overview and General Topics**

### **The World of Marianist Studies**

Overview of Topics, Themes, Subject Areas

Principal Authors and Writers. Who are the “experts” of Marianist Studies’?

The Classics of Marianist Studies

Constructing a “Beginner’s Guide” to Marianist Studies

### **Critique of Chaminade’s Interpreters**

Who have been the main interpreters of Chaminade’s thought?

How faithfully have they transmitted his charism?

How do their interpretations differ?

Has any of them distorted Chaminade’s vision?

### **Evolution of Marianist Ideas, Language, and Terminology**

“Filial Piety”

“Family of Mary” or “Marianist Family”

“Community”

“Marianist”

### **Scholarly Study of Marianist Primary Sources**

Critical Editions

Definitive Translations

Commentary on Texts

### **The Emergence of Marianist Studies**

Rehabilitation of the Founder’s Reputation in the Late 19th Century

Evolution of Marianist Studies in the 20th Century

Rise of Expertise in Marianist Studies among Lay Marianists

### **Analysis of Official Documents**

SM Constitutions and Rules

FMI Constitutions and Rules

Documents of General Chapters and Other SM or FMI Official Bodies

Official Formation Guides of the SM and FMI

Official Documents of the State, Marianist Lay Communities, and Other Lay Groups of the Family of Mary

Documents of the World Council of the Marianist Family of Mary and Other Joint Bodies of the Family of Mary