

## NACMS NEWSLETTER

### February 2025

As we celebrate Black History Month, we have some exciting news and resources to share. Keep reading to learn more about:

- A Reflection on "The Witness of the First Lay Marianist Consecration,"
- Celebrating Black History Month,
- Celebrating the Jubilee of 2025: Pilgrims of Hope, and
- Our Newest Podcast Episode, "A Continental Shift: From Dayton to Rome (with Bro. Dennis Bautista, SM)."



## The Witness of the First Lay Marianist Consecration

By Bro. Tim Phillips, SM



In November 1800, Fr. Chaminade returned to Bordeaux, France, after

three years in exile. He had a head full of ideas to restore Christianity and the Church in France after the chaos of the Revolution. The exiled priests in Spain had talked about what to do when they returned and already knew of projects in some dioceses that would make use of committed laypeople. Chaminade himself had a ministry in Bordeaux during the Revolution, so he already knew of dedicated laypeople who could help. He had corresponded with Marie Thérèse de Lamourous during his time in Saragossa; there also was Louis Arnaud Lafargue, who helped remove Chaminade's name from the list of those who had left France during the Revolution; and certainly others. When Chaminade arrived in Bordeaux, he wasted no time.

Jean Lalanne tells us that Chaminade opened his oratory and met a couple of young men, and he proposed to them the establishment of a group of laypeople who would take up the task of re-Christianizing Bordeaux, attracting others into the ways of salvation. Some suggestions were laypeople Chaminade already knew; others were laypeople who wanted to join in this mission. There were twelve of them, to imitate the 12 Apostles and the early Christians who were of one heart and mind gathered around Mary. They, too, were following Mary and became the first Lay Marianists to consecrate their lives to Mary, which they did on February 2, 1801 (then, as now, a feast of Mary). This group of Apostles, the Marianist Lay Community of its day, was on its way to being a Christianizing force in Bordeaux and Southwest France, with Mary as their leader and model.

Today, celebrating this event can be an encouraging reminder to continue the task of Christianizing our neighborhood and the world through communities dedicated to Mary's nurturing care for all.

With this reminder at the forefront of our minds this month, we encourage you to reflect on the following questions:

- How does my own commitment to Mary influence the way I care for myself and others?
- How does my community celebrate and embrace the commitment to share Christ with others in an effort to Christianize the world?

To learn more about the Bordeaux Sodality, we recommend the following three resources:

- Bro. Tim Phillips, SM's "[Story of the Beginning of the Sodality of the Madeleine, the MLC of 1800](#),"
- Chapter 7 of the "[Basic Handbook of Marianist Studies](#)," which focuses on the "[First Foundations](#)," and
- Mary Lynn Gasaway Hill's *Stories from the Wake*, available in our bookstore.

Image Credit: "On February 2, 1801, the Sodality is Born," in René Berthier and Pierre Dhombre's *William Joseph Chaminade and the Story of the Marianists* (Paris: Univers Media Editions, 1982), 13.

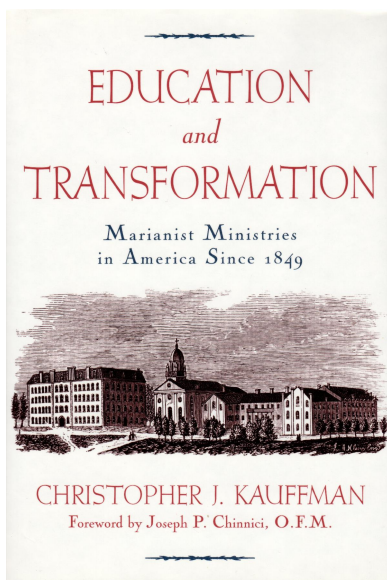
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## Celebrating Black History Month





In celebration of Black History Month, we highlight two resources that may expand your understanding and knowledge of the significant contributions of Black Marianists and the relationship with the Society of Mary's Region of Eastern Africa and Province of the United States.



In his book, *Education and Transformation: Marianist Ministries in America Since 1849*, Christopher Kauffman situates the history of the Marianist brothers in religious culture, Americanization and modernization, ethnicity and race issues, spirituality, and modernization of schools, colleges, and universities. This text includes information on Black Brothers and Priests, including Fr. Joe Davis, SM, Fr. Edwin Johnson, SM, Fr. Paul Marshall, SM, Bro. Al Glanton, SM, and Bro. Vincent Gray, SM, who contributed to the Society of Mary's rich educational roots in the United States. It was published by Crossroad Publishing Company and is available for purchase [in our bookstore](#).

Additionally, Bro. Fred Silbereis' "[An Outline History of the Marianist Region of Eastern Africa 1957–2006](#)" is available as a free e-publication on our website. Bro. Fred's work shares stories from the development of the Region of Eastern Africa, originally a foundation of the Society of Mary's Cincinnati and New York Provinces, which eventually became part of the US Province.

Make sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) as we celebrate the origins of the Society of Mary's Region of Eastern Africa and Black Marianists who have made significant contributions to Marianist Scholarship.

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## Celebrating the Jubilee of 2025: Pilgrims of Hope



"Seek your consolations in God alone,  
since He alone should be the object of  
your love and of your hopes."

- Blessed William Joseph Chaminade



We are excited to celebrate the Jubilee 2025 liturgical year in conjunction with the wider Catholic Church as pilgrims of hope. Keep an eye out on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts as we share quotes on hope from prominent Marianist scholars, including the Marianist Founders.

Manuel Barbadillo, SM, *They Persevered in Prayer: Thoughts of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade* (Dayton: International Center for Marianist Formation, n.d.), Quote 22 [5].

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## Our Newest Episode of *Sharing Our Marianist Stories*: A Continental Shift: From Dayton to Rome (with Bro. Dennis Bautista, SM)

When he traveled to Rome for the Society of Mary's General Chapter of 2024, Bro. Dennis Bautista, SM, did not anticipate being elected to the Society of Mary's General Administration. In our newest episode of *Sharing Our Marianist Stories*, Bro. Dennis recounts his initial reactions to his election, the challenges and reflections in his transition period, his emotional farewells with various communities, and his thoughts on the responsibilities that await him. Bro. Dennis discusses how dynamics of prayer and vocational wellness have helped him maintain a positive presence as a Marianist brother. He shares his teaching philosophy, love for learning and growth, and vision for imparting Marianist values in education globally. [Listen to this episode](#) to learn more about Bro. Dennis' background and experiences and how his integration of faith and personal values will aid him as he transitions into this important role.



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