

LIKE FATHER CHAMINADE, PROPHETS WITH MARY FOR A NEW WORLD

MEDITATION

Father Chaminade was aware in his era that the latter times of the Church would be “the age of Mary.” According to him, this apostolic role of Mary was a logical consequence of her spiritual maternity. He was convinced that the Blessed Virgin’s ambition would always be that all the children to whom her charity had given birth after Christ would be so united to him that with him they would all form but one Son, one same Jesus Christ (L III, 728).

He was quite aware that, in attributing to Mary a dynamic and concrete role in the future apostolate of the Marianist Family, he would as a result confirm that prophetic intuition. Thus the relationship between the prophecy of Genesis and the testament by which the dying Jesus bequeathed to us his Mother (Jn 19:26) gave to Father Chaminade another support to justify the mission of Mary in the Church. It is that mission of the Virgin that he was thinking of when he declared to Father Lalanne at the moment of founding the Society of Mary: **“let us, my dear son, in our humility, be the heel of the woman.”** That Truth we celebrate every 8th of December (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception). We celebrate the Woman par excellence, the true Eve and the true Mother of all the living. Let us listen to the prophecy of Genesis that we find in v. 3:15: **“I will place enmity between you and the woman, between her offspring and yours; he shall strike your head and you shall strike his heel.”** The offspring of which there is question here is Christ, Head of the Mystical Body of which Mary is the Mother. Missionaries of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we Marianists should not be surprised if, as for Christ himself, obstacles arise. That is the witness that our martyred Marianist brothers and sisters give us, those who have gone before us into the Kingdom of the Father. Certainly, there are many martyrs who have shed their blood for love of Christ and Mary, but the celebration of the Immaculate Conception recalls to us also the victory obtained with the Virgin Mary. If the Church of Jesus Christ experiences persecution, will we be spared, we who have wanted to come together for the purpose of aiding the Blessed Virgin in her mission? Are not we, who pronounce ourselves Children of Mary and who wish to do good, are not we reinforced by the strength given us by the prophecy pronounced against the serpent?

Father Chaminade recalls to us that we are living in the hour of Mary and that she needs apostles who will help her in her struggle against every form of evil. In the mission which the Virgin has confided to us, let us assure our success by putting ourselves under her direction and then letting her form us into Jesus, her First-born Son.

Still today, Father Chaminade invites us to become other Christs. He wants us to be “Christified.” Conformity with Christ is the ultimate end towards which we must strive. In the midst of this world disfigured by all kinds of sins or by natural catastrophes in the face of which the human person is powerless, let us keep in mind that faith unites and configures us to Christ. That resemblance can be deepened in us, even permeating our entire personality.

On the occasion of this anniversary year of Father Chaminade, let us ask his intercession that the Lord might help us to become true apostles of Mary so as to help her in her mission.

PRAYER

- 1) I put myself into the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and then of Mary, who is present by grace with them.
- 2) I reread one of the readings of the Mass of December 8:
 - Genesis 3:9-15,20
 - Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
 - Luke 1:26-38

I meditate upon these readings with Mary. In the light of the text I contemplate her vocation and her mission. I ask God to make me see Mary as he sees her: the “All Holy One,” she who gives honor to his creation and to the entire human race; victorious over evil.

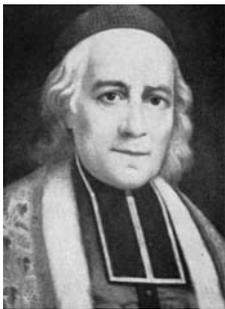
I contemplate the image of Mary crushing the head of the serpent.

If I am praying with others, after a time of silent prayer, we can share the fruit of our prayer.

3) Prayer to the Virgin Mary

- A decade of the Rosary (with shared intentions)
Or
- A Marian litany

4) Prayer to Blessed William Joseph Chaminade:



Blessed Father William Joseph Chaminade, teach us:

- *To imitate your faith in Jesus Christ, convinced that he is the savior and liberator of our world in spite of the injustices, the thirst for power, the unbridled seeking of material things, the pull towards personal pleasure.*
- ***To be in contact with the reality of today's world and not to live in indifference, in the clouds...***
- *To know that we have received a treasure in our faith and that we must share it with others*
 - ***To be aware that, as baptized persons, we have been called and sent without any merit on our part but by the love of Christ himself***
- *To imitate his courage and to overcome the fear of presenting ourselves as Christians and as Marianists*
- ***To affirm our identity as disciples of Jesus and children of Mary***
- *To draw inspiration from your missionary creativity and to create occasions or profit from those that present themselves to us for carrying everywhere the message of the Gospel*
- ***To feel ourselves as vital members of a Church whose unique mission is to evangelize***
- *To know how to offer generously our person and our time for the mission of the Church*
- ***To be present in the places where there is most need for developing faith and justice***
- *... (personal intentions)*

Final prayer

Lord, you prepared for your Son a dwelling worthy of him through the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary; since you preserved her from all sin through a grace already derived from the death of your Son, grant that we ourselves, through the intercession of that most pure Mother, might also come to you, purified of all evil.

Done at Voka, May 24, 2010
Brother Marcel Rozalia Losembe, sm



IL CARAVAGGIO – Madonna Palafrenieri (Madonna with the serpent) – 1606, Galleria Borghese, Rome