

“A Spectacle of Saints”

Who Are the Marianist Saints?



from Pope John XXIII: Writing and Addresses While Patriarch of Venice

“We are all called to be saints. Every one of us has heard, and still hears, ringing in his conscience, the command: ‘Climb higher’; higher, ever higher, until while we are on this earth we can reach up to grasp the heavens, until we can join our saints, whether they be the venerable saints of old or the wonderful saints of modern times, who were our own contemporaries, and in whom our Mother the Church already rejoices.”

Rosemary Ellen Guiley, *The Quotable Saint: Words of Wisdom from Thomas Aquinas to Zita* (New York, Checkmark Books, 2002), 234.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, through your Son Jesus Christ you built your Church on the foundation of the apostles.

Keep their teaching secure among your faithful people.

You made the martyrs powerful witnesses even to the point of giving up their lives.

Help all Christians to give faithful witness to your Son.

You gave holy virgins the gift of imitating the virginity of Christ.

May those consecrated to virginity be steadfast witnesses to the coming of your kingdom.

Your saints now see you face to face.

Keep alive in our hearts the hope of coming at last into your presence.

Bring all who have died into the company of heaven with Mary, Joseph and all your saints,

And give us also a place in the unending fellowship of your kingdom.

Christian Prayer: The Liturgy of the Hours, Large Type Ed., Nov. 1, All Saints (New York: Catholic Book Publishing, 1985), 1303-1304.



CHECK-IN QUESTIONS

- ◆ Is there a canonized saint or holy person to whom you feel strongly connected? Why do you feel a connection with this person? What makes this person extraordinary?
- ◆ Who are your ordinary saints in today's world or in your life? What makes them saints in your eyes?



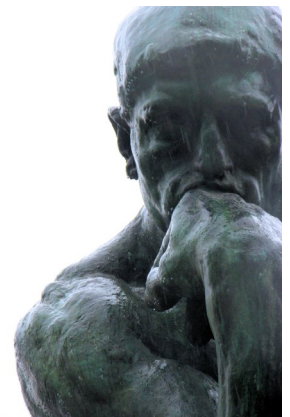
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Listen to the NACMS Podcast:

Sharing Our Marianist Stories, Episode 26: “Who Are the Marianist Saints?”



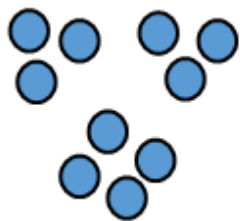
In this episode, Gabby Bibeau sits down with Brother David Betz to talk about his role as the promoter of the Marianist Saints in the United States. They talk about who are the Marianist religious and lay people on the path to sainthood, the process of canonization, and the possibility of a US-born Marianist having their cause introduced.



Podcast and transcript are available on our website at:

<https://nacms.org/epubs/podcasts/podcast-who-are-marianist-saints-bro-david-betz-sm>

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- ◆ What did you learn from this podcast that you didn't know before?
 - ◆ Which of these Marianists on the path to sainthood resonate with you? Why?
 - ◆ How does Brother David's description of the process of canonization impact your own perception and understanding of sainthood?
 - ◆ How do the Marianist Charism and the stories of our Marianist saints encourage you to live a holy life? How can knowing about saints be both a grace and a challenge to your Marianist vocation?
 - ◆ What are some features/characteristics of saints that you strive to embody in your daily life?
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CLOSING PRAYER

Leader:

God our Creator, we praise you for the saints:
For saints who have gone before us,
for saints who are alive today,
for saints who are in our midst,
for the sainthood in us all.

In Choirs:

God of Love,
thank you for the saints who first loved us:
Our families through whom we are connected.

God of Compassion,
we thank you for friends and loved ones
who respond to our needs.
We ask for the courage to comfort
and support those in need.

God of Love,
we thank you for prophets and priests
disciples and apostles,
leaders and servants.

God of Compassion,
we thank you for ministers and educators,
for healers and peacemakers.
God, we approach you in faith,
and we thank you
for the faith of the saints.

God of Love,
we thank you for the prophets:
For Isaiah and Jeremiah,
Miriam and Deborah,
Mary and John the Baptist.

God of Compassion,
we thank you for the witness of
Teresa of Ávila, Catherine of Siena,
Francis of Assisi, and Clare.
We thank you, God,
for all women and men who live the Gospel.

God of Hope,
we remember our Marianist ancestors
whose vision of hope lives on today:
Father Chaminade, Mother Adèle, and Marie Thérèse.

God of Justice and Peace,
we remember our martyred Marianist Brothers
whose lives were lost in the Spanish Civil War:
Jesús Hita, Carlos Eraña, and Fidel Fuidio
in Ciudad Real;
And Florencio Arnáiz, Sabino Ayastuy,
Miguel Léibar, and Joaquín Ochoa in Madrid.

God of Strength,
we thank you for Father Jakob Gapp,
who never faltered in his faith.
Jakob trusted in You and bravely stood firm,
no matter the cost.

All:

**God, we are renewed by the courage
of the saints of history.
We are inspired by the saints
who walk among us today.
May your spirit move each of us
to be teachers, healers, preachers,
and peacemakers in the world.
May we join
with the great cloud of witnesses in faith.
Amen.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Related resources available at nacms.org include:

*The 91-Year Journey to the Beatification of Blessed
Father William Joseph Chaminade*, Thomas Redmond,
SM

Blessed Jakob Gapp, Marianist, Josef Levit, SM

Blesseds Carlos, Jesús, Fidel, Marianists, Emilio Ortega,
SM

Marianist Community Meeting Kits are provided for the Marianist Family by the North American Center for Marianist Studies, NACMS. Additional Community Meeting Kits, as well as other Marianist Studies resources, are available at nacms.org.

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