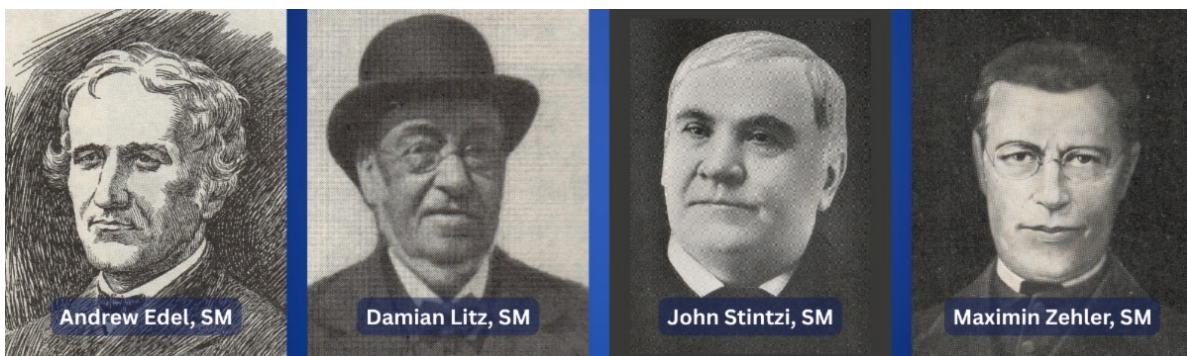


NACMS NEWSLETTER
July 2025

As we bask in the balmy summer sun, we have some news hot off the press for you. Keep reading to learn more about:

- Remembering the first Marianists to reach the United States,
- The release of the English translation of *The General History of the Society of Mary*, Volume 2, written by Fr. Antonio Gascón Aranda, SM,
- Our newest e-publication: "Mary at Pentecost, Our Marianist Family, and Our Synodal Church," by Fr. Tom Schroer, SM,
- An invitation to share your reflections on "Mission and Ministry In Our Marianist Charism,"
- A request for suggestions for upcoming recordings, and
- Announcing the winner of our Google Review raffle!

Remembering the First Marianists
to Reach the United States

In late 1849, Marianist Bros. Damian Litz, Andrew Edel, John Stintzi, and Maximin Zehler bravely crossed the Atlantic from France to join Bro. Charles Schultz, SM, and Fr. Leo Meyer, SM, who had arrived earlier that July. This determined group established the first Marianist presence in the United States, ministering in the Cincinnati–Dayton area and founding institutions like St. Mary's School for Boys in 1850. This institution eventually evolved into the University of Dayton, which celebrates its 175th birthday this year. We wish a very happy 175th birthday to the University of Dayton!

For those traveling, we hope your summer adventures are far smoother than the arduous journey described by Bro. Damian Litz:

"We got aboard a rickety, old merchantman in which a sort of den was made of rough boards to hold us and our originals. We did not sail: we rolled and rolled for forty-two and a half days. I was the first among the passengers to discover land. Brother Edel was sick of [with] dysentery during nearly the whole time. I myself got seasick at every heavy roll. (Brother Edel relates that during a severe storm the vessel received such a severe shock once as to make Brother Litz jump up and cry out "Salve Regina.") Brother Zehler was once flung from one side of the ship to the other and was badly hurt."¹

To delve deeper into the Society of Mary's early years in the U.S., we suggest reading *Father Leo Meyer's 13 Years at Nazareth*, by Fr. John Graves, SM, which is available in our bookstore.

¹ John G. Graves, SM. *Father Leo Meyer's 13 Years at Nazareth* (Dayton: NACMS, 1997), 26.

Father Leo Meyer's 13 Years at Nazareth

John G. Graves, SM

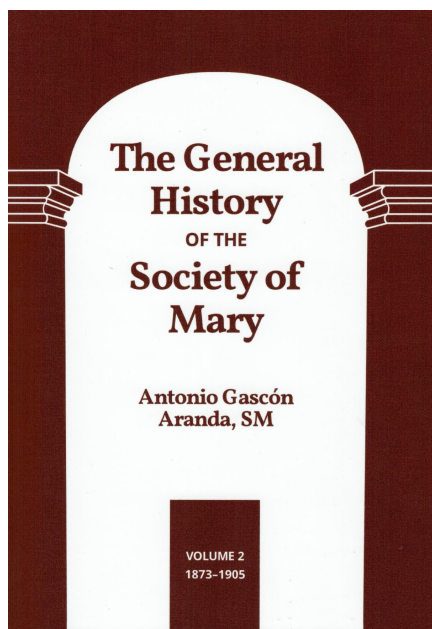


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Sesquicentennial Series
1849 – 1999

Monograph Series – Document No. 38
January 1997

The General History of the Society of Mary, Volume 2, by Fr. Antonio Gascón Aranda, SM



How did Fr. Joseph Simler's twenty-nine-year Generalate complete Blessed William Joseph Chaminade's foundational vision? How did Simler, the fourth Superior General, also shape the direction of the Society of Mary in an era of increased government control that threatened the very survival of the religious congregation in France at the start of the twentieth century? To find out, read Fr. Gascón's volume two of *The General History of the Society of Mary: Generalate of Father Joseph Simler: An International Congregation of Pontifical Right (1873-1905)*.

For the full book description and to order a copy, [visit our bookstore](#).

"Mary at Pentecost, Our Marianist Family, and Our Synodal Church," by Fr. Tom Schroer, SM

In our [newest e-publication](#), Fr. Tom Schroer, SM, argues that the mission within the Marianist Family is to bring the Spirit of the Risen Christ into our world; and our model is the "mature presence" of Mary within the struggling and nascent Christian community at Pentecost. (Two "sample prayers" for Marianists to pray with the mature Mary and original Christian community at Pentecost are included.)

May Fr. Tom's words challenge us to embrace the wisdom and witness of Mary as an older woman.



Share Your Reflections on "Mission and Ministry In Our Marianist Charism"

In our [June newsletter](#), we featured a new e-publication by Bro. Tom Redmond, SM, titled "[Mission and Ministry In Our Marianist Charism](#)." Bro. Tom's work serves as a powerful reminder to the entire Marianist Family: our charism calls us to deepen our personal holiness and dedicate ourselves to the salvation of others.

We're eager to hear how this short e-publication has influenced your understanding of mission and ministry. Did a particular insight resonate with you or your community? Please take a couple of minutes to share your reflections with us using [this brief Google form](#).



Seeking Suggestions for Upcoming Recordings

At NACMS, we're dedicated to preserving the rich, lived experiences and stories of our Marianist Family. One way we capture these stories is through audio and video recordings, whether in our studio, on location, or virtually. Many of these recordings become episodes of our podcast, *[Sharing Our Marianist Stories](#)*, and are also archived in our digital library. We're eager to capture more of your unique experiences—perhaps an

event, a community encounter, or a powerful moment of prayer. If you have a story or a topic in mind, either your own or someone else's, please contact Mike Bennett at mbennett3@udayton.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Announcing the Winner of Our Google Review Raffle

“ I'm so grateful for the incredible resources from NACMS! Their free downloads have made planning our Lay Marianist meetings so much easier, we always know we have solid, faith-filled materials to turn to. I especially appreciate the variety of formats they offer, including podcasts and audio content, which are perfect for visual and auditory learners in our community. Whenever I needed help finding a specific book or resource, the NACMS team has been super helpful and responsive. Thank you for supporting our Marianist mission and community with such care and dedication! ”

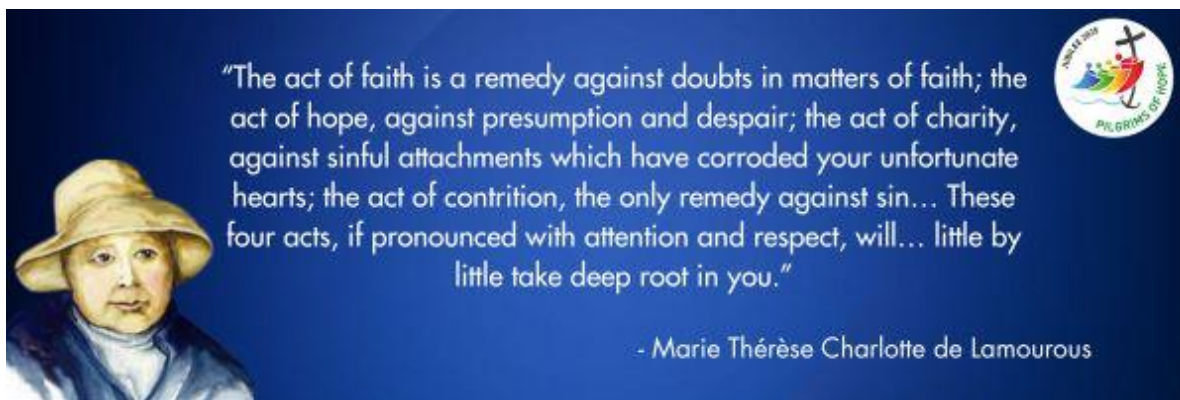


We're so grateful to everyone who submitted a Google Review for a chance to win a Chami doll and *The Marianist Family Prayer Book*! Your support is invaluable in helping us share our mission and resources.

A big congratulations to our winner, Bro. Tom Giardino, SM! You can watch the [announcement video](#) on our social media accounts.

While this drawing is over, there will be more chances to win a Chami doll in the future!

Plus, writing a Google Review always helps us increase our visibility and guides others to discover how they can benefit from our resources. [Submit your review now and help us grow!](#)



Continue to keep an eye out on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts as we share quotes on hope from prominent Marianist scholars, including the Marianist Founders, in celebration of the 2025 Jubilee.

Source: Joseph Stefanelli, SM, *Marie Thérèse de Lamourous, Firm of Hand, Loving of Heart* (Dayton: NACMS, 2001), 9.

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