

Special Consecration of the Order to Our Lady

May 7, 2020

This special consecration is in honor of the 300th anniversary of our establishing the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Immaculate Conception as the Foremost Patroness of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual. The title was decreed by the document "Decretum primum" generated by the General Chapter of 1719 and approved by Pope Clement XI on May 7, 1720.

*Hail, O Lady, Holy Queen, Mary, holy Mother of God,
you who are the Virgin made Church, chosen by the most Holy Father in heaven,
and consecrated by Him:*

You are our family,
You are the door and the home,
You are the beginning of our language,
You are the guide of our footsteps,
You are school and learning,
You are acceptance and service,
You are the place of serenity,
You are the courage of our faith,
You are the certain fidelity of our vows to the Most High,
You are relief for all our tribulations,
You are the driving force and confidence in our every mission,
You are the crystal clear beginning of our bright destiny,
You are the vessel and fragrance of the anointing of the Holy Spirit,
You are the beloved pathway, through which all graces flow,

I, the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual,
renew, now and forever, the consecration of the entire Order to you,
so that you might use us for the benefit of souls and for the good of the Church.

All I ask, O Queen and Mother of the Church,
is that we might cooperate faithfully with your mission
for the coming of Jesus' Kingdom into the world.
I offer you, therefore, O Blessed Mother, the prayers, actions,
and sacrifices of every friar in the Order.

Since we are yours, Mother of God, I ask you in the name of all the Friars Minor Conventual,
to be our salvation and sanctification.
Again I implore you, that in your great mercy, you might use us as an instrument for the salvation of souls.
and take us under your motherly protection.

I entrust to you, O good Mother,
every friar and community of the Order:
our young men who seek the meaning of life and who await an answer to God's call;
our friars in formation and their formators;
our friars who live and witness their Franciscan vocation around the world,
in every social, spiritual, economic and political context;
our friars who carry out their mission *ad gentes*;
our friars engaged in various services for society and the Church;
our friars who work in crisis situations or where people distrust each other;
our friars included in various leadership and government ministries;

our elderly friars;
our friars who are sick, troubled or confused;
and our friars who are wounded by life or downcast or in crisis.

I entrust to you, Mother, whose heart is human and merciful,
all the people who are in contact with us and their families,
our friends and benefactors, the young, the old and the sick,
all those whom your Son Jesus Christ, has entrusted
to our spiritual and pastoral care

O Mary Immaculate, we want to be yours forever,
We ask that our Conventual Franciscan family be always governed by the spirit of piety,
by the exact observance of the Rule of St. Francis
by living the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and by fraternal charity.

Help us to overcome any temptation which leads to evil. Preserve harmony among us.

O Immaculate Mary, stay with us in the midst of our difficulties
and let us feel the beneficial effects of your presence.

Thus, after working with you, and under your guidance, for the coming of the Kingdom of Christ on earth, we may
all one day be part of the Kingdom of Christ in heaven, for all eternity.

May it be so.