

THE YEAR OF FATHER WILLIAM JOSEPH CHAMINADE (2011-2012)

6/2011 THE MONTH OF JUNE

In Charge: MLC Latin America

Theme: "WJ Chaminade, Missionary in a New World"

SPECIFIC DATES OF THE MONTH JUNE 2 "THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD"
JUNE 12 "PENTECOST"

FIRST DAY

READING:

Father Chaminade, Master of Prayer

The Founder stresses the importance of conformity with Jesus. To acquire and develop it, we have to pray: Because of his/her special vocation, the Marianist sets out upon and arrives at the end of this path.

"UNDER THE INSPIRATION AND ACTIVITY OF MARY." With her s/he contemplates the mysteries of Christ and, like her, shares in those mysteries.

Father Chaminade was a spiritual master: first of all because he was attentive to the action of the Spirit within himself and in others; and secondly because he knew how to awaken a taste for life in the Spirit, and to be alert, in prayer, to the transforming work of the Spirit within us. Coming out of his own personal experience, he did everything possible to form prayerful Marianists. He presented the spiritual life as a pathway of prayer. When he spoke or wrote about prayer, he did it in such a way that it remained well integrated into spirituality as a whole.

In our spirituality, prayer has a special importance. In turn, prayer is marked by the principal features of this Marianist path. Those features allow the Marianist to live and to nourish faith and charity as an expression of prayer. Perhaps this is one of the best ways that the Marianist Family has for participating actively in the new evangelization.

TWO IMPORTANT ICONS OF THE UNIVERSAL LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THIS MONTH OF JUNE

June 2, 2011: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Luke 24:46-51

⁴⁶ And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day ⁴⁷ and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And (behold) I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." ⁵⁰ Then he led them (out) as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. ⁵¹ As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven."

REFLECTION

Jesus expects his Church to play this role: to preach in his Name to all the nations, inviting them to conversion. Christian conversion is not just any change of lifestyle. It has to do with a change within the person at the deepest levels of the self, in discovering the immense love of God. Here is where our renewal begins. But it is not just a question of the individual renouncing his/her evil actions. A person's conversion makes little progress as long as no attention is given to all the forces, barriers, customs and laws that

make one irresponsible and violent, whether or not one is oneself an accomplice in this situation through selfishness and, above all, through cowardice. Therefore preaching to the nations also means education of the nations and even of international society. This is not an affair merely of a decade or of a century.

You are witnesses of all this. Jesus names his apostles as the official witnesses of his Gospel and those who will make decisions about the authentic faith.

Remaining in the city. The apostles are not the ones who plan the missionary work. It is more fitting to dedicate themselves to strengthening fraternal life together and the fervor of the community of the disciples, awaiting the hour that the Father has chosen to confer upon them the strength that comes from above.

I am going to send them where my Father promised. Jesus could not have asserted more strongly his own divine authority and the unity of the three divine persons.

June 12, 2011: PENTECOST

Jn 20:19-23

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ (Jesus) said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. ²³ Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

REFLECTION

The Holy Spirit made Mary fruitful and makes us fruitful. The practice of faith and prayer are directed towards discovering his presence and his action in the Church and in the world today. Through the work of the Holy Spirit we do good and avoid evil; in other words, we transform ourselves into a gift for others. This Spirit is the spirit with which Jesus was anointed, moved and sent; it is the spirit that Jesus left to us and which animates the Church. All evangelization requires, in the first place, that we stop and listen to what the Spirit is saying to the individual Churches. Reading "in the Spirit" the signs of the times allows us to give a gospel response to the needs of the men and women of today, and to the many emerging social issues. Attentive listening to the Spirit and the availability of his gifts renew in us the knowledge and practice of God's saving will. It is, therefore, a source of pastoral conversion for responding with creativity to the demands of evangelization today. A Church open to the Spirit is a Church attentive to the initiatives of the God who has first loved us and has chosen us to be missionary disciples. Father Chaminade so understood it, and therefore his principal insistence to the first communities and to us today is: "You are all missionaries." For the Spirit of God is embedded in our Movement and it performs its mission with joy, hope and gratitude, even in the midst of trials and tribulations.

Every disciple is a missionary, "so that Jesus makes him a participant in his mission, while at the same time he binds him to himself as friend and brother." The mission or proclamation of Jesus and of the Kingdom involves making clear the "attractive offer of a better life in Christ, for every man and every woman." This proclamation is kerygmatic when it springs from the certitude that faith gives and from the overflowing of gratitude and joy for having encountered the Lord. We cannot keep "from speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20) as witnesses and protagonists of new life, in all its dimensions, for individuals and society. The mission is to spread and share this saving experience from person to person, from house to house, from community to community, and from the Church to all of society. We must go out into the streets, like Jesus and with Jesus, to walk beside so many pilgrims who, like those of Emmaus, feel the need to deepen the meaning of their existence, to recover hope, to share the table and to receive a food that gives life.

THE HOUR OF THE CENACLE
(For every day): THE NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

“MARY AND THE DISCIPLES, THE FIRST COMMUNITY OF JERUSALEM”

Under this slogan we have met with immense joy to implore a new irruption of the Holy Spirit. We do so under the protective mantle of Mary and putting into the presence of the Lord our most human needs. We also invoke the spirit of our Founder, Blessed Father William Joseph Chaminade, in the year commemorating 250 years since his birth. We come with yearning hearts, bearing our personal and communitarian efforts, our prayer and sacrifice, that will make our Mother shower us in this encounter with the abundance of graces that spring from the Cenacle and which will renew our love and our commitment as lay and vowed Marianists.

A) OPENING PRAYER FOR EVERY DAY:

LORD, at this moment of our lives,
we wish to live a new Pentecost,
united with Mary, our mother.
We believe that, in concert with Her,
allowing ourselves to be placed by the same Spirit that made her fruitful,
our lives also will be made fruitful,
and we shall engender life wherever we are sent.
O Spirit who art water,
purify us and make our lives fruitful,
O Spirit who art fire, revitalize our missionary ardor.
O Spirit who art wind, fill us with dynamism
and lift us up to where we cannot even imagine.
O Spirit who art oil,
Anoint us so that we might proclaim
freedom to the poor and afflicted.
Holy Spirit, make us be born anew,
raising up a new Marianist Pentecost,
impelling us to the mission,
as did our Founder,
Blessed William Joseph Chaminade. Amen.

Hymn (specific for each locality)

. Our Lady of the Pillar, give us strength in faith, security in hope and constancy in love

FROM THE 2ND TO THE 8TH DAY

B) Invocation of the Holy Spirit (proper for each day)

2nd day: Let us implore the Holy Spirit that he be the center of our mission as members of the Church, that we might learn to live in community and to be missionary disciples of the Lord and at Mary's orders.

3rd day: Lord, may we have a simple heart, ready to receive and to be enriched by the contribution of each of our brothers and sisters. We want to live this Marianist charism, but without your Spirit our work remains sterile. Send us, O Lord, your Spirit that he may renew the face of the earth.

4th day: Lord, this encounter with you is a symbol and an invitation to let ourselves be seduced by the love that springs up between creator and creature, between God and his People and between Jesus Christ and each one of us. Our response is in the faith we have in the legacy of our Founder, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, who was astonished at receiving your Spirit. Grant also to us the grace to receive him.

5th day: Lord, we pray to the Spirit of love in whom the Father and the Son communicate and give themselves to each other, to him who encouraged the judges, anointed the kings and made the prophets to speak; the wisdom that shone forth in the sages and shone even more brightly in the simple and the poor to whom God revealed himself.

6th day: Lord, with the “faith of the heart” we beg that the Spirit of God, who inspired the disciples at Pentecost, might be our interior strength and fire. He is the love sent from the Father and the Son, who gives himself in the form of graces or charisms and who gives impulse to our lives centered in You and sends us on mission.

7th day: The Church has called the Holy Spirit “the great unknown,” but nevertheless has continuously received and felt his action in history. He is always, whether we know and invoke him or not, energy for the world, guest of the soul, relief from work, penetrating light, consoling joy, fire that opens the way forward, breath of God. Send to us, O Lord, this great unknown that he might renew our hearts.

8th day: Lord, send us your Spirit, for there are not many places for faith. Witnesses of faith are lacking. And the educators in faith that are needed must not be only transmitters of knowledge, but, above all, of life. We want to recover and to build up faith in Jesus and in the Gospel.

C) Short Hymn to the Holy Spirit

All: COME, HOLY SPIRIT!!
With Mary the mother of Jesus
we ask you for this,
come down to meet us.

(One candle is lit)

One voice: COME, HOLY SPIRIT!!
All: COME, HOLY SPIRIT!!
Enkindle in our hearts
the fire of a new Pentecost,
make manifest your power in our Movement,
for its mission is holy and our shoulders weak.

One voice: COME, HOLY SPIRIT!!

Short hymn of invocation

All: COME, HOLY SPIRIT!!

D) Individual invocations for each day

2nd day:

Enliven our love with the gift of your warm *PIETY*.
Inflame us with the fire of your love, with the fire of Jesus Christ.
Immerse us in our Church, in our Movement,
the sources of our origin.

One voice: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

All: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

We beg you, strengthen our communities with the spirit of the disciples,
with the spirit of Jesus Christ, with the spirit of Mary,
to love with them and like them. Even to the cross.

3^d day:

Enlighten our intellects with the gift of your divine *KNOWLEDGE*,
so that we might know how to go our way watching for the signs of the times,
and so that, in filial dialogue with the God of history,
we might bring to birth in union with our Church the cultures of the third millennium.

One voice: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

All: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

We beg you, Lord, give us the strength of your Spirit to make your Word alive through
the witness of our lives, and may the littlest ones be the preferred in our works.

4th day:

Enlighten our faith with the gift of your *UNDERSTANDING*, so that we might grasp
the mystery that our Mother, the Virgin Mary, sealed in the Cenacle with the apostles
and the first Christians. To understand that being a missionary disciple is not merely
a human work, but that it is from the Holy Spirit.

One voice: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

All: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

We beg you, Lord, send us your Spirit, whom Jesus promised to the Samaritan
woman, who gushes forth like a spring within the person. Who continues to
enlighten, to open up to truth, and to create a new world. Who filled Mary with grace.

5th day:

Grant us your holy *WISDOM*,
that in fidelity to the responsibility of our bishops and pastors,
we might know how to transform the Continental Mission
into a path of life for the Church and for the world.

One voice: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

All: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

We beg you, Lord, send your Spirit, because without him you are far away, Christ
remains in the past and the Gospel is a dead letter. But in the Spirit the Gospel is a
life-giving force, the Church is a trinitarian communion and human activity is divinized.

6th day:

With your gift of *COUNSEL* enlighten our lives.
We are your missionary disciples.
May your counsel be the source of our life,
to renew us and bring us to a personal encounter with the Lord.
And so to incarnate the spirituality of communion,
lifting up to Jesus Christ the hearts of our brothers and sisters.

One voice: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

All: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

We pray to you, O Lord, for our Marianist Family, fruit of a charism of the Spirit, which
was born into the midst of a society and a Church that had suffered a tremendous
spiritual crisis and a great trial of faith and charity.

7th day:

With your divine life and love, embrace our hearts with the **FEAR** of his name, that knowing how to expiate the violence engendered by hatred, and with hope and courage we might proclaim the redemption and the resurrection of those who fear the Lord.

One voice: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

All: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

We implore you, O Lord, that as we grow in the spirit of faith, we might become restless in encountering criteria and lifestyles that are contrary to the Gospel, so that we might penetrate ourselves with the spirit of Christ, make our own his ways of thinking, feeling and acting. We want to commit our lives to Jesus.

8th day:

Penetrate our hearts with the gift of your **FORTITUDE**, with that fortitude of Mary. She is our perfect Mother, disciple and teacher of evangelization, but our shoulders are weak.

We are missionary disciples with a new fervor, which strives to raise up our Movement and our Church to a new Pentecost.

One voice: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

All: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

We beg you, O Lord, give strength to our Communities with the spirit of the disciples, with the spirit of Jesus Christ, with the spirit of Mary.

That we might love with them and like them.

E)

One voice: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

All: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

In silence, only the Candle remains as a sign of the requested gifts.

With music in the background, we pray for our needs and those of our brothers and sisters, we recite a decade of the Holy Rosary and we end with the Our Father.

- Final hymn (specific to each locality)

MAY THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT BE GLORIFIED IN ALL PLACES THROUGH THE IMMACULATE VIRGIN MARY. AMEN.

NINTH DAY

A) OPENING PRAYER LIKE ALL THE OTHER DAYS (p. 4)

LORD, at this moment of our lives,

.....

B) *Invocation of the Holy Spirit*

Once more we invoke your spirit, O Lord, as we assemble like your first disciples. We are here, with the longing and the joy that the certainty of your resurrection gives us. We beg of your infinite mercy that you might send us your seven gifts with the strength we need to be truly your missionary disciples.

Send us your sevenfold gifts.

The spirit of Piety.

The spirit of Knowledge.

The spirit of Understanding,

The spirit of Wisdom,

The spirit of Counsel,

The spirit of Fear of God,

The spirit of Fortitude.

(The seven Candles are lit)

C) Short hymn to the Holy Spirit

All: COME HOLY SPIRIT!!
With Mary the mother of Jesus
we pray
come down upon our gathering.

(One Candle is lit)

One voice: COME HOLY SPIRIT!!

All: COME HOLY SPIRIT!!

Short hymn of invocation

All: COME HOLY SPIRIT!!

D)

We beg you, O Lord, that your seven gifts infuse in us the burning fire of charity and filial commitment to our weakest and poorest brothers and sisters, and reaffirm in us the covenant we have made with Mary our Mother. May she who appears in this image of the Pillar, standing on the solid rock of faith, show us her Son, and just as she supported Him in his first steps, may she guide us also into the profound knowledge of Jesus Christ, O Holy Spirit, giver of life and our defender.

E) One voice: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

All: COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

COME DOWN, O HOLY SPIRIT!!

**In silence, only the seven Candles of the gifts remain burning,
the Blessed Sacrament is adored for a moment,
we pray to the Father with the Lord's Prayer.**

The Priest gives us the blessing.

Final hymn to the Holy Spirit.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Encarnar la Palabra (E. Aguilera, J.M. Arnaiz)

Orientaciones Pastorales 2008-2012 Conf. Episcopal. (Published).