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. 17th and 18th 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

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 19th 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
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)

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
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