

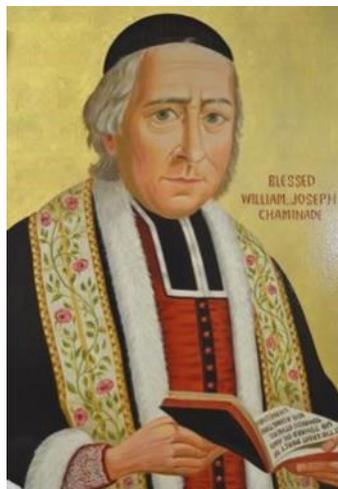
Did you know . . .

Blessed Among Us:

Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

William Joseph Chaminade, born in 1761, was ordained a priest in France in 1785.

Following the Revolution of 1789, he refused to take the oath of allegiance to the Civil Constitution of the Clergy and was forced to go underground. During these years, while he continued to carry out his mission, he developed a deep devotion to Mary, “the way that leads to the Son.” “Jesus”, he wrote, “made Mary the companion of His labors, of His joy, of His preaching, of His death. Mary had a part to play in all the glorious, joyful and sorrowful mysteries of Jesus.”



He returned to Bordeaux in 1800, and in 1817 founded the Society of Mary, also called the Marianists or the Marianist Family. It was meant to promote a deeper spiritual life among the laity and to promote “the spectacle of a people of saints.” Despite being counseled against focusing so much effort on lay spirituality, he persisted.

The Marianists spread beyond France and arrived in America in 1849.

The Marianist Family's other three branches--the married and single men and women of the Marianist Lay Communities, the consecrated laywomen of the Alliance Mariale, and the nuns known as Daughters of Mary Immaculate--also look to Chaminade as a founder or inspiration.

Blessed Chaminade died on January 22, 1850. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II on September 3, 2000.

Blessed Chaminade's feast day is celebrated on January 22.

“Ours is a work, a magnificent work. If it is universal, it is because we are missionaries of Mary, who has said to us, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’ Each one of us has received from the Blessed Virgin a commission to work at the salvation of our brothers and sisters in the world.” Blessed Chaminade

Judy Pearson