



World Council of the Marianist Family Consejo Mundial de la Familia Marianista World Council of the Marianist Family

PRAYER AND NOVENA OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF BLESSED WILLIAM JOSEPH CHAMINADE, SEPTEMBER 3, 2000

Wednesday, September 3, 2025 THANKSGIVING FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FATHER CHAMINADE

Graces to be requested:

Holiness and fidelity to our mission; vocations for the Marianist Family

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In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Let us give thanks to God for the gift of the beatification of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade 25 years ago and let us all entrust ourselves to the intercession of our Founder.

Blessed William Joseph tells us:

"... [our] main spirit ... is to present to the world the spectacle of a people of saints, and to prove by the fact that today, as in the primitive Church, the Gospel can be practiced in all the rigor of spirit and letter."

Letter II-388 to PB Noailles, February 15, 1826

(Brief silence)

HOMILY OF THE HOLY FATHER JOHN PAUL II

Sunday, September 3, 2000

Holiness ... is a deep and overwhelming relationship with God, built and lived in the daily commitment to adhere to his will. Holiness lives in history and no saint escapes the limits and conditioning proper to our humanity. In beatifying one of her sons, the Church is not celebrating the particular historical choices he has made, but rather pointing to him as to be imitated and venerated for his virtues, as a praise to the divine grace that shines forth in them.

5. The beatification, during the Jubilee Year, of William Joseph Chaminade, Founder of the Marianists, reminds the faithful that it is up to them to constantly invent new ways of being witnesses to the faith, especially to reach out to those who are far from the Church and who do not have the usual means of knowing Christ. William Joseph Chaminade invites every Christian to be rooted in his Baptism, which conforms him to the Lord Jesus and communicates the Holy Spirit to him.

Father Chaminade's love for Christ, which was part of the spirituality of the French School, pushed him to tirelessly pursue his work by founding spiritual families, in a troubled period in the religious history of France. His filial attachment to Mary kept him at peace in every circumstance, helping him to do the will of Christ. His concern for human, moral and religious education is for the whole Church a call to renewed attention to young people, who need both educators and witnesses to turn to the Lord and to take their part in the Church's mission.

7. We ask with confidence of the new Blessed... William Joseph Chaminade ... to help us to live ever more in conformity with the Spirit of Christ. May [his] love for God and for [his] brothers be a light for our steps...!

(silence)

Prayer to ask for the canonization of Father Chaminade

[Before prayer, intentions entrusted to the intercession of Blessed Fr. Chaminade may be expressed]

O Lord, you are constantly at work in your Church and, through individuals and communities, you manifest your Spirit for the good of your people.

In a special way, you bestowed your Spirit on your servant, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, so that he might live fully according to the Gospel and, with love, devote himself to your saving work.

You have inspired communities of men and women to follow his example by consecrating themselves to you to serve the Church under the leadership of Mary.

We now pray to you to give us visible signs of your grace and holiness in his life by granting us the special favors we ask through his intercession.

May the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.

Our Father,
Hail Mary (3x),
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, ...
Blessed William Joseph, *pray for us!*
Our Lady of the Pillar, *pray for us!*



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NOVENA OF THANKSGIVING TO GOD FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF BLESSED WILLIAM JOSEPH CHAMINADE, SEPTEMBER 3, 2000 (October 4-12, 2025)

Saturday, October 4, 2025 (Day 1)

NOVENA OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FATHER CHAMINADE, WITNESS OF HOLINESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Let us give thanks to God for the gift of the beatification of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade 25 years ago, and let us all entrust ourselves to the intercession of our Founder:

Blessed William Joseph, we give thanks for your witness of holiness and your fidelity to God's calls throughout your life. Support us on this same path.

Blessed William Joseph tells us:

"The Christian perfection that [we propose] consists essentially in the most exact possible conformity with Jesus Christ, God made man to serve as a model for men." (SM Constitutions of 1839, Article 4, *The Chaminade Legacy* VII.28).

"When a soul wants only Jesus Christ, what to think, what to seek, what to love, what to desire from Jesus Christ, to live only from Jesus Christ and for Jesus Christ, it sacrifices everything for Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is everything to it and it is all his. It rejoices only in Jesus Christ, it speaks, thinks, and acts only for Jesus Christ. It makes Jesus Christ reign in it when it retraces the very virtues of Jesus Christ through the constant practice of all the virtues."

(Retreat of 1824, 18th instruction, *The Chaminade Legacy* VI.26. [73])

(brief silence)

Intention:

Let us pray for those for whom or with whom we work or live; let us pray especially for those who do not share our faith. May we know how to bear witness to the living presence of Christ in our midst in order to grow in them the desire to know him, to love him and to serve him.

Prayer to ask for the canonization of Father Chaminade

[Before prayer, intentions entrusted to the intercession of Blessed Fr. Chaminade may be expressed]

O Lord, you are constantly at work in your Church and, through individuals and communities, you manifest your Spirit for the good of your people.

In a special way, you bestowed your Spirit on your servant, Blessed William Joseph Chaminade, so that he might live fully according to the Gospel and, with love, devote himself to your saving work.

You have inspired communities of men and women to follow his example by consecrating themselves to you to serve the Church under the leadership of Mary.

We now pray to you to give us visible signs of your grace and holiness in his life by granting us the special favors we ask through his intercession.

May the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit be glorified in all places through the Immaculate Virgin Mary. Amen.

Our Father,
Hail Mary (3x),
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, ...
Blessed William-Joseph, *pray for us!*
Our Lady of the Pillar, *pray for us!*

Sunday, October 5, 2025 (Day 2)
NOVENA OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FATHER CHAMINADE,
A MAN OF FAITH.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Let us give thanks to God for the gift of the beatification of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade 25 years ago, and let us all entrust ourselves to the intercession of our Founder:

Blessed William Joseph, we give thanks for your teaching on the faith transmitted by your writings and by your life. May we too be men and women of faith.

Blessed William Joseph tells us:

You will provide a remedy to all your troubles, my dear son:

1. If faith, which has been solidly established in your mind since your high studies, passes completely into your heart. *Corde creditur ad justitiam*. We must love what we believe. We have all-powerful motives for credibility—to submit our reason to faith, all we need is, so to say, to be reasonable. This submission is already a great gift of God; but it does no more than precede the submission of the heart, and the heart becomes submissive only when it loves. At least, this is the way I see the thing, and it would seem to me very dangerous not to see it so, in actual practice. Faith, and especially this faith of the heart, is a great gift of God. It is for this reason that we always need to say: *Domine, adauge nobis fidem!* God, so to say, easily grants this grace, when we devote ourselves to works of faith. *Iustus ex fide vivit*. Oh, my dear son, what happiness for us if for the rest of our lives we can walk along the beautiful paths of faith, act only by faith, and live only by faith! The faith which would not enlighten our mind would not give us the life of justice, which is a divine life.

2. It is the same with humility as with faith. It is humility of heart which the Lord demands of us. *Discite a me, quia mitis sum et humilis corde*. I look upon humility as one of the first fruits of humility of heart.

(Letter 661, 1833)

(brief silence)

Intention:

Let us pray that we may be open to accept God's great gift, faith. Let us pray that we may be humble of heart. Let us pray that love may be “our root and our foundation”. May our faith be strengthened and constantly renewed, inspired by the devotion of Father Chaminade.

Prayer to ask for the canonization of Father Chaminade

[Before prayer, intentions entrusted to the intercession of Blessed Fr. Chaminade may be expressed]

O Lord, you are constantly at work in your Church and, ...

[see on the 1st day: Saturday, October 4]

Our Father, ...

Hail Mary (3x),

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, ...

Blessed William Joseph, *pray for us!*

Our Lady of the Pillar, *pray for us!*

Monday, October 6, 2025 (Day 3)
NOVENA OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FATHER CHAMINADE,
MAN OF PRAYER.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Let us give thanks to God for the gift of the beatification of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade 25 years ago, and let us all entrust ourselves to the intercession of our Founder:

Blessed William Joseph, we give thanks for your life of prayer. By
your example and teaching, always sustain our prayer.

Blessed William Joseph tells us:

“The Christian is by vocation, by duty, by self-interest, by gratitude and by taste, a man of prayer” (*The Spirit of our Foundation*, I, 350).

“Interior life is a continual mental prayer” (*The Spirit of our Foundation*, I, 256)

“The great advantage which we derive from mental prayer does not proceed from our facility to think, to consider, to feel, in one word, to occupy ourselves; but from being before God and with God. We must believe that God works in us, through insensibility” (*The Spirit of our Foundation*, I, 274)

(brief silence)

Intention:

“Let us pray that every member of the Marianist family, whatever their state of life or vocation, will take to heart the development and cultivation of their interior life. May the Virgin Mary be our model of prayer and meditation. Let us pray for peace: peace in hearts, societies and nations.”

Prayer to ask for the canonization of Father Chaminade

*[Before prayer, intentions entrusted to the intercession of Blessed Fr.
Chaminade may be expressed]*

O Lord, you are constantly at work in your Church and, ...

[see on the 1st day: Saturday, October 4]

Our Father,
Hail Mary (3x),
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, ...
Blessed William Joseph, *pray for us!*
Our Lady of the Pillar, *pray for us!*

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 (Day 4)
NOVENA OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FATHER CHAMINADE,
SON OF MARY.

(Our Lady of the Rosary)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Let us give thanks to God for the gift of the beatification of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade 25 years ago, and let us all entrust ourselves to the intercession of our Founder:

Blessed William Joseph, we give thanks for Mary's action in your life and because she has called us to her service. Strengthen our consecration to her.

Blessed W.-Joseph tells us:

"Let us then take it as certain that the Savior of the world, when giving us the most Blessed Virgin for our Mother and naming us as her children, gave us the promise of her powerful protection if we remain faithful to her cult."

("Presentation to the Fathers of Families; *The Chaminade Legacy*, I, 57 [6])

"A child of Mary should invoke the help of this loving and powerful Mother in all spiritual and temporal needs, in any danger to soul or body, and especially when about to make a decision on a state of life."

("Manual of the Servant of Mary", 1804; *The Chaminade Legacy*, I, 34 [6])

"We are, in a special manner, the auxiliaries and instruments of the Blessed Virgin in the great work of moral reform, of support and spread of the faith, and, by that fact, of the sanctification of our neighbor."

(Letters V, 1163, August 24, 1839)

(brief silence)

Intention:

"Let us pray that our Marianist family will make known to our contemporaries the ever-present mission of Mary our Mother, her spiritual maternity, so well highlighted by Father Chaminade.

Through our missionary, educational and apostolic commitments, let us be Mary's auxiliaries in her mission."

Prayer to ask for the canonization of Father Chaminade

[Before prayer, intentions entrusted to the intercession of Blessed Fr. Chaminade may be expressed]

O Lord, you are constantly at work in your Church and, ...

[see on the 1st day: Saturday, October 4]

Our Father,
Hail Mary (3x),
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, ...
Blessed William Joseph, *pray for us!*
Our Lady of the Pillar, *pray for us!*

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 (Day 5)
NOVENA OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FATHER CHAMINADE,
COMMUNITY BUILDER.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Let us give thanks to God for the gift of the beatification of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade 25 years ago, and let us all entrust ourselves to the intercession of our Founder:

Blessed William Joseph, we give thanks for your invitation to form missionary communities, in which the Gospel can be lived to the full, today as in the past, and shared with joy. We entrust you with all our present and future communities.

Blessed William Joseph tells us:

“Enter into a congregation”; *congregamini, congregamini*. Let the sparks which were dispersed with so much malice come together and coalesce, and the fire of charity will burn anew with all its strength. This is the only fire which does not destroy, and whose excess is a greater good in proportion as it spreads.
(*The Chaminade Legacy* Vol.1, 57 [4] Presentation to the fathers of families)

“To erect a powerful dam to withhold the torrent of evil, Heaven has inspired me to solicit from the Holy See at the beginning of this century the letters patent, giving me the title of Missionary Apostolic in order to revive or to rekindle everywhere the divine torch of faith, while presenting to the astonished world on all sides, imposing masses of Catholic Christians of every age, gender, and condition who, reunited in special associations, practice our holy religion with neither vanity nor human respect, in all the purity of its dogmas and morals (...) I have believed before God, Most Holy Father, that it was necessary to found two new Orders, the one of virgins and the other of young men, who would provide to the world by the fact of their good example that Christianity is not an outmoded institution. They would show that the Gospel is as practicable today as it was 1800 years ago”.
(Letter 1076, to Pope Gregory XVI, September 16, 1838)

(*brief silence*)

Intention:

"Let us pray for all Marianist communities, both lay and religious, spread throughout the world, that they may be true spaces of fraternal encounter and shared mission. May they, gathered in the name of Christ and under Mary's gaze, rekindle faith and bear witness to the Gospel in their surroundings, becoming a leaven of communion and hope wherever we are."

Prayer to ask for the canonization of Father Chaminade

[Before prayer, intentions entrusted to the intercession of Blessed Fr. Chaminade may be expressed]

O Lord, you are constantly at work in your Church and, ...

[see on the 1st day: Saturday, October 4]

Our Father,
Hail Mary (3x),
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, ...
Blessed William Joseph, *pray for us!*
Our Lady of the Pillar, *pray for us!*

Thursday, October 9, 2025 (Day 6)
NOVENA OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FATHER CHAMINADE,
FOUNDER OF A SPIRITUAL FAMILY.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Let us give thanks to God for the gift of the beatification of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade 25 years ago, and let us all entrust ourselves to the intercession of our Founder:

Holy Spirit, we thank you for having inspired Blessed William Joseph to found a missionary family dedicated to Mary. Through his intercession, give strength to each of our branches and strengthen our union and our common missionary zeal.

Blessed William Joseph tells us:

"Members of one same family, you must all love one another as brothers, having but one heart and one soul. Union is strength: this truth, understood even by the

ancients, finds its full realization only in Christianity, for it is in Jesus Christ alone that we find our strength and our life. Yes, my dear children in Jesus, through His Most Holy Mother, union is strength. Let us all grow in faith and in the spirit of our divine mission"

(Circular for the New Year. William Joseph Chaminade, January 11, 1840)

(brief silence)

Intention:

"Let us pray for each member of the various branches of the Marianist Family and for all those who feel called to join it. Let us especially pray for those who have yet to discover the richness of living as brothers and sisters in one shared mission. May, by witnessing our unity and our zeal to proclaim Christ, the desire arise in them to participate in this spiritual family and to dedicate themselves to the service of the Gospel."

Prayer to ask for the canonization of Father Chaminade

[Before prayer, intentions entrusted to the intercession of Blessed Fr. Chaminade may be expressed]

O Lord, you are constantly at work in your Church and, ...

[see on the 1st day: Saturday, October 4]

Our Father,
Hail Mary (3x),
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, ...
Blessed William-Joseph, *pray for us!*
Our Lady of the Pillar, *pray for us!*

Friday, October 10, 2025 (Day 7)
NOVENA OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FATHER CHAMINADE,
APOSTLE OF THE LAITY AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Let us give thanks to God for the gift of the beatification of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade 25 years ago, and let us all entrust ourselves to the intercession of our Founder:

Blessed William Joseph, we give thanks for having reminded us of our vocation as baptized people by giving a privileged place to the laity and to the young. Intercede for them so that they may live fully today their baptismal vocation in the Church and in the world.

Blessed William Joseph tells us:

To erect a powerful dam to withhold the torrent of evil, Heaven has inspired me to solicit from the Holy See at the beginning of this century the letters patent, giving me the title of Missionary Apostolic so as to revive or to rekindle everywhere the divine torch of faith, while presenting to the astonished world on all sides, imposing masses of Catholic Christians of every age, sex, and condition, who, reunited in special associations, practice our holy religion with neither vanity nor human respect, in all the purity of its dogmas and morals.

(Letter 1076, 1838, to Pope Gregory XVI)

(brief silence)

Intention:

"Let us pray that the laity of the Marianist Family may be faithful to their vocation and, with missionary impetus, to the mission entrusted to them to make God's Love present in the world. Let us pray that they may find in the figure of Father Chaminade a model of faith and social commitment."

Prayer to ask for the canonization of Father Chaminade

[Before prayer, intentions entrusted to the intercession of Blessed Fr. Chaminade may be expressed]

O Lord, you are constantly at work in your Church and, ...

[see on the 1st day: Saturday, October 4]

Saturday, October 11, 2025 (Day 8)
NOVENA OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FATHER CHAMINADE,
A MISSIONARY FULL OF HOPE.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Let us give thanks to God for the gift of the beatification of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade 25 years ago, and let us all entrust ourselves to the intercession of our Founder:

Blessed William Joseph, we give thanks for your tireless missionary zeal in response to the calls of God and Mary and to the needs of your time. Intercede for us so that we may be the ardent and persevering missionaries that the Church and the world need today.

Blessed William Joseph tells us:

"I have no intention, my dear son, of humiliating either you or your collaborators, but to awaken you all from the kind of stupor into which you seem to have fallen and to recall to you what you all are ... You are real missionaries. ... to introduce everywhere, ... the spirit of faith and of religion and to multiply Christians. "

(Letter 725, February 7, 1834)

(brief silence)

Intention:

For the mission of evangelization: May we continue to take the message of the Gospel to every corner of the world, with the same fervor and dedication that Father Chaminade showed.

Prayer to ask for the canonization of Father Chaminade

[Before prayer, intentions entrusted to the intercession of Blessed Fr. Chaminade may be expressed]

O Lord, you are constantly at work in your Church and, ...

[see on the 1st day: Saturday, October 4]

Our Father,
Hail Mary (3x),
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, ...
Blessed William Joseph, *pray for us!*
Our Lady of the Pillar, *pray for us!*

Sunday, October 12, 2025 (Day 9)
NOVENA OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FATHER CHAMINADE,
FOUNDER OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY.
(28th Sunday of Year C; Our Lady of the Pillar)

(Marianist World Day of Prayer, in spiritual union with the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore and the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality).

[FOR THIS DAY, THE MEDITATION IS THE ONE PLANNED FOR THE MARIANIST WORLD DAY OF PRAYER. IT WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE MARIANIST FAMILY MORE THAN A MONTH BEFORE ITS CELEBRATION]
