

The vision of Chaminade codified the mixed lay-cleric character of the Society [of Mary] envisaged brothers in positions of authority as directors of primary schools. The absence of a traditional religious habit and the lay-cleric mix set the Marianists apart from all other teaching congregations. The fourth vow of stability, one of filial fidelity to Mary, and the commitment to a diversified education ministry blended with these other features to compose the ... spirit animating the Society of Mary. Kauffman 109.

Marianist education is a vast international enterprise which takes many forms. From skill training and daily nourishment in the slums of Bangalore to the academics of Marianist Universities in the United States, Marianist education seeks to develop faith communities dedicated to excellence with a deep commitment to justice, peace and the integrity of creation. The form and content of this education develops and adapts according to the culture it serves and the unmet needs to which Marianist educators sensitively and competently respond. We have come a long way from the primary schools of post-revolutionary France, although the motivation which guides us and the goals we seek remain remarkably the same, "to bear in every age and place Jesus Christ, Son of God become Son of Mary." Glodek 47.

I think that Chaminade's convictions about education, formed 200 years ago in the wake of Enlightenment and Revolution, remain valid and timely for all of us. What happens in education is a key, perhaps *the* key field of struggle, for the soul of the contemporary world. Chaminade's focus on this area for our shared mission has lost none of its validity and force. Fleming 154.