

NACMS Resources and Material About Women

[Adele](#) by Joseph Stefanelli, SM

Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon was a woman of great zeal. She empowered many women to grow in faith, community, and service. Born in 1789, the same year the French Revolution began, Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon was a woman of great zeal. She empowered many women to grow in faith, community, and service to others while deepening their relationship with God. This biography by Father Joseph Stefanelli, SM, allows the reader to truly know Adèle by walking through her childhood experiences, her spiritual journey, her visioning of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, and her faith-filled years. Father Stefanelli uses her abundant letters to support the successes and challenges of her life's ministry. Her collaboration with Blessed William Joseph Chaminade and Marie Thérèse de Lamourous was fundamental for the Marianist Family. Father Stefanelli includes significant details of their shared mission. This biography offers an in-depth look at Adèle's spirituality, personality, and the numerous ways she responded to God's call.

[Adèle, Aristocrat for the Poor](#) by Joseph Stefanelli, SM

Father Joseph Stefanelli, SM writes a brief-yet-encompassing story of the intriguing life of Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon. Adèle's biography takes the reader from her early years as the child of wealthy aristocrats to her shared work [the formation of the Daughters of Mary] with Marie Thérèse de Lamourous and William Joseph Chaminade, to her untimely death at age 38. It concludes with a brief statement of the mission of today's Daughters of Mary as they continue Adèle's work in the modern world.

[Adèle's Association: Rule of the "Little Society"](#) translated by Joseph Stefanelli, SM

The "Little Society" was a group of young women living in postrevolutionary France.

[Assumption of Mary](#) by John Samaha, SM

Tied to this feast are themes of Mary as Mother of the Church and model for the Church. In her, the Church witnesses the fullness of the effects of the saving death and resurrection of Christ for humanity.

[Canonization Cause for Mademoiselle de Lamourous](#) by Antonio Gascón, SM

Father Gascón provides an overview of Marie Thérèse de Lamourous' cause for sainthood and the efforts of Father Joseph Verrier related to this holy woman.

[Community Meeting Kit: Mary, Mother of Humanity](#) by NACMS

When people speak about Mary, some of them exhibit a pious attention and willingly express personal experiences. But matters take a different turn when they are asked, "Does Mary have any influence in your life, or in human life in general?"

[Community Meeting Kit: Seeking Justice and Inclusion for Women in the Church](#) by the

Marianist Social Justice Collaborative (MSJC) and NACMS

People committed to building a more just social order are reminded that the Church must model the kind of just policies and structures that we seek to promote in the broader culture. This guide, created by the MSJC Women and Justice Team, is an introduction as to how we can seek justice and inclusion for women in the Catholic Church.

[Community Meeting Kit: Ten Things You May Not Know About Blessed Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon](#) by NACMS

Many people know that Blessed Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon is the founder of the Marianist Sisters. But not many may know that she began a school for young boys and girls out of her family's chateau. Adèle died on January 10, 1828, at the young age of 38. The Marianist Family celebrated her beatification 190 years later—June 10, 2018. This Community Meeting Kit highlights ten less commonly known facts about Adele and is designed for communities to use at one of their meetings.

[Companions of Adele](#) by Joseph Stefanelli, SM

Drawn primarily from the Letters of Adèle and Father Chaminade, 145 biographical sketches are presented—133 are sketches of women who entered the Institute of the Daughters of Mary (Immaculate); eight describe women who lived in the convent, but did not join the Sisters; and four are vignettes of “sister-companions,” members of the Third Order. All these women were known to and interacted with Adèle during the twelve years between the founding of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary in 1816 and her death in 1828. **Given our upcoming “Reflecting on the Companions of Adèle” program, Father Joseph Stefanelli’s *Companions of Adele* is on sale for only \$5, plus shipping and handling. (That is an 80% savings.) Order your copy through our bookstore now before this sale expires.**

[Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe](#) by Rudy Vela, SM

How do we as Marianists begin to share who Mary is for us today, beyond cultural boundaries? One source is Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas. Father Rudy Vela, SM, explores the spiritual and cultural richness of Mary's connection to the Americas.

[Feast of the Annunciation \(March 25\)](#) by Robert Bouffier, SM

In the middle of Lent, trying to turn around the great Flood of human pride, greed, ruthlessness, we raise the Icon of the Annunciation: the maiden and the awesome Power of God.

[Feast of the Visitation \(May 31\): To Share the Secret](#) by New Melleray Abbey, Dubuque, IA
I've got a secret. It's for me to know and for you to find out. How petulant can you get? This is hardly the way to win friends and influence people.

[General Superiors of the FMI](#)

Here are the names, faces, and terms of service of the women who have guided the Marianist Sisters as General Superiors. We thank God for their leadership.

[God Alone: Thoughts from Adèle](#)

Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon is well known in the Marianist Family as the founder of the Marianist Sisters. Perhaps not as well known is her gift of staying in community and communication through writing letters. In *God Alone*, compiled by Patti Gehred, we have

published quotes from these letters in a daily calendar format. A blank page has been provided in this publication to encourage the reader to write his/her own thoughts and prayers that are inspired by Adèle's words.

[*History of the Constitutions of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate*](#) translated by Joseph Stefanelli, SM

This historical snapshot traces the name "Daughters of Mary," Chaminade's system of government for the FMI, and the drafting of the Constitutions for the Marianist Sisters.

[*The Holy Name of Mary*](#) by Peter Daino

A name, Father Chaminade taught, reveals the identity or the essence of a person. Combining the two meanings for the name of Mary examined here we get "Dolorosa Defiant"—the wounded rebel. This Peter Daino article first appeared in "The Promised Woman."

[*Hosanna!*](#)

For those who love a good newspaper feel, "Hosanna!", a six-issue series dedicated to the cause of Adèle's beatification, written in 1957-58, makes for a great morning read, especially with a cup of coffee or tea. "Hosanna!" is packed with short nuggets of wisdom about the Founder of the Marianist Sisters.

[*In Adèle's Words #1: Time and Life*](#) by Clotilde Fernández del Pozo, FMI

Join Sr. Clotilde as she examines "time" through the eyes of Adèle and the words of Pope Francis.

[*In Adèle's Words #2: This Is the Favorable Time*](#) by Blanca Jamar, FMI

Using the words of Adèle and Pope Francis, Sister Blanca has crafted a resource for reflection and prayer as we prepare for Adèle's beatification.

[*In Adèle's Words #3: Solidarity with the Poor*](#) by the Saragossa Community, Spain

The Saragossa Community of the Marianist Sisters' Province of Spain invites you to follow in the footsteps of Adèle and Pope Francis and stand in solidarity with the poor.

[*Letters of Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon*](#) (2-Volume Set)

Father Joe Stefanelli, SM, says the number of letters from Adèle was "certainly in the thousands. Of them, only 737 have come down to us." Because her companions in service were scattered over a large geographical area, she developed a system of letter writing. She wrote, "It is not so much the style that should preoccupy us, but rather our own improvement." We gain insights into Adèle's personality, her spirituality, her deep faith, her mission, and her desire to live for God alone. Although her life was short—she died when not quite 39—Adèle worked diligently to spread the faith to all around her. The primary work of the Daughters of Mary continued to be the development and guidance of young women of the Sodality and the Association. During her life as a religious, she founded convents at Tonneins, Condom, Agen, Arbois, and Bordeaux.

[*The Life of Mary*](#) by Paul Landolfi, SM

Father Paul J. Landolfi, SM, shares his beautiful reflection on the life and witness of Mary, told through her joy, sorrow, and glory.

[Living in a Time of Crisis: It's in Our Marianist DNA](#) by Gabrielle Bibeau, FMI

Be it during a time of global pandemic or the French Revolution, Sr. Gabby reminds us that biological and societal crises are not new for Marianists. They are part of our "DNA." The key aspect for Bibeau is how such experiences transform us.

[Marianist Theme: Mary](#) by Martin Solma, SM

Through words and images, Father Solma explains his rediscovery of Mary . . . a woman some put on "the shelf" following the Second Vatican Council.

[Marie Thérèse de Lamourous, Firm of Hand, Loving of Heart](#) by Joseph Stefanelli, SM

The title of this short biography succinctly captures the life of Marie Thérèse de Lamourous. The reader will get swept away in the trials and adventures of life during the French Revolution, as you learn of Marie Thérèse's unflinching faith and courage in this tumultuous time of history. Father Stefanelli paints a portrait of a rather unwilling heroine who eventually embraces her God-graced mission in life and adopts the prostitutes of Revolutionary France, creating a place of refuge, safety, and prayer at the Miséricorde. Marie Thérèse's devotion to her faith and to the women she served is a positive lesson for women of and for all ages.

[Mary: A Woman with a Mission](#) by Sébastien Abalodo, SM

Sébastien Abalodo, SM, has written a reflection on Mary's motherhood, based on the daily life of real people and the "apostolic" consequences of this motherhood, written from the geographical and cultural context of West Africa.

[Mary an Activist?](#) by Susan Handle Terbay

Explore Mary's pain of losing her child through an act of violence. Susan Handle Terbay ponders Mary's grief and sees her not as a meek woman, but as an activist.

[Mary, Two Perspectives, United States and Eastern Africa: Interpretations for Contemporary Marianist Life](#) by Hugh Bihl, SM

Brother Hugh W. Bihl, in this monograph, examines the cultures of the United States and of Eastern Africa for an interesting look at "motherhood" and Our Mother, Mary.

[Mary Was a Lay Woman Who Lived in Community](#) by Carol Ramey

This paper addresses three components of Marianist spirituality: empowerment of the laity, Mary, and community. The historical relevance of the establishment of lay groups in Bordeaux is compared in two major biographies of Father Chaminade, and the characteristics of the early communities are presented as a model for today's Church. This Carol Ramey article first appeared in "The Promised Woman."

[Mary's Eager Optimist](#) by Herbert George Kramer, SM

Father Herbert Kramer, SM, provides the reader with an easy-to-read primer on the life of Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, Founder of the Marianist Sisters. This 23-page work captures the essence of Adèle.

[*Mary's Look*](#) by Isabella Moyer

For the Marianist World Day of Prayer in 2007, Isabella Moyer penned a touching reflection on Notre Dame du Cap and the beauty of the mother-child bond and the Marianist-Mary bond.

[*Men and Women on a Mission: Catholic Education in the Marianist Tradition*](#) by John McGrath, SM

This short article looks at the inclusive nature of family spirit within the Marianist Family and the centrality of community to Marianist education.

[*Mlle de Lamourous*](#) by Joseph Stefanelli, SM

This biography of Marie Thérèse is intriguing in the variety and number of “hats” she wore during her long life. She was from the aristocratic class and had lived on a country estate; during the Revolution, she bravely ministered in Bordeaux; when she fled to the country at Pian, she served as spiritual leader of the townspeople. She began a long association with William Joseph Chaminade and was instrumental in the development of the Sodality, the foundation of the Daughters of Mary, and the early years of the Society of Mary. Her major work was the Miséricorde, a refuge for women who wanted to reform their lives.

[*Morning Coffee with Mary*](#) by Susan Handle Terbay

A touching reflection on motherhood, filled with the joyous pains of childbirth and Jesus' suffering on the cross . . . told through the eyes of a mom armed with a cup of coffee and a rosary.

[*Mother Mary, the Juiciest Tomato of All*](#) by Joseph Lackner, SM

“What is your take on Mary?” If you work at a Marianist institution, especially if you are in charge, this question may seem overwhelming. Father Joseph H. Lackner, in sobering candor, explores his relations with Mary. He draws upon literature and Scripture in his reflection and invites the audience to ponder and to grow in relationship with Mary.

[*Mother Mechtilde: A Biography of Mère M. Mechtilde Pouilh-Mauriès*](#) by Marie Luce Baillet, FMI

Who was the force behind the unity of the Marianist Sisters after expulsion from France? It was Mother Mechtilde. Read the online monograph of this amazing woman . . . who many consider the Second Foundress of the Marianist Sisters.

[*Origins of the Marianist Family: Notes on Marianist History*](#) by Eduardo Benlloch, SM

It reads like a Hollywood thriller--and in fact it includes a DVD, called Where We Were Born--yet it is the essence of our Marianist history, the true story of our origins, filled with

moments of joy, betrayal, and uncertainty. It is *Origins of the Marianist Family: Notes on Marianist History*, a new 364-page publication from the North American Center for Marianist Studies (NACMS). This is the type of story that can only be told well after the fact, long after those involved have received their eternal rest. While parts of this new work are devoted to the Society of Mary, *Origins* also explores the beginning of the comprehensive Marianist Family and the development of the Marianist Sisters through the life and works of Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon and the numerous contributions of Marie Thérèse de Lamourous to the laity and beyond.

[*Our Lady of the Pillar: Patroness*](#) by John Samaha, SM

This is an interesting story, seemingly unbelievable, about Mary's first apparition in history, states Brother John Samaha, SM.

[*Relations Between the Institute of the Daughters of Mary and the Society of Mary*](#) by Marie Bernard Beaud, FMI

The article explores the troubled relationship between the Daughters of Mary and the Society of Mary, following Blessed Chaminade's death.

[*Relations Between the Society of Mary and the Daughters of Mary*](#) by Joseph Stefanelli, SM

Father Joseph Stefanelli, SM, explores the healing process that took place in response to divisions which developed between the Daughters of Mary and Society of Mary after the death of Blessed Chaminade.

[*Retreat with Adèle*](#) by Eileen Cehyra, FMI

Retreat with Adèle is a spiritual guide which takes readers on a seven-day retreat. The booklet is filled with scripture passages centering on Jesus and Mary; the words of Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, Foundress of the Marianist Sisters; and reflection questions which can be used for personal or group activities. It is geared toward anyone making a personal retreat or for someone seeking moments of quiet away from the "busyness" of life. This 24-page booklet has been published as part of the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the Marianist Sisters in the United States.

[*Rule of Life: Congregation of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate*](#)

The 1984 Rule of Life of the Marianist Sisters

[*A Sociologist Considers the Contributions of Marie Thérèse de Lamourous*](#) by Laura Leming, FMI

Sr. Laura, a sociologist at the University of Dayton and a Marianist Sister, highlights Marie Thérèse's "best practices" of social ministry in relation to this Marianist Founder's work with former sex workers at the Miséricorde.

[A Spiritual Crucible: The Life of Mlle de Lamourous During the French Revolution](#) by Benjamin Dougherty

In 1789, a series of events began to unfold which, over the course of 10 years, would deconstruct the feudal kingdom of France. At the same time, the Revolutionary government passed a series of laws which increasingly proscribed the Catholic church and its priests and bishops. In Bordeaux, a lay woman, Marie Thérèse Charlotte de Lamourous, courageously worked with the Catholic underground to sustain the faithful and continue the work of the Church. When she was forced to move out of Bordeaux into the countryside, she continued to serve the Church there by teaching catechism to peasants and children, arranging clandestine sacraments, and serving as a spiritual leader to the local population. This paper traces the remarkable life of Marie Thérèse through the Revolutionary years.

[Three People, One Mission](#) by NACMS

A look at the skill set that each Founder brought to the establishment of the comprehensive Marianist Family

[A Very Special Friendship at the Service of the Kingdom: de Lamourous and Chaminade](#) by Léo Pauels, SM

From its very origin, the Marianist Family has been witness to the power of Christian friendship. Read about the deep spiritual bond between Blessed William Joseph Chaminade and Venerable Marie Thérèse de Lamourous as the Marianist Family began to develop. They relied upon each other for help and insight.

[Vision and Leadership Styles of Marie Thérèse de Lamourous and Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon](#) by Alison R. Cawley

Alison R. Cawley explores the leadership qualities developed by Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon and Marie Thérèse de Lamourous during the chaos and upheaval of the French Revolution.

[Walking with Adèle](#) by Marie-Joëlle Bec, FMI

This little book invites the reader to see the subject with Adèle's heart and spirit. Each chapter offers, in flowing narrative, excerpts from Adèle's letters encouraging a deepening in the chosen virtue, devotion or attitude deemed important to her.

[What Does Mary Believe?](#) by Anonymous

I [Mary] believe in coloring outside the lines . . . This may sound odd to some because I am supposed to be so perfect.

[When God Says No: Our Lady of Sorrows](#) by Susan Handle Terbay

Whenever I pray I want to believe that I will be heard and God most certainly will answer my prayer(s). . . but then what if God says, "No." Susan Handle Terbay looks at Our Lady of Sorrows.

[Why Should We Dedicate Ourselves to Mary?](#) By Paul Landolfi, SM

This is a fair question. After all, our entire religion is centered in Jesus. Why do we have to do anything else, except to listen to his Word and follow it? Join Father Paul Landolfi, SM, as he looks at Marian dedication.

A Witness of Love: Examining the Correspondence of Four Nonviolent Activists by Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch

In "A Witness of Love," Caitlin Cipolla-McCulloch writes: "This message of radical love is at the root of nonviolence in the Christian tradition . . . it is central to the lives of four correspondents, William Joseph Chaminade, Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, Dorothy Day, and Thomas Merton."