

**STATUTES OF THE CONFRATERNITY
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE MOST BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
OF THE CONGREGATION OF MARIAN FATHERS**

INTRODUCTION

Saint Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary Papczyński (1631-1701), the Founder of the Congregation of Marian Fathers, desired to spread devotion to the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. He made this the principal goal of the Order. The holy Father Founder fervently encouraged his spiritual sons to establish Confraternities of the Immaculate Conception at Marian churches. This was already mentioned in the first decrees of the Order in 1694. The members of these confraternities were to strive for Christian perfection while living as lay persons in the world, drawing upon Marian spirituality and helping the Poor Souls in Purgatory. Saint Stanislaus linked devotion to the Immaculate Conception with giving assistance to the faithful departed. Concerned about the holiness of a person as the mystical temple of God, he not only desired that he himself live free of evil and sin, but also wished to persuade others to undertake prayer for the purification of the deceased in Purgatory.

In the last chapter of the *Rule of the Ten Virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, on the basis of which the Marian Congregation was approved by the Apostolic See in 1699, members were obliged to wear the scapular of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. This scapular was worn by the Marians under their white habit. They were obliged by the authority of their vocation to spread devotion to the Immaculate Conception of the Most Holy Mother and promote the scapular among the faithful.

The Venerable Servant of God, Fr. Casimir of St. Joseph Wyszynski, in 1733 requested the Theatine Order in Rome to grant him authority to bless and invest the faithful with the Blue Scapular; this authorization he received. He wanted to make the wearing of the Blue Scapular and the practices associated with it one of the elements of piety in the Confraternities. Members of the Confraternities were registered in the Confraternity Book, which existed in some Marian churches at that time. With the passing of time, the confraternities of the Immaculate

Conception at Marian churches began to be known also as the “Scapular confraternities.” The first mention in extant documents which speak of the establishment of a Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception dates from June 26, 1734. It speaks of the confraternity at the Marian church in Puszcza Mariańska. From that time, the Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception arose purposefully at each of the Marian cloisters and in other churches at which Marians undertook pastoral ministry. This is witnessed to by documents from 1888, among others, regarding the dedication of the church in Mariampole, Lithuania, where a Marian cloister was found. We read therein that at each of the 15 existing dedicated churches [where Marians supported local pastors], there existed a Confraternity of the Scapular of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M.

Through the years the Theatine Fathers repeatedly renewed the privilege of investing with the Scapular which had been granted to the Marian Fathers. The Renovator and Reformer of the Marian Order, Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis-Matulewicz, also asked the Theatines in Rome for a similar authorization. It was granted to him on December 1, 1911. On July 3, 1992, Fr. Donald Petraitis, MIC, then the Superior General of the Marians, obtained from the Superior General of the Theatine Order a perpetual permission for himself and his successors to bless and confer the Scapular of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This permission was reaffirmed on March 19, 2005, also granting the power of sub-delegating Marian priests and deacons. On July 1, 2008, this power of sub-delegating was extended to include non-Marians, according to Canon 1169 of the Code of Canon Law.

Thus, according to their centuries-long tradition, the Marian Fathers establish Confraternities of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM, in which membership is marked externally by wearing the Blue Scapular. Conducting the confraternities of the Immaculate Conception is one of the important means by which the Congregation of Marian Fathers spreads devotion to the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God and assists the souls suffering in Purgatory.

STATUTES OF THE CONFRATERNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE B.V.M.

1. Nature: The Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. at the Congregation of Marian Fathers (hereinafter: Confraternity) is a private association of the faithful who, living in the world and participating in the spirituality, apostolate, and mission of the Congregation of Marian Fathers, particularly spread devotion to the Immaculate Conception of the BVM and pray for the deceased, while striving for Christian perfection in the manner proper to their station. The Confraternity members share (both during their lifetime and after death) in the Congregation's spiritual benefits.

2. Goals:

- a) To help its members, living in the world, in their striving for Christian perfection according to the spirituality of the Congregation of Marian Fathers.
- b) To spread devotion to the Immaculate Conception of the BVM and assist the deceased suffering in Purgatory.

3. Installation: The Major Superiors of the Congregation, as well as the General Vicariate and Provincial Superiors, have the authority to establish a Confraternity.

4. To establish the Confraternity at a non-Marian parish or center, the consent of the local pastor is required.

5. Structure:

- a) For the Marian institutions at which the Confraternity has been established, the Local Superior or the Rector of the Residence shall appoint for an indefinite period of time a Promoter of the Confraternity (PC).
- b) In the case of institutes not in the care of Marians, the PC is appointed by the one who has authority to establish confraternities, with the prior consent of the local pastor.

- c) For the spiritual good of the Confraternity members and for better cooperation and growth of the Confraternity itself, the Superior of the Province, Vicariate or Mission has the right to appoint, with his council's consultative vote, a Promoter of the Confraternity (of the Province, Vice-Province, General Vicariate or Mission), according to the structure of the congregation.
- d) The Superior General, after obtaining the opinion of his Council, appoints the General Promoter of the Confraternity (GPC).
- e) The position of the PC and the GPC may be filled by a Marian (either priest or brother) or by one of the lay faithful.

6. Duties of the Promoter of the Confraternity:

- a) To organize and preside over periodic meetings of the confraternity members according to an approved formation program.
- b) To regularly inform the House Superior or the pastor (in the case of a non-Marian center) on the Confraternity meetings and initiatives. Also, to try to make the Confraternity a true place of evangelization according to the spirituality of the Congregation of Marian Fathers.
- c) To maintain the Confraternity Membership Book and to regularly send new information to the General Promoter of the Confraternity (GCM).

7. Duties of the GPC:

- a) To supervise the Confraternity's growth Congregation-wide.
- b) To be in charge of the Confraternity members' formation program, as approved by the Superior General.
- c) To present to the Superior General an annual written report reflecting the Confraternity's growth, formation, and works, as well as its other activities on the scale of the entire Congregation of Marians.
- d) To keep an accurate registry of the Confraternity members worldwide.

8. Conditions and manner of admission:

- a) All the faithful, age 18 and over, who remain in full communion with the Catholic Church (CCL, can. 205) and desire to share the Confraternity's goals and regulations, may be admitted to the Confraternity.
- b) To gain admittance to the Confraternity, a candidate shall petition the PC.
- c) Admission to the Confraternity takes place during a short liturgical rite according to a formula approved by the Superior General. The liturgical rite is to be presided over by a priest or deacon.
- d) During the ceremony of investiture, the Blue Scapular of the Blessed Virgin Mary¹ is blessed and conferred upon the candidate. By the authority of the Superior General's Decree of February 25, 2006 (Prot. No. 22/2006)², only a Marian bishop, priest or deacon may bless this scapular and confer it upon the faithful. Non-Marian bishops, priests or deacons must obtain a sub-delegation from the Superior General of the Congregation of Marian Fathers (cf. Decree of the Superior General of the Theatine Fathers of July 16, 2008).³
- e) The sick and the faithful residing at a considerable distance from the closest Confraternity branch, may petition for admission in writing.
- f) Admission to the Confraternity must be acknowledged in the external forum by making an entry in the Confraternity Book and issuing a proper certificate of admission. The first and last name of the enrollee, their date of birth and baptism, the date and place of the ceremony, and the name of the presiding official should be entered into the Confraternity Book.

¹ The Blue Scapular propagated by the Congregation of Marian Fathers consists of two small-size oblong pieces of cloth, of a sky-blue color; one of them bears the Image of the Mother of God, Immaculately Conceived. The two pieces are connected with a red-colored string.

² See p. 11.

³ See p. 13.

9. Duties of the Confraternity members:

- a) Confraternity members, as persons dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Immaculately Conceived, are called not only to strive for personal sanctity according to the spirituality of the Congregation of Marian Fathers, but also to spread devotion to the Immaculate Conception of the BVM and assist the deceased suffering in Purgatory.
- b) Confraternity members, vested with the Blue Scapular shall always devoutly wear it as a visible sign in honor of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. and a distinguishing feature of one who is particularly devoted to the Blessed Virgin Immaculately Conceived. The member who so desires may replace the Blue Scapular made out of fabric with a medal⁴ which has the image of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on one side and the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary Immaculately Conceived on the reverse. Both the medal and the scapular may later be replaced with a new one at the member's discretion. The new scapulars or medals do not need to be blessed anew.
- c) Membership in the Confraternity obliges the members to spread devotion to the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. by imitating Mary's virtues, but above all by living in the state of grace. It also obliges one to continuously dedicate a certain amount of time to meeting the Lord in prayer, to frequent participation in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, and to meditation upon the Rosary. Confraternity members are to recite and offer for the intention of the deceased the *Chaplet of the Ten Evangelical Virtues of the B.V.M.* or the *Divine Mercy Chaplet*, and the *Salve Regina* prayer. They may also offer for the intentions of the Poor Souls their deeds of mercy, sufferings and trials of life.
- d) As faith-filled persons involved in the life of the Church, Confraternity members shall participate in the life of their parish community and support the priests in var-

⁴ See p. 15.

ious ways, especially in the work of evangelization in their own parish.

- e) Confraternity members should participate in periodic meetings presided over by the PC, for the purpose of revitalizing their sense of belonging, learning the spirituality of the Congregation of Marian Fathers, and strengthening their awareness of the needs of their neighbor, doing all of the above in close communion with Mary.

10. Spiritual benefits:

- a) Confraternity members share in all spiritual benefits of the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM:
 - Fruits of the daily Masses celebrated by the Marian priests, and Masses for the intentions of the living and deceased associates of the Congregation of Marian Fathers.
 - The right to enroll their deceased loved ones in the Memorial of the Holy Masses celebrated by the Congregation throughout the month of November and in the Solemn Vespers sung during the Octave of All Souls Day.
 - Fruits of the daily prayers recited by the members of the Congregation.
 - Supernatural fruits of the merits, good deeds and indulgences obtained by members of the Congregation.
- b) By virtue of receiving and wearing the Blue Scapular of the Immaculate Conception of the Most B.V.M., upon the power of rescript issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary on February 2, 1968 (Prot. No 272/68/R) and as granted by the rescript of March 30, 2012 (Prot. No 1280/11/I), Confraternity members may obtain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Holy Communion, prayer for the intentions of the Pope) on the day of their admission into the confraternity and receiving the Scapular, and on the following solemnities, feasts, and memorials:

- Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of the Lord;
 - Ascension of the Lord;
 - Nativity of the Lord (December 25);
 - Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M. (December 8);
 - Assumption of the B.V.M. (August 15);
 - Presentation of the Lord (February 2);
 - Liturgical commemoration of St. Stanislaus Papczyński, Founder of the Congregation of Marian Fathers (May 18);
 - Liturgical commemoration of St. Cajetan of Thiene (August 7).
- c)** The primary feasts of the Confraternity are the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Dec. 8) and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (Nov. 2). Confraternity members shall observe the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in profound love and gratitude to God and Mary. On this day they shall renew their devout commitment to her service, their faithfulness to Christ and His Church, and shall entrust to the maternal Heart of the Immaculate Virgin the entire Marian Family. On the day of All The Faithful Departed they shall commend to God through prayers, sacrifices and indulgences the souls of the departed suffering in Purgatory.

11. About the Statutes:

- a)** Following the Statutes is not obligatory under pain of sin; however, whoever trespasses them in matters of God and the Church's commandments, shall not be without blame.
- b)** These present Statutes – previously approved on January 30, 2010 – were re-examined and supplemented by the General Council in its session on September 12, 2017, and they are binding until revoked.
- c)** Changes to these Statutes may be introduced by the General Superior with the consent of his council.

Given in Rome on September 12, 2017.

FR. ZBIGNIEW PIŁAT, MIC
General Secretary

FR. ANDRZEJ PAKUŁA, MIC
General Superior

Prot. No 22/2006

Rome, February 25, 2006

TO ALL PRIESTS AND DEACONS
OF THE CONGREGATION OF MARIAN FATHERS

DECREE

Permission to invest with the Blue Scapular of
the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary

Upon the power of the Superior General of the Congregation of Clerics Regular Teatines' letter addressed to the Superior General of the Congregation of Marians on March 19, 2005, having a great concern for spreading the devotion to the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Mother of God and in response to many requests from our confreres and the fervent wish of the lay faithful,

I hereby give permission to all priests and deacons of the Congregation of Marian Fathers to invest the faithful with the Blue Scapular of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, in accordance with canons 1169-1171 of the Code of Canon Law and the *Marian Ritual*.

*Immaculata Virginis Maria Conceptio
sit nobis salus et protectio.*

FR. ZBIGNIEW PIŁAT, MIC
General Secretary

FR. JAN M. ROKOSZ, MIC
Superior General

CC: Provincial and Vicariate Superiors.

IL PREPOSITO GENERALE DEI CHIERICI REGOLARI
D. VALENTINUS ARTEAGA ET SÁNCHEZ-GUIJALDO, C. R.

Dilectis Nobis in Christo

Eiusque Sine Labe Originali Conceptæ Matris Mariæ:

D. P. Jan M. Rokosz, M.I.C., Superiori Generali Congregationis
 Clericorum Marianorum ab Immaculatæ Conceptionis B.mæ V.

Mariæ

necnon D. Fr. Andreæ R. Mączyński, M.I.C., Promotori Generali
 Associationis Cooperatorum Marianorum Salutem

*Laudetur sanctissimum Sacramentum, et benedicta sit ab om-
 nibus Beatæ Mariæ Virginis Immaculata Conceptio*

Ad vestras nuper porrectas preces læto animo inclinati, ex apos-
 tolica nobis concessa potestate, per has manu nostra atque Sec-
 retarii generalis subscriptas litteras signoque nostræ
 Congregationis munitas, Vobis vestrisque legitimis Succes-
 soribus in perpetuum libenter concedimus facultatem, aliis
 vestri Instituti sodalibus etiam subdelegandam, benedicendi, ad
 normam can. 1169–1171, scapularia parva cærulei coloris il-
 laque Christifidelibus, pio devotionis erga Mysterium Concep-
 tionis B. M. V. Immaculatæ affectu ea gestare cupientibus, ita
 imponendi ut spiritualibus gratiis et indulgentiis et participa-
 tione bonorum omnium spiritualium, quæ in nostro Clericorum
 Regularium Theatinorum religioso instituto ex gratia Dei fiunt
 vel eidem per Sedis Apostolicæ privilegium concessa aut in
 posterum concessura, rite frui possint in nomine Patris, et Filii
 et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

Dabam Romæ, apud nostras Sancti Andreæ Apostoli “de Valle”
 ædes, die XIX mensis Martii anni MMV, Sancti Iosephi Deiparæ
 Virginis Mariæ castissimi sponsi memoriæ solemniter dicato.

VALENTÍN ARTEAGA Y SÁNCHEZ-GUIJALDO, C. R.

Præpositus Generalis

GAIETÀ ROSSELLI GLIVILLERS, C.R.

a Secretis

CURIA GENERALIZIA
DEI CHIERICI REGOLARI TEATINI

IL PREPOSITO GENERALE

Roma, 16 luglio 2008
Memoria facoltativa della B.V.M. del Carmelo
249° giorno dell' Anno Santo Avelliniano

Rev. P. Jan M. Rokosz, M.I.C.
Superiore Generale della Congregazione dei
Chierici Mariani dell'Immacolata Concezione della B.V.M.
Via Corsica, 1 – 00198 ROMA.

Venerato e reverendissimo padre in Cristo e Maria “*sine labe originali concepta*”;

Ho ricevuto la vostra carissima lettera del 2 luglio 2008 (Prot. N. 194/200), la quale mi onoro di rispondere con una piena e totale elargizione della facoltà, *dum opus sit*, se veramente ce ne fosse bisogno, “di benedire, secondo le norme dei cann. 1169-1171 del CIC, lo scapolare celeste ai fedeli richiedentilo, con il diritto di subdelega non solo al membri della nostra Congregazione... ma anche agli altri sacerdoti, sia religiosi che secolari, per poter soddisfare le rechiede dei fedeli dalle diverse parti del mondo.”

Ritengo, da quanto mi è stato detto dal nostro Procuratore presso la Santa Sede, che la nuova normativa della Chiesa difatti concede la *benedizione ed imposizione semplice degli scapolari*, ed altri oggetti sacri, ai Ministri Sacri di cui parla il can. 1169: Vescovi, Presbiteri ed eventualmente Diaconi.

Invece quando lo scapolare è visto come *elemento di ammissione ad una confraternità aggregata ad un Istituto religioso*, allora l'imposizione dello scapolare deve farsi da un suo membro o da un Ministro a ciò debitamente delegato dalla competente Autorità dello stesso Istituto.

Quanto all'ingresso in una confraternità, per mezzo del quale uno diviene spiritualmente partecipe di un Istituto religioso, si tengano presenti le norme particolari stabilite dai singoli Istituti e siano integralmente osservate. (CEI, *BENEDIZIONALE*, 1992, p. 717)

A questo punto, carissimo Padre, solo rimane trarne le conseguenze. Voi avete, a norma del can. 303, la CONFRATERNITÀ DELL'IMMACOLATA CONCEZIONE, i cui membri – uomini e donne – conducono una vita apostolica e tendono alla perfezione cristiana partecipando nel mondo al carisma del vostro Istituto religioso, sotto l'alta direzione dell'Istituto stesso. Negli statuti della Confraternità ci può essere l'obbligo di portare lo scapolare azzurro. Voi stabilirete la maniera di procedere alla benedizione ed imposizione del suddetto scapolare.

Sia dunque noto a tutti coloro che leggeranno questa lettera, che, se ce bisogno e nella misura in cui ce ne fosse, il sottoscritto P. Valentín Arteaga y Sánchez Guijaldo, concede in perpetuum ai Superiori Generali della Congregazione dei Chierici Mariani dell'Immacolata Concezione della B.V.M., la facoltà di benedire ed imporre l'abitino azzurro dell'Immacolata, e di sottodelegarla tanto a Ministri del proprio Istituto religioso, come a Ministri, siano essi Chierici secolari oppure regolari. In nomine Patris, et Filii et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

Dato in Roma, quest'oggi 16 luglio 2008, Memoria della Madonna del Monte Carmelo e 249° Giornata dell'Anno Santo Avelliniano.

Resta da Vostra Reverendissima Paternità, dev.mo in Cristo e Maria Immacolata.

P. VALENTÍN ARTEAGA, C.R.
Preposito Generale

S. CONGREGATIO S. OFFICII

(SECTIO DE INDULGENTIIS)

DE METALLICO NUMISMATE PRO LIBITU FIDELIUM
SACRIS SCAPULARIBUS EX PANNIO SUFFICIENDO.

DECRETUM

Cum sacra, quæ vocant, scapularia ad fidelium devotionem fovendam sanctiorisque vitæ proposita in eis excitanda maxime conferre compertum sit, ut pius eis nomen dandi mos in dies magis invalescat, SSmus D. N. D. Pius divina providentia PP. X, etsi vehementer exoptet ut eadem, quo hucusque modo consueverunt, fideles deferre prosequantur, plurimum tamen ad Se delatis votis ex animo obsecundans, præhabito Emorum Patrum Cardinalium Inquisitorum Generalium suffragio, in Audientia R. P. D. Adessori huius Supremæ Sacræ Congregationis Sancti Officii, die 16 Decembris anni currentis, impertita, benigne decernere dignatus est:

Omnibus fidelibus, tam uni quam pluribus veri nominis atque a Sancta Sede probatis scapularibus (exceptis quæ Tertiorum Ordinum sunt propria), per regularem, ut aiunt, impositionem iam adscriptis aut in posterum adscribendis, licere posthac pro ipsis, sive uno sive pluribus, scapularibus ex panno, unicum numisma ex metallo seu ad collum seu aliter, decenter tamen super propriam personam, deferre, quo, servatis propriis cuiusque eorum legibus, favores omnes spirituales (*sabbatino*, quod dicunt, scapularis B.M.V. de Monte Carmelo *privilegio* non excepto) omnesque indulgentias singulis adnexas participare ac lucrari possint ac valeant;

Huius numismatis partem rectam, SSmi D. N. I. C. suum sacratissimum Cor ostendentis, aversam, Bmæ Virginis Mariæ effigiem referre debere;

Idem benedictum esse oportere tot distinctis benedictionibus quot sunt scapularia regulariter imposita, queis, pro libitu petentium, suffici velit;

Singulas has, demum, benedictiones impertiri posse *unico crucis signo*, vel in ipso adscriptionis actu, statim post absolutam regularem scapularis impositionem, vel etiam serius,

pro petentium opportunitate, non interest an servato vel non diversarum adscriptionum ordine, nec quanto post temporis ab ipsis, a quovis Sacerdote, etiam ab adscribente distincto, qui respectiva scapularia benedicendi sive ordinaria sive delegata facultate polleat, firmis ceteroquin primitivæ facultatis limitibus, clausulis et conditionibus.

Contrariis quibuscumque, etiam specialissima mentione dignis, non obstantibus.

Datum Romæ, ex Ædibus S. Officii, die 16 Decembris 1910.

L. X S.

ALOISIUS GIAMBENE
Substitutus pro Indulgentiis