



Reflecting as a Marianist Family

6th International Meeting of MLC, Lima Peru – January 28, 2014

Texts from Chaminade on Faith

If you believe that God is your ultimate goal, who created you only for him and that he can find only in the supreme happiness that your heart craves, then love those designs of God in your creation, in you, and for the nurturing of your being. At the same time, love the obligation that lies in this, a blessed and happy of goals. All your thoughts, desires, projects and reasoning, all your actions and all the steps of your life should stem from and be inspired by this final part of your creation. (Faith meditation and of being in the presence of God (1829). In *The Spirit who gave us our being*, pp. 279-280).

We must love what we believe Faith, and especially faith of the heart, is a gift of God. It is for this reason that we always need to say, "Lord, increase our faith" [Lk 17:5] A faith which would not enlighten our mind would not give us the life of justice, which is a divine life." *Writings on Faith, vol. 1, § 164 p. 77-78 (WJC Letter 3.661 of January 23, 1833)*

If love is not present, if love is not the principle of the act of faith, of the act of hope, these acts are worthless. *Writings on Faith, vol. 2, § 1091 p. 337 (Conference of June 4, 1843).*

Let us ask for it with insistence, this lively, argent faith, this loving faith. *Writings on Faith, vol. 2, § 498 p. 46 (Retreat of 1813, Ninth Meditation)*

Often believe in truths, but don't love them, believe them to be coming from a place of love. (EF 1011)

In the light of faith, indeed, that very faith in us, we know God's truths: truth encourages us and is our life and life teaches us what to do and the road ahead.

If the light of faith is the Word of God, a Word that dares to come and dwell in us, we then understand this faith...-a belief that this light, is precisely the union of Jesus Christ and us. By faith, indeed, as we have seen, our enlightened mind does not think more like Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has joined our mind. Encouraged by faith, our heart does not feel or love on its own. It is more like Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ and our hearts are one. Guided by faith our will to act, to be is more like Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ becomes our will. Thus is formed in us the new man. With certainty the apostle commands us: Have the faith, not just in God, but of God. (Retreat, 1818. In *The Spirit who gave us our being*, pp. 77-78, nn. 210-211).

However, it is necessary that our faith is strong. It is also necessary that it is animated and moved by charity. Faith should not be just like a light in the mind or intellect (esprit), but must be in the heart. There is a need for a will of the heart that is itself a faith-filled love of truth. For this reason we must like and embrace what we believe. Thus St. Paul tells us that the faith of the heart that justifies us: "Believe in the heart leads to justice and speaking the truth leads to salvation." [Rm 10:10]. (Conference of 11-V-1843, afternoon).

QUESTIONS

What does faith of the heart mean to YOUR heart?

- What is your personal experience of faith of the heart?
- How does faith of the heart nourish your prayer life?
- How does faith of the heart inspire you in your Marianist vocation?

How is faith of the heart lived in the heart of YOUR world?

- How is faith of the heart experienced and lived in your community?
 - What are the gifts? What are the challenges?
- What role does faith of the heart have in your mission?
 - What are the gifts? What are the challenges?