

"To oppose a powerful barrier to the torrent of modern evil, heaven inspired me to renew and rekindle everywhere the divine torch of faith, by presenting on all sides to the astonished world imposing masses of Catholic Christians of all ages, both sexes, and every walk of life." Thus Father Chaminade outlines his plans.

In building the structure of the Society of Mary he followed this design. Among the first members were two seminarians, one professor, two businessmen, and two coopers by trade. All of these, enjoying equal rights as members of the Society, were to represent the three general categories—priest, teacher, worker—all religious of the same calibre. Regardless of category, the founder's insistence was to be applied literally—one hundred percent religious, so that son of Mary and saint can be synonymous.

Thus sons of Mary drawn from each walk of life can be formed, by a complete donation of self to Mary, into an effective organization with a very broad scope of apostolate.

Priests, Teaching Brothers, and Working Brothers provide an effective team for supplying this complete training for leadership.