



Hosanna!

DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE OF BEATIFICATION OF MOTHER MARIE OF THE CONCEPTION
ADELE DE BATZ DE TRENQUELLEON

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MAY 25: ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE

This year on May 25, the Marianist Sisters will celebrate the 142nd anniversary of their foundation at Agen, France, in 1816.

On that day, Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon left her father's château (drawn in the heading of this bulletin) with three companions in order to begin the first community of the Daughters of Mary. It was before the break of day, before any other of the household were awake. Adèle wanted to spare herself and her family the anguish of a painful parting. She herself had been born in the château 29 years before. It is not easy thus to leave one's birthplace and home, especially if a person is as delicately human by nature as was Adèle.

Her departure however, as well as the trials and sorrows that came in its wake, was the basis of merit from which her daughters in religion draw for their own needs in carrying on the work she began. Such is the story of every founder or foundress of a religious congregation—his or her merits vitalize the entire future of the work.

In the case of Mother Marie of the Conception, her lifelong attitude toward contradiction and sorrow is typified by her last words as she lay dying, still young at 38. They are so expressive of her whole personality and of her confident faith in victory over trial that we use them for the title of our bulletin: "Hosanna to the Son of David!"

A BEAUTIFUL CAUSE

Work on Mother Marie of the Conception's Cause of Beatification began in 1946, only 12 years ago. But she died in 1828, or 130 years ago.

This fact might be discouraging to some. They could point out how certain Causes took centuries before their successful culmination. Thus St. Joan of Arc, who died in 1431, was beatified only in 1909 and canonized only in 1920.

Of course, not all Causes advance at that slow pace and many recent ones have very rapidly attained success. But the fact remains that there is exceedingly much work to be done in the Cause of the Foundress of the Daughters of Mary.

One factor nevertheless stands out most encouragingly—the impression one gets of her extraordinary zeal and integrity in the ways of God. Virtue and supernatural zest bubble forth from all she has written and from the entire story of her life.

While only the Holy See may pronounce authoritatively on the holiness of Mother Marie of the Conception, we can pray through her intercession and we can labor at her glorification convinced that hers is a splendidly beautiful Cause and that her record is one that only a life blessed by God can produce.

PLEASE PRAY FOR. . .

You are kindly invited to join in a novena through the intercession of Mother Marie of the Conception that will be made from May 17 to 25 for Bro. Norbert Kramer, S.M., of Cathedral high school, Belleville, Ill., who has just undergone a second operation for cancer.

MOTHER MARIE OF THE CONCEPTION AND FATHER CHAMINADE

Very Rev. Pierre Humbertclaude, S.M.
Postulator of Father Chaminade's Cause

Who could have doubted that one day would see the names of these two Servants of God brought together as are today those of St. Francis and St. Clare? They were the first to believe in the future recognition of sanctity in the other and it is for this reason that they thought of consigning to posterity the great things done by God in the Father and in the Daughter.

The day after the Foundress's death, Father Chaminade asked the Baroness de Trenquelléon to write some notes on her daughter's early years. The work was done and the same year sent to Father Chaminade who began looking for a historian who would put them to use. His council, however, could not agree upon its choice and nothing was done. In 1830, the Good Father took up the question again and proposed that these notes as well as other papers be put at the disposal of M. Lacoste who was then inactive because of the Revolution. This is the last mention made of the precious notes of Adèle's mother.

What has not been noticed is that Mother Marie of the Conception tried also during the Founder's lifetime to collect firsthand information on him by addressing herself to him directly. The first effort was in 1809 and concerned Father Chaminade's sojourn in Mussidan. Hardly a year had passed since they entered into relation with each other (Letters, I, p. 51). She made still another attempt, but he looked unfavorably upon it. The Good Father threatened to cut off all correspondence if he noticed such satisfaction of curiosity instead of thinking only of God.

Father Chaminade directed souls along the paths of total renunciation. Here renunciation was all the more necessary because these two choice souls felt naturally and supernaturally a deep sympathy for each other. It is with reason that, on the day of the Foundress's death, her mother could write to Father Chaminade of "our common daughter."

And yet, throughout this long and close correspondence, one would seek in vain for any pouring out of affection between the two Founders. Their visits hardly bring any human consolation either. There was so much joy over the one Father Chaminade finally, after many delays, made to Agen in 1821. Two days after his arrival, Mother Marie was not yet able to converse with him. Later on, with things still the same, she wrote on August 6 in order to give courage to herself as well as to her correspondent:

"Dear Sister, let us see the Good Father not out of natural satisfaction. . . ; if he does more good in speaking to others than to us, let us be satisfied with everything" (Letters, I, p. 233).

And in this sacrifice she feels an abundance of grace come over herself and her Sisters. It was on this occasion that she had an expression for the Founder whose aptness was

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MOTHER MARIE OF THE CONCEPTION
(Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon)
1789 - 1828
Foundress of the Institute
of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate

FAVORS GRANTED THROUGH MOTHER MARIE OF THE CONCEPTION

The Daughters of Mary in Corsica have for years urged prayers for their Foundress's glorification. The following cure of a dying child was recorded by the superior of their school in Ajaccio:

On Monday, October 24, we received the visit of the grandmother of a former student. The entire family had passed the night with little Françoise, two and a half years old, who was dying. "Only God can save my child," had said the mother. "Go up to the school and ask for prayers."

I immediately sent a Sister with a relic and picture of Mother Foundress. She placed the relic on the child. The whole boarding school, as well as the community, made the novena. The more generous ones added sacrifices. On Tuesday... the child was again in a coma, her face like marble. The sickness had reached the spinal column. ... The Sisters renewed their confidence toward Mother Foundress.

On Wednesday, not daring to count on a cure, I did not send anyone to the family and I was waiting for the bad news. Not having heard any thing at all, on Thursday, I made up my mind. Our Sisters were received in triumph. The baby was in its mother's arms, out of danger, with only a slight fever. ... The mother had the Sisters go into the room. Mother Foundress was placed in the middle of the room, surrounded... by roses. ... The family does not doubt at all of the supernatural intervention and continues to honor Mother Foundress. ...

The nurse... who followed the sickness... said that the child had been in a coma already on Sunday and that on Monday she had lost all hope, for there was meningitis and the spinal cord had begun to be affected. ... The child is cured, eats... and talks as it had before the illness. ...

The answer of the doctor: "Yes, there was an almost certain supernatural action."

Again let us quote a letter from a descendant of Mother Marie of the Conception's sister, who is a Jesuit missionary in Madagascar, Father Charles de Batz. His confidence is his great-great aunt is unbounded. In his letters he calls her familiarly "Mother Adèle":

Mother Adèle is working hard here. This time... if the cure cannot serve as a miracle because I do not have any medical attestation, it will at least be a great favor. There is question of a man who was deaf in one ear for seven months. At the end of a novena to Mother Adèle, he suddenly regained his hearing without any medical care.

I forgot to tell you... about a good old man who had just received Extreme Unction and whose death was imminent... After a prayer to Mother Adèle said by two catechists, the sick man regained life. The next day, he ate as everybody and since then he has resumed his normal life. For this second favor I shall also request a report with the signatures of witnesses.

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TOMB OF MOTHER MARIE OF THE CONCEPTION IN AGEN, FRANCE. It stands today in an anteroom of the Sisters' choir of the convent chapel, where they pass often daily. On the headstone is seen the coat of arms of her family—her father was the Baron de Batz de Trenquelléon. At the base is a marble plaque with her last words after which our bulletin is named: "Hosanna Filio David! (Hosanna to the Son of David!)"

WHAT CAN YOU DO ?

The greatest instrument used in fostering a Cause of Beatification is *prayer*. You can help by praying for miracles. You can have others pray. Why not recommend to Mother Marie of the Conception all your personal needs? And have your friends make novenas when they are ill? Whenever you receive a favor, great or small, whether a cure or any other assistance, write an account of it for *Hosanna!* The more favors published, the greater is the impact given to Mother Marie's intercessory powers.

PRAYER

FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF MOTHER MARIE OF THE CONCEPTION

Our Father Hail Mary Glory
Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!
Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

Let us pray

O God, who gave to Mother Marie of the Conception an apostolic soul alive with filial piety toward Mary and who has willed that this missionary and Marian spirit be perpetuated in an Institute founded by her, grant us the miraculous favors that we solicit through her intercession, should it enter Your designs that she be beatified by the Church, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

(With ecclesiastical permission)

FOUNDRESS'S WORK BROUGHT TO AMERICA

When Mother Marie of the Conception died twelve years after founding the Institute of the Daughters of Mary, her Sisters were in five convents of France: in Agen, Tonneins, Condom, Arbois and Bordeaux. The novitiate was in the latter city where Father Chaminade could help in the formation of the young Sisters. While a zestful expansion carried through the 19th Century, it was suddenly cut short by the French persecution of 1903.

Today Mother Marie of the Conception's spiritual family is in six countries with above 370 members and five houses of formation. There are many signs of a beautiful flowering out in the Marianist Sisters' immediate future, none more encouraging than right here in the United States.

The Daughters of Mary came to America in 1949. Their first permanent convent was in Somerset, Texas, where they were welcomed by the local pastor, a Marianist priest. They have since taken over other Texas schools in Devine and in San Antonio. Next September, they will open a new novitiate in Holy Rosary Parish near St. Mary's University of San Antonio. Both the parish and university are conducted by Marianists.

Your prayers will help the Daughters of Mary find the candidates necessary for spreading their Foundress's work ever farther in America.

MOTHER MARIE AND FATHER CHAMINADE

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never to be surpassed: "The Good Father's sojourn is truly an abundant time of grace because of the peace that he brings with him."

This acceptance of trials did not, however, end up in a mutual indifference. It suffices to see their disquietude at the slightest illness in the other. Mother de Trenquelléon's correspondence is the best bulletin we have on Father Chaminade's health. And numerous are the letters in which he has Adèle accept the remedies that her condition requires. When the illness becomes acute, he has uninterrupted novenas of prayers made in the entire Institute. Alas! he did not have the consolation of assisting her in her last moments. At least he knew how well she was prepared and how many reasons she had to flee this world in singing: "*Hosanna!*"

"Father Chaminade is a saint!" Mother Marie often said, going ahead of all of us in veneration toward the Founder. And he, while so moderate in giving praise, was sometimes led to give expression to the great esteem he had for her whom God had given him as collaborator. Already in 1817, we find a beautiful homage to the wisdom of her who was still very young: "God has deigned to preserve your accustomed prudence" (Letters, I, p. 157). But the most beautiful and complete praise is to be sought in a letter to Pope Pius VII dated 1819. There he shows the Institute of the Daughters of Mary pivoting, as around its center, on "*a Good Mother whom Heaven seems to have formed and reserved for vivifying this Institute*" (Letters, I, p. 197).

In this sentence we love seeing the counterpart of the other sentence: Father Chaminade is a saint. It forms in a way an anticipated request for the introduction of her Cause.