



Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Proclamation of the Immaculate Conception - by Pope Pius IX on Dec 8, 1854



DOGMA In the Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus* of 8 December, 1854, Pius IX pronounced and defined that the Blessed Virgin Mary "in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin."

The Little Office of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

No. 243. The Raccolta (1910).

Matins

(during the night, at midnight with some) also called Vigils or Nocturns or in monastic usage the Night Office

V. Eia, mea labia, nunc annuntiate
R. Laudes et præconia Virginis beatæ.

V. DOMINA, in adjutorium meum intende.
R. Me de manu hostium potenter defende.

V. Glória PATRI, et FÍLIO, et SPIRÍTUI SANCTO.
R. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in
sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

Alleluia.

V. Come, my lips, and wide proclaim
R. The Blessed Virgin's spotless fame.

V. O LADY! make haste to befriend me.
R. From the hands of the enemy mightily defend
me.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Ghost.
R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be, world without end. Amen.

Alleluia.

Thus is said *Alleluia* at all the Hours throughout the year, except from Septuagesima to Holy Saturday; for then is said: Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

Hymnus

SALVE, mundi Domina,
cælorum Regina:
Salve, Virgo virginum,
stella matutina

Salve, plena gratia,
clara luce divina.
Mundi in auxilium,
Domina, festina.

Ab æterno DOMINUS
te præordinavit
matrem unigeniti
Verbi, quo creavit.

Terram, pontum, æthera,
te pulchram ornavit
sibi Sponsam, quæ
in Adam non peccavit.
Amen.

V. Elegit eam Deus, et præelegit eam.
R. In tabernaculo suo habitare fecit eam.

V. Domina, protege orationem meam.
R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

Oremus.
Sancta Maria, Regina cælorum, Mater
DOMININOSTRI JESU CHRISTI, et mundi Domina, quæ
nullum derelinquis, et nullum despicias: respice
me, Domina, clementer oculo pietatis, et impetra
mihi apud tuum dilectum FILIUM cunctorum
veniam peccatorum: ut qui nunc tuam sanctam et
immaculatam conceptionem devoto affectu recolo,
æternæ in futurum beatitudinis, bravium capiam,
ipso, quem virgo peperisti, donante DOMINO nostro
JESU CHRISTO: qui cum PATRE et
SANCTO SPIRITU vivit et regnat, in Trinitate
perfecta, DEUS, in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

V. Domina, protege orationem meam.
R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

V. Benedicamus DOMINO.
R. DEO gratias.

V. Fidelium animæ per misericordiam Dei
requiescant in pace.
R. Amen.

Hymn

HAIL, Queen of the Heavens!
Hail, Mistress of earth!
Hail, Virgin most pure
of immaculate birth!

Clear star of the morning
in beauty enshrined!
O Lady make speed
to the help of mankind.

Thee GOD in the depth
of eternity chose;
and formed thee all fair,
as His glorious spouse;

And called thee His WORD'S
own Mother to be,
by Whom HE created
the earth, sky, and sea.
Amen.

V. God elected her, and pre-elected her.
R. He made Her to dwell in His tabernacle.

V. O Lady, hear my prayer.
R. And let my cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.
Holy Mary, Queen of heaven, Mother of Our
LORD JESUS CHRIST, and Mistress of the world, who
forsakest no one and despisest no one, look upon
me, O Lady, with an eye of pity and entreat for
me, of thy beloved SON, the forgiveness of all my
sins that, as I now celebrate, with devout
affection, thy holy and Immaculate Conception,
so hereafter, I may receive the prize of eternal
blessedness, by the grace of HIM Whom thou, in
virginity, didst bring forth, JESUS CHRIST our
LORD: Who with the FATHER and the HOLY SPIRIT,
liveth and reigneth in perfect Trinity, GOD,
forever. Amen.

V. O Lady, hear my prayer.
R. And let my cry come unto thee.

V. Let us bless the LORD.
R. Thanks be to GOD

V. May the souls of the faithful departed through
the mercy of God, rest in peace.
R. Amen.

Prime

- or Early Morning Prayer (First Hour—approx. 6am)

V. DOMINA, in adiutorium meum intende.
R. Me de manu hostium potenter defende.

V. Glória PATRI, et FÍLIO, et SPIRÍTUI SANCTO.
R. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in
sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

Alleluia.

Thus is said *Alleluia* at all the Hours throughout the year, except from Septuagesima to Holy Saturday; for then is said: Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

SALVE, Virgo sapiens,
domus DEO dicata,
columna septemplici
mensaque exornata.

Ab omni contagio
mundi præservata.
Semper sancta in utero
matris, ex qua nata.

Tu Mater viventium,
et porta es sanctorum.
Nova stella Jacob,
Domina angelorum.

Zabulo terribilis
acies castrorum.
Porta et refugium
sis Christianorum.
Amen.

V. Ipse creavit illam in Spiritu Sancto.
R. Et effundit illam super omnia opera sua.

V. Domina, protege orationem meam.
R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

Oremus.

Sancta Maria, Regina cælorum, Mater DOMINI nostri
JESU CHRISTI, et mundi Domina, quæ nullum
derelinquis, et nullum despicias: respice me, Domina,
clementer oculo pietatis, et impetra mihi apud tuum
dilectum FILIUM cunctorum veniam peccatorum: ut
qui nunc tuam sanctam et immaculatam
conceptionem devoto affectu recolo, æternæ in
futurum beatitudinis, bravium capiam, ipso, quem
virgo peperisti, donante DOMINO nostro
JESU CHRISTO: qui cum PATRE et SANCTO SPIRITU vivit
et regnat, in Trinitate perfecta, DEUS, in sæcula

V. O LADY! make haste to befriend me.
R. From the hands of the enemy mightily
defend me.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and
to the Holy Ghost.
R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be, world without end. Amen.

Alleluia.

HAIL, Virgin, most wise!
Hail, Deity's shrine!
with seven fair pillars,
and table divine!

Preserved from the guilt
which hath come upon us all!
Exempt, in the womb,
from the taint of the fall!

O new Star of Jacob,
of angels the Queen!
O Gate of the saints!
O Mother of men!

To Zabulon fearful
as the embattled array!
Be thou of the faithful
the refuge and stay.
Amen.

V. The Lord Himself created her in the Holy
Ghost.
R. And poured her out over all His works.

V. O Lady, hear my prayer.
R. And let my cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.

Holy Mary, Queen of heaven, Mother of Our
Lord Jesus Christ, and Mistress of the world,
who forsakest no one and despisest no one,
look upon me, O Lady, with an eye of pity and
entreat for me, of thy beloved SON, the
forgiveness of all my sins that, as I now
celebrate, with devout affection, thy holy and
Immaculate Conception, so hereafter, I may
receive the prize of eternal blessedness, by the
grace of HIM Whom thou, in virginity, didst
bring forth, Jesus Christ our LORD: Who with

sæculorum. Amen.

V. Domina, protege orationem meam.

R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

V. Benedicamus DOMINO.

R. DEO gratias.

V. Fidelium animæ per misericordiam Dei
requiescant in pace.

R. Amen.

the Father and the Holy Spirit, liveth and
reigneth in perfect Trinity, GOD, forever. Amen.

V. O Lady, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry come unto thee.

V. Let us bless the LORD.

R. Thanks be to GOD

V. May the souls of the faithful, departed
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen.

Terce or Mid Morning Prayer (Third Hour—approx. 9am)

V. DOMINA, in adiutorium meum intende.

R. Me de manu hostium potenter defende.

V. Glória PATRI, et FÍLIO, et SPIRÍTUI SANCTO.

R. Sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in
sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

V. O LADY! make haste to befriend me.

R. From the hands of the enemy mightily
defend me.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and
to the Holy Ghost.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be, world without end. Amen.

Alleluia.

Thus is said *Alleluia* at all the Hours throughout the year, except from Septuagesima to Holy Saturday; for then is said: Praise be to
Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

SALVE, arca fœderis,
thronus Salomonis,
arcus pulcher ætheris,
rubus visionis.

Virga frondens germinis,
vellus Gedeonis,
porta clausa numinis,
faviusque Samsonis.

Decebat tam nobilem
natum præcavere
ab originali
labe matris Evæ.

Almam, quam elegerat,
Genetricem vere,
nulli prorsus sinens
culpæ subiacere.
Amen.

V. Ego in altissimis habito.

R. Et thronus meus in columna nubis.

V. Domina, protege orationem meam.

R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

Oremus.

Alleluia.

HAIL, Solomon's Throne!
Pure Ark of the law
fair Rainbow and Bush,
which the patriarch saw!

Hail, Gedeon's Fleece!
Hail, blossoming Rod!
Samson's sweet Honeycomb!
Portal of GOD!

Well-fitting it was
that a SON so divine
should preserve from all touch
of original sin.

Nor suffer by smallest
defect to be stained
that Mother, whom HE
for Himself had ordained.
Amen.

V. I dwell in the highest.

R. And my throne is on the pillar of the clouds.

V. O Lady, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.

Sancta Maria, Regina cælorum, Mater DOMINI nostri
JESU CHRISTI, et mundi Domina, quæ nullum
derelinquis, et nullum despicias: respice me, Domina,
clementer oculo pietatis, et impetra mihi apud tuum
dilectum FILIUM cunctorum veniam peccatorum: ut
qui nunc tuam sanctam et immaculatam
conceptionem devoto affectu recolo, æternæ in
futurum beatitudinis, bravium capiam, ipso, quem
virgo peperisti, donante DOMINO nostro
JESU CHRISTO: qui cum PATRE et SANCTO SPIRITU vivit
et regnat, in Trinitate perfecta, DEUS, in sæcula
sæculorum. Amen.

V. Domina, protege orationem meam.
R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

V. Benedicamus DOMINO.
R. DEO gratias.

V. Fidelium animæ per misericordiam Dei
requiescant in pace.
R. Amen.

Holy Mary, Queen of heaven, Mother of Our
Lord Jesus Christ, and Mistress of the world,
who forsakest no one and despisest no one,
look upon me, O Lady, with an eye of pity and
entreat for me, of thy beloved SON, the
forgiveness of all my sins that, as I now
celebrate, with devout affection, thy holy and
Immaculate Conception, so hereafter, I may
receive the prize of eternal blessedness, by the
grace of HIM Whom thou, in virginity, didst
bring forth, Jesus Christ our LORD: Who with
the FATHER and the HOLY SPIRIT, liveth and
reigneth in perfect Trinity, GOD, forever. Amen.

V. O Lady, hear my prayer.
R. And let my cry come unto thee.

V. Let us bless the LORD.
R. Thanks be to GOD

V. May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
R. Amen.

Sext or Midday Prayer (Sixth Hour – approx 12 noon)

V. DOMINA, in adjutorium meum intende.
R. Me de manu hostium potenter defende.

V. Glória PATRI, et FÍLIO, et SPIRÍTUI SANCTO.
R. Sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in
sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

Alleluia.

Thus is said *Alleluia* at all the Hours throughout the year, except from Septuagesima to Holy Saturday; for then is said: Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

SALVE, Virgo puerpera,
templum TRINITATIS,
angelorum gaudium,
cella puritatis.

Solamen mœrentium,
hortus voluptatis,
palma patientiæ
cedrus castitatis.

Terra es benedicta
et sacerdotalis,
sancta et immunis
culpæ originalis.

V. O LADY! make haste to befriend me.
R. From the hands of the enemy mightily defend me.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Ghost.
R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be, world without end. Amen.

Alleluia.

HAIL, virginal Mother!
Hail, purity's Cell!
Fair Shrine, where the Trinity
loveth to dwell!

Hail, Garden of pleasure!
Celestial Balm!
Cedar of chastity!
Martyrdom's Palm!

Thou Land set apart
from uses profane!
And free from the curse
which in Adam began!

Civitas ALTISSIMI,
porta orientalis:
in te est omnis gratia,
Virgo singularis.
Amen.

V. Sicut liliū inter spinas
R. Sic amica mea inter filias Adæ.

V. Domina, protege orationem meam.
R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

Oremus.
Sancta Maria, Regina cælorum, Mater
DOMINOSTRI JESU CHRISTI, et mundi Domina, quæ
nullum derelinquis, et nullum despicias: respice
me, Domina, clementer oculo pietatis, et impetra
mihi apud tuum dilectum FILIUM cunctorum
veniam peccatorum: ut qui nunc tuam sanctam et
immaculatam conceptionem devoto affectu recolo,
æternæ in futurum beatitudinis, bravium capiam,
ipso, quem virgo peperisti, donante DOMINO nostro
JESU CHRISTO: qui cum PATRE et
SANCTO SPIRITU vivit et regnat, in Trinitate
perfecta, DEUS, in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

V. Domina, protege orationem meam.
R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

V. Benedicamus DOMINO.
R. DEO gratias.

V. Fidelium animæ per misericordiam Dei
requiescant in pace.
R. Amen.

Thou City of GOD!
Thou Gate of the east
in thee is all grace
O Joy of the blest!
Amen.

V. As the lily among the thorns.
R. So is my beloved among the daughters of
Adam.

V. O Lady, hear my prayer.
R. And let my cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.
Holy Mary, Queen of heaven, Mother of Our
LORD JESUS CHRIST, and Mistress of the world, who
forsakest no one and despisest no one, look upon
me, O Lady, with an eye of pity and entreat for
me, of thy beloved SON, the forgiveness of all my
sins that, as I now celebrate, with devout
affection, thy holy and immaculate conception, so
hereafter, I may receive the prize of eternal
blessedness, by the grace of HIM Whom thou, in
virginity, didst bring forth, JESUS CHRIST our
LORD: Who with the FATHER and the HOLY SPIRIT,
liveth and reigneth in perfect Trinity, GOD,
forever. Amen.

V. O Lady, aid my prayer.
R. And let my cry come unto thee.

V. Let us bless the LORD.
R. Thanks be to GOD

V. May the souls of the faithful departed , through
the mercy of God, rest in peace.
R. Amen.

None or Mid Afternoon Prayer (Ninth Hour – approx 3pm)

V. DOMINA, in adjutorium meum intende.
R. Me de manu hostium potenter defende.

V. Glória PATRI, et FÍLIO, et SPIRÍTUI SANCTO.
R. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in
sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

Alleluia.

Thus is said *Alleluia* at all the Hours throughout the year, except from Septuagesima to Holy Saturday; for then is said: Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

SALVE, urbs refugii,

V. O LADY! make haste to befriend me.
R. From the hands of the enemy mightily defend
me.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Ghost.
R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be, world without end. Amen.

Alleluia.

HAIL, City of refuge!

turrisque munita
David, propugnaculis
armisque insignita.

In conceptione
caritate ignita
draconis potestas
est a te contrita.

O mulier fortis,
et invicta Judith!
Pulchra Abisag virgo
verum fovens David!

Rachel curatorem
Ægypti gestavit:
SALVATOREM mundi
Maria portavit.
Amen.

V. Tota pulchra es, amica mea.
R. Et macula originalis numquam fuit in te.

V. Domina, protege orationem meam.
R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

Oremus.
Sancta Maria, Regina cælorum, Mater
DOMINI nostri JESU CHRISTI, et mundi Domina, quæ
nullum derelinquis, et nullum despicias: respice
me, Domina, clementer oculo pietatis, et impetra
mihi apud tuum dilectum FILIUM cunctorum
veniam peccatorum: ut qui nunc tuam sanctam et
immaculatam conceptionem devoto affectu recolo,
æternæ in futurum beatitudinis, bravium capiam,
ipso, quem virgo peperisti, donante DOMINO nostro
JESU CHRISTO: qui cum PATRE et
SANCTO SPIRITU vivit et regnat, in Trinitate
perfecta, DEUS, in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

V. Domina, protege orationem meam.
R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

V. Benedicamus DOMINO.
R. DEO gratias.

V. Fidelium animæ per misericordiam Dei
requiescant in pace.
R. Amen.

Hail, David's high tower,
with battlements crowned
and girded with power!

Filled at thy conception
with love and with light!
The dragon by thee
was shorn of his might.

O Woman most valiant!
O Judith thrice blest!
As David was nursed
in fair Abisag's breast;

As the savior of Egypt
upon Rachel's knee:
so the world's great REDEEMER
was cherished by thee.
Amen.

V. Thou art all fair, my beloved.
R. And the original stain was never in thee.

V. O Lady, hear my prayer.
R. And let my cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.
Holy Mary, Queen of heaven, Mother of Our
LORD JESUS CHRIST, and Mistress of the world, who
forsakest no one and despisest no one, look upon
me, O Lady, with an eye of pity and entreat for
me, of thy beloved SON, the forgiveness of all my
sins that, as I now celebrate, with devout
affection, thy holy and Immaculate Conception,
so hereafter, I may receive the prize of eternal
blessedness, by the grace of HIM Whom thou, in
virginity, didst bring forth, JESUS CHRIST our
LORD: Who with the FATHER and the HOLY SPIRIT,
liveth and reigneth in perfect Trinity, GOD,
forever. Amen.

V. O Lady, hear my prayer.
R. And let my cry come unto thee.

V. Let us bless the LORD.
R. Thanks be to GOD

V. May the souls of the faithful departed, through
the mercy of God, rest in peace.
R. Amen.

V. DOMINA, in adiutorium meum intende.
R. Me de manu hostium potenter defende.

V. Glória PATRI, et FÍLIO, et SPIRÍTUI SANCTO.
R. Sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in
sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

Alleluia.

Thus is said *Alleluia* at all the Hours throughout the year, except from Septuagesima to Holy Saturday; for then is said: Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

SALVE, horologium,
quo, retrogradiatur
sol in decem lineis;
Verbum incarnatur.

Homo ut ab inferis
ad summa attollatur,
immensus ab angelis
paulo minoratur.

Solis hujus radiis
Maria coruscat;
consurgens aurora
in conceptu micat.

Lilium inter spinas
quæ serpentis conterat
caput: pulchra ut luna
errantes collustrat.
Amen.

V. Ego feci in cælis ut oriretur lumen indeficiens.
R. Et quasi nebula texi omnem terram.

V. Domina, protege orationem meam.
R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

Oremus.

Sancta Maria, Regina cælorum, Mater DOMINI nostri
JESU CHRISTI, et mundi Domina, quæ nullum
derelinquis, et nullum despicias: respice me,
Domina, clementer oculo pietatis, et impetra mihi
apud tuum dilectum FILIUM cunctorum veniam
peccatorum: ut qui nunc tuam sanctam et
immaculatam conceptionem devoto affectu recolo,
æternæ in futurum beatitudinis, bravium capiam,
ipso, quem virgo peperisti, donante DOMINO nostro
JESU CHRISTO: qui cum PATRE et SANCTO SPIRITU vivit
et regnat, in Trinitate perfecta, DEUS, in sæcula
sæculorum. Amen.

V. Domina, protege orationem meam.

V. O LADY! make haste to befriend me.
R. From the hands of the enemy mightily defend
me.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Ghost.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be, world without end. Amen.

Alleluia.

HAIL, Dial of Achaz!
On thee the true sun
told backward the course
which from old he had run!

And, that man might be raised,
submitting to shame,
a little more low
than the angels became.

Thou, rapt in the blaze
of HIS infinite light,
dost shine as the morn
on the confines of night.

As the moon on the lost
through obscurity dawns;
the serpent's destroyer!
A lily 'mid thorns!
Amen.

V. I made an unfailing light to arise in heaven.
R. And as a mist I overspread the whole earth.

V. O Lady, hear my prayer.
R. And let my cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.

Holy Mary, Queen of heaven, Mother of Our
LORD, JESUS CHRIST, and Mistress of the world,
who forsakest no one and despisest no one, look
upon me, O Lady, with an eye of pity and entreat
for me, of thy beloved SON, the forgiveness of all
my sins that, as I now celebrate, with devout
affection, thy holy and Immaculate Conception,
so hereafter, I may receive the prize of eternal
blessedness, by the grace of HIM Whom thou, in
virginity, didst bring forth, JESUS CHRIST our
LORD: Who with the FATHER and the HOLY SPIRIT,
liveth and reigneth in perfect Trinity, GOD,
forever. Amen.

V. O Lady, hear my prayer.

R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

V. Benedicamus DOMINO.

R. DEO gratias.

V. Fidelium animæ per misericordiam Dei
requiescant in pace.

R. Amen.

R. And let my cry come unto thee.

V. Let us bless the LORD.

R. Thanks be to GOD

V. May the souls of the faithful, departed
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen.

Compline or Night Prayer (before retiring, generally at 9pm)

V. Convertat nos, Domina, tuis precibus placatur
JESUS CHRISTUS FILIUS tuus.

R. Et avertat iram suam a nobis.

V. DOMINA, in adjutorium meum intende.

R. Me de manu hostium potenter defende.

V. Glória PATRI, et FÍLIO, et SPIRÍTUI SANCTO.

R. Sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in
sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

Alleluia.

Thus is said *Alleluia* at all the Hours throughout the year, except from Septuagesima to Holy Saturday; for then is said: Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

SALVE, virgo florens,
mater illibata,
regina clementiæ,
stellis coronata.

Super omnes angelos
pura, immaculata,
atque ad regis dexteram
stans veste deaurata.

Per te, mater gratiæ,
dulcis spes reorum,
fulgens stella maris,
portus naufragorum.

Patens cæli janua

V. May Jesus Christ, thy Son,
reconciled by thy prayers, O Lady,
convert our hearts.

R. And turn away His anger from
us.

V. O Lady! make haste to befriend
me.

R. From the hands of the enemy
mightily defend me.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to
the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

R. As it was in the beginning, is
now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

Alleluia.

HAIL, Mother most pure!
Hail, Virgin renowned!
Hail, Queen with the stars,
as a diadem, crowned.

Above all the angels
in glory untold,
standing next to the King
in a vesture of gold.

O Mother of mercy!
O Star of the wave!
O Hope of the guilty!
O Light of the grave!

Through thee may we come

salus infirmorum
videamus regem
in aula sanctorum.
Amen.

V. Oleum effusum, Maria, nomen tuum.
R. Servi tui dilexerunt te nimis.

V. Domina, protege orationem meam.
R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.
Oremus.

Sancta Maria, Regina cælorum, Mater
DOMINI nostri JESU CHRISTI, et mundi Domina,
quæ nullum derelinquis, et nullum despicias: respice
me, Domina, clementer oculo pietatis, et impetra
mihi apud tuum dilectum FILIUM cunctorum
veniam peccatorum: ut qui nunc tuam sanctam et
immaculatam conceptionem devoto affectu recolo,
æternæ in futurum beatitudinis, bravium capiam,
ipso, quem virgo peperisti, donante
DOMINO nostro JESU CHRISTO: qui cum
PATRE et SANCTO SPIRITU vivit et regnat, in
Trinitate perfecta, DEUS, in sæcula sæculorum.
Amen.

V. Domina, protege orationem meam.
R. Et clamor meus ad te veniat.

V. Benedicamus DOMINO.
R. DEO gratias.

V. Fidelium animæ per misericordiam Dei
requiescant in pace.

R. Amen.

to the haven of rest;
and see heaven's King
in the courts of the blest!
Amen.

V. Thy name, O Mary, is an oil
poured out.
R. Thy servants have loved thee
exceedingly.

V. O Lady, hear my prayer.
R. And let my cry come unto thee.
Let us pray.

Holy Mary, Queen of heaven,
Mother of Our Lord, Jesus Christ,
and Mistress of the world, who
forsakest no one and despisest no
one, look upon me, O Lady, with
an eye of pity and entreat for me,
of thy beloved Son, the forgiveness
of all my sins that, as I now
celebrate, with devout affection,
thy holy and Immaculate
Conception, so hereafter, I may
receive the prize of eternal
blessedness, by the grace of
Him Whom thou, in Thy virginity,
didst bring forth, Jesus Christ our
Lord: Who with the Father and the
Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth in
perfect Unity, One God, forever.
Amen.

V. O Lady, hear my prayer.
R. And let my cry come unto thee.

V. Let us bless the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God

V. May the souls of the faithful
departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace.

R. Amen.

THE COMMENDATION

These praises and prayers
I lay at thy feet,
O Virgin of virgins!
O Mary most sweet!

Be thou my true guide
Through this pilgrimage here;
And stand by my side
When death draweth near.

R. Thanks be to God.

Ant. This is the rod in which was neither knot of original sin,
nor rind of actual guilt.

V. In thy conception, O Virgin! thou wast Immaculate.

R. Pray for us to the Father, Whose Son thou didst bring forth.

Let us pray

O GOD, Who, by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin, didst prepare
a worthy habitation for Thy Son: we beseech Thee that,
as in view of the death of that Son, Thou didst preserve her from all stain of sin,
so Thou wouldst enable us, being made pure by her intercession,
to come unto Thee. Through the same Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Immaculate Conception

The doctrine

In the Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus* of 8 December, 1854, Pius IX pronounced and defined that the Blessed Virgin Mary "in the first instance of her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin."

"The Blessed Virgin Mary..."

The subject of this immunity from original sin is the person of Mary at the moment of the creation of her soul and its infusion into her body.

"...in the first instance of her conception..."

The term *conception* does not mean the *active* or *generative* conception by her parents. Her body was formed in the womb of the mother, and the father had the usual share in its formation. The question does not concern the immaculateness of the generative activity of her parents. Neither does it concern the passive conception absolutely and simply (*conceptio seminis carnis, inchoata*), which, according to the order of nature, precedes the infusion of the rational soul. The person is truly conceived when the soul is created and infused into the body. Mary was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin at the first moment of her animation, and sanctifying grace was given to her before sin could have taken effect in her soul.

"...was preserved exempt from all stain of original sin..."

The formal active essence of original sin was not removed from her soul, as it is *removed* from others by baptism; it was *excluded*, it never was in her soul. Simultaneously with the exclusion of sin. The state of original sanctity, innocence, and justice, as opposed to original sin, was conferred upon her, by which gift every stain and fault, all depraved emotions, passions, and debilities, essentially pertaining to original sin, were excluded. But she was not made exempt from the temporal penalties of Adam — from sorrow, bodily infirmities, and death.

"...by a singular privilege and grace granted by God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race."

The immunity from original sin was given to Mary by a singular exemption from a universal law through the same merits of Christ, by which other men are cleansed from sin by baptism. Mary needed the redeeming Saviour to obtain this exemption, and to be delivered from the universal necessity and debt (*debitum*) of being subject to original sin. The person of Mary, in consequence of her origin from Adam, should have been subject to sin, but, being the new Eve who was to be the mother of the new Adam, she was, by the eternal counsel of God and by the merits of Christ, withdrawn from the general law of original sin. Her redemption was the very masterpiece of Christ's redeeming wisdom. He is a greater redeemer who pays the debt that it may not be incurred than he who pays after it has fallen on the debtor.

Such is the meaning of the term "Immaculate Conception."

Proof from Scripture

Luke 1:28

The salutation of the angel Gabriel — *chaire kecharitomene*, Hail, full of grace (Luke 1:28) indicates a unique abundance of grace, a supernatural, godlike state of soul, which finds its explanation only in the Immaculate Conception of Mary. But the term *kecharitomene* (full of grace) serves only as an illustration, not as a proof of the dogma.