

[*Editor's Note:* The following material is an addendum to Joan McGuinness Wagner's article "Working at a Marianist University and Embracing the Role of Educator" and was written after publication of *Marianist Soundings*.]

by Joan McGuinness Wagner

The pursuit of living these virtues is often in tension with the natural human propensity for conflict, disagreement, and personality clashes. Being a member of a family or community or workplace opens the door to misunderstanding. Chaminade was not immune to this reality in his lifetime. Those who know the biography of this holy man are aware that the end of his life was a time of great distress. Falsely accused of financial mismanagement, stripped of his position within the Society of Mary, Blessed Chaminade was persistent in his commitment to collaborate with members of the Society of Mary. The Marianist term "staying at the table" is rooted in Chaminade's devotion to his faith and dedication to Mary's mission. His efforts at the end of his life are a model of pure forgiveness, humility, and righteousness. These qualities are elements of Marianist education. We who labor in the field are immersed throughout our work with conflict. Our challenge is to be the people God calls us to be: listening, caring, open, and forgiving. This does not come easily, but the way in which we treat one another—with respect and accountability—makes our educational enterprise different. It also serves as a model for the emerging adults with whom we serve. Again Father Chaminade says, "It seems to me that we must not become discouraged if we encounter some obstacle in the way of necessary change. Never has change been done, and never will it be done without difficulty. With patience we will accomplish all. Go with simplicity. Do not worry about the troublesome or disconcerting things that you will experience. Do your duties, try to please God, and keep your peace." (Quote is a compilation of thoughts on change expressed in Chaminade's *Letters*.)