

“A Spectacle of Saints” Who are the Marianist Saints



October, 2023

We are all called to be saints. Every one of us has heard, and still hears, ringing in his conscience, the command: “Climb higher”; higher, ever higher, until while we are on this earth we can reach up to grasp the heavens, until we can join our saints, whether they be the venerable saints of old or the wonderful saints of modern times, who were our own contemporaries, and in whom our Mother the Church already rejoices.

Pope John XXIII, Writing and Addresses While Patriarch of Venice



Opening Prayer: All Saints Day

O God, through your Son Jesus Christ you built your Church on the foundation of the apostles.
Keep their teaching secure among your faithful people.

You made the martyrs powerful witnesses even to the point of giving up their lives.
Help all Christians to give faithful witness to your Son.

You gave holy virgins the gift of imitating the virginity of Christ.
May those consecrated to virginity be steadfast witnesses to the coming of your kingdom.

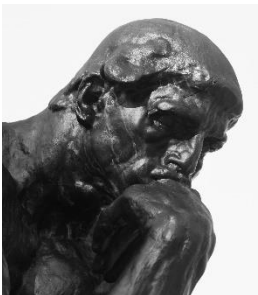
Your saints now see you face to face.
Keep alive in our hearts the hope of coming at last into your presence.

Bring all who have died into the company of heaven with Mary, Joseph and all your saints,
And give us also a place in the unending fellowship of your kingdom.

Intercessions from November 1st Evening Prayer
Christian Prayer: The Liturgy of the Hours, Large Type Edition, Page 1303

Check-in Question

Name a saint or holy person to which you feel a strong connection. Why do you feel a connection with this person? What makes them extraordinary?



Food for Thought

Sharing Our Marianist Stories, Episode 26:

“Who Are the Marianist Saints?”

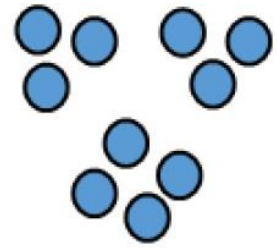
Listen to the NACMS Podcast featuring Bro. David Betz as he discusses the canonization process and the Marianist on the road to sainthood.

Podcast and transcript are available on the Episode 26 page at

<https://nacms.org/epubs/podcasts/podcast-who-are-marianist-saints-bro-david-betz-sm>

Group Discussion Questions (choose the most pertinent questions for your community)

- What was something new or interesting that you learned from this podcast? What was something about these holy people that struck you?
- Describe a time when you (or someone close to you) sacrificed something of great value for a strongly held belief.
- Who are your ordinary saints in today's world or in your life? What makes them a saint in your eyes?



Closing Prayer: A Prayer for Saints

Leader

God our Creator, we praise you for the Saints:
For Saints who have gone before us;
For Saints who are alive today;
For Saints who are in our midst;
For the sainthood in us all.

Right Side

God of Love,
We thank you for saints who have loved us.
For families through whom we were created.
The people who first loved us and taught us your love.

Left Side:

For relatives and friends who responded to our needs;
For friends and relatives who needed our love.

Right Side:

For matriarchs, patriarchs, prophets and priests;
For disciples, apostles, leaders and servants.

Left Side:

For all women and men in ministry,
For educators and healers,
For those in missionary work.
God, we approach you in faith,
We thank you for the faith of the Saints.

Right Side:

For Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Joseph;
For Hannah and Elijah, Elizabeth and John

Left Side:

Theresa of Avila, Catherine of Sienna
Francis of Assisi and Clare.
For all the women and men of the gospel.

Right Side:

God, whose forgiveness brings us hope,
We remember the Saints who experienced hope.

Left Side:

Today we remember our Marianist Founders
Who's vision of hope lives on today
Father Chaminade, Mother Adèle and Marie Thérèse.

Right Side:

God, who wants justice and peace in the world,
We honor Saints whose peaceful ways
Give us a vision of your realm.

Left Side:

We remember our Martyred Marianist Brothers
Whose lives were lost in the Spanish Civil War
Jesús Hita, Carlos Eraña and Fidel Fuidio,
Florencio Arnáiz, Sabino Ayastuy,
Miguel Léibar, and Joaquin Ochoa.

Right Side:

God of courage,
We remember those whose devotion to Christ
Give us strength when our faith is challenged.

Left Side:

Father Jakob Gapp, who never faltered in his faith
Trusted God as his ultimate director and leader
And bravely stood firm, no matter the cost.

All:

God, we are renewed by the courage of the Saints of history.
We are inspired by the Saints who walk among us today.
May your spirit move each of us to be teachers, healers, preachers,
And peacemakers in the world.
May we join with the great cloud of witnesses in faith.
Amen.

Adapted from NACMS staff for *Food for the Soul*, November 2004

For More Information – Related Resources available at NACMS.org include:

*The 91-Year Journey to the Beatification of Blessed
Father William Joseph Chaminade* by Thomas
Redmond, SM

Blessed Jakob Gapp, Marianist by Josef Levit, SM
Blesseds Carlos, Jesús, Fidel, Marianists by Emilio
Ortega, SM

*Like Jesus, He Gave His Life Protecting His
People: Brother Miguel Ángel Quiroga* by Paul
Landolfi, SM

Maybe God Will Speak to Me by Jose Maria
Salaverri, SM

Marianist Community Meeting Kits are provided
for the Marianist Family by the North American
Center for Marianist Studies, NACMS. Additional
Community Meeting Kits, as well as other
Marianist Studies resources, are available at
nacms.org