

Golden Jubilee of the Marianists
Province of Meribah, Established August 18, 1976
Bishop Barres Remarks
Saturday, August 15, 2026

Together with Bishop Andrzej, I offer my prayers, congratulations, and best wishes to the Marianists of the Province of Meribah as you celebrate your Golden Jubilee.

Fifty years ago, with great courage and conviction, the Province of Meribah was established in fidelity to the vision of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade and the charism of the Society of Mary.

What began in faith has grown through faith. Across five decades, the Marianists have persevered in their mission of Catholic education and formation, helping generations of young people encounter Jesus Christ and Our Lady, know the truths of the Catholic Faith, and discover their baptismal call to holiness and mission.

This perseverance reflects that of Blessed Chaminade. His confidence in Divine Providence was strengthened amid the trials of the French Revolution, when he came to know that the Church is continually renewed through the mystery of the Cross and Resurrection.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen described the Church as having passed through “a thousand resurrections after a thousand crucifixions” in her journey through history.¹ The history of the Province of Meribah bears witness to that same paschal hope: God brings new life from sacrifice, fidelity, and trust.

Today, we thank God for the Marianist brothers and priests – Sons of Mary - who have given their lives so generously to Christ and His Church. We also give thanks for the students, alumni, teachers, administrators, staff, benefactors, families, and friends who have shared in this mission and helped it flourish at Chaminade, Kellenberg, the Latin School, and Saint Martin de Porres.

The apostolic fruits of these fifty years have flowed forth like the waters at Meribah and can be seen in generations of Long Island families formed by the Marianist charism—families grounded in Sacred Scripture, nourished by the Holy Eucharist,

devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and prepared to serve and bear courageous witness to Christ in the world.

A Golden Jubilee is not only a celebration of what has been accomplished. It is also an invitation to renewed fidelity. The same Holy Spirit who guided the founding of this Province continues to lead it and calls it forward with confidence into the future.

In a special way, we pray for an abundance of vocations to the Province of Meribah. May young men hear Christ's call and respond with generosity, courage, and joy.

May they be inspired by the witness of the Marianists who have gone before them and dedicate their lives to the formation of new generations of missionary disciples.

May Our Lady, in whose Assumption we rejoice today, watch over the Province of Meribah, strengthen its members in their vocation, and lead all its apostolic works ever more deeply into the mission of her Son.

May the causes for the canonization of Blessed William Joseph Chaminade and Blessed Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon progress swiftly.

And may the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be glorified in all places, through the Immaculate Virgin Mary!

¹ Fulton J. Sheen, *Three to Get Married* (New York: Scepter Publishers, originally published 1951; 1996 edition), 154.

