



Marianist Moments

Feast of Mary, Queen of Apostles, September 5

First Profession of Vows in 1818

~ Meeting aid ~



Introduction

On September 5, we celebrate the feast of Mary, Queen of Apostles. Blessed Chaminade considered the retreat of 1818 as "foundational." The last day of the retreat was September 5, the feast of Mary, Queen of Apostles. At the end of that retreat, seven men made their first public profession of vows in the new Institute of Mary, known today as the Society of Mary.

Prayer

Adapted from the Mass of Mary, Queen of Apostles

† Eternal God, you chose the Mother of your beloved Son to be the Queen of Apostles. You who gave your Holy Spirit to your Apostles as they joined in prayer with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, grant through her intercession that we may faithfully serve your kingdom with peace, mercy, and justice. May Mary, who helped the apostles, grant us her maternal aid and intercession. We pray for your peace in the world today. We make this prayer through Jesus your Son. Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 19: 25-27, RSVCE

So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Mag'dalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Silent Introspection

Father Chaminade's Marian Vision, marianist.com

Contemplate the following text from Pope Benedict XV, on the occasion of the first centenary of the Society of Mary, 1917, which he wrote to Rev. Fr. Hiss, the fifth Superior General of the Society, in the form of a commendation letter on Fr. Chaminade's views on the Marian apostolate:

It is not without divine guidance that the Reverend Chaminade went into exile to Saragossa. There, visiting the shrine of our august Sovereign, he understood the plan of divine mercy to lead his country back to Jesus through Mary. Sensing, without a shadow of doubt, that an important role had been reserved for him in this apostolate, he prepared himself for that mission by meditation and prayer at the feet of the august image. It is, in fact, not an empty praise that we give to Mary by this title of Queen of Apostles. Just as she helped the apostles, educators of the nascent church, by her support and counsels, so we must also affirm that she assists at all times the heirs of the apostolic office who seek to either prepare victories or to repair disasters in the adult Church.



Group Sharing

Meditating on the feast of Mary, Queen of Apostles, let us recall and share moments when we felt the Holy Spirit's special outpouring upon us, inspiring us to follow God's path and persevere to this present day.



(Image: Columbia Cenacle, Queen of Apostles, 2000s)

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