
TOP TEN TRENDING TOPICS IN BORDEAUX SODALITY

#Chartermembers

1. Chaminade first Sodality was established in 1800 with 12 members. Among the first members were a cleric, a maker of playing cards, teachers, students, shoemakers, hatters, and salesmen. Many of them belonged to a sodality before the French Revolution, and Father Chaminade knew several members before he was exiled. He believed that it was part of everyone's baptismal call to bring about the Reign of God in service to Mary's Mission.

#LikeonLike

2. Special groups set up for those with similar backgrounds (craftsmen, students/teachers, businesspeople/shopkeepers) would meet together in separate gatherings to discuss their specific concerns, but each group would reunite for prayer, religious ceremonies, and lectures.

#womenarepeopletoo

3. The women's branch of the Sodality begins in 1801 with nine women, including Marie Thérèse de Lamourous, who is named *Mère* (Mother). In 1803 the Married Women's section (called "Ladies of the Retreat") is formed. Adèle, who was a laywoman when she first met Chaminade, supported the work of the foundation as well. Chaminade was very forward thinking for his time.

#therearerules

4. In 1801, the first edition of *Manual of the Servant of Mary* is published, which explains the relationship that the Bordeaux Sodality shares with Mary and how they promise to live out this relationship. This Manual is republished several times in the coming years, as the focus of the Sodality becomes clearer or as changes are needed.

#who'stheboss

5. The Ladies of the Retreat assist in the young women's branch, and the Fathers of Families assist in the young men's branch. Although equality among members was emphasized in the Sodality, there were definite leadership roles established to keep the Sodality running and working toward similar goals.

Each group had a leader, and the entire Sodality had a prefect who worked with Father Chaminade in the leadership role.

#shortmancomplex

6. Napoleon suppressed sodalities frequently, due to his paranoia about gatherings of individuals who eventually would attempt to overthrow his regime. The Bordeaux Sodality was included in these suppressions. Hyacinth Lafon, a member of the Bordeaux Sodality, circulated a translation of a papal bull that officially excommunicated Napoleon because of the Emperor's divorce and remarriage. At the time Chaminade had to go underground to continue his works and had to abandon some works that were thwarted by Napoleon's rulings.

#parishthethought

7. Many people thought all energies should be aimed toward bringing back clergy and old customs of the Church that had been suppressed. Chaminade argues that the sodalities worked with the parishes, making sure meetings were not in conflict with parish gatherings. When the sodalities were not meeting, parish attendance did not increase. The purpose of the sodalities was to generate more Christians, not replace Church activity.

#We'rebaaack

8. Father Chaminade had to go to jail in 1812 due to Lafon's actions regarding the papal bull. The Bordeaux Sodality was restored to open operations in 1814. Several affiliated sodalities opened, including Agen and Auch.

#takingtheplunge

9. In 1817 five members of the Sodality declared their intention to establish a "Little Society," a form of religious life dedicated to the same mission as the Sodality, which would become the Society of Mary. Adèle founded the Marianist Sisters in 1816.

#y'allcome!

10. On June 1, 1801, there were 20 young men, and 66 young men by Dec. 8 and around 40 young women. By 1808 there were 300-400 young men and 250 young women.

They attracted new members by becoming a “spectacle of saints” or a “spectacle of good.”

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