



SUPERIORE GENERALE
DELLA CONGREGAZIONE DEI CHIERICI MARIANI
DELL'IMMACOLATA CONCEZIONE DELLA B. V. M.

VIA CORSICA, 1 – 00198 ROMA, ITALIA

Rome, November 3, 2009
Prot. No 210/2009

**DECREE RATIFYING THE COAT OF ARMS
OF THE CONGREGATION OF MARIAN FATHERS**

The first Marian crest from the time of Blessed Father Founder depicted a dove carrying an olive branch. Then, in 1722, the Congregation's seal was changed to an image of the Immaculate Mother of God holding a lily flower in her right hand and crushing the head of a serpent with her foot. A radiating aureole surrounded her figure. Following the Congregation's renovation in 1909, its old symbol continued to be used, though in various graphic renditions.


In recent years – with the onset of global mass media – the necessity emerged for creating a uniform iconographic symbol that would allow for easier identification of our Congregation worldwide. This symbol would be a concise and clear sign of our community.

The General Chapter of 1999 introduced for the use of the entire Congregation a uniform emblem in the shape of a coat of arms with the image of the Immaculate Mary placed on the shield. The Congregation's official motto, *Pro Christo et Ecclesia*, which was given to it by Blessed George Matulaitis-Matulewicz and which synthesizes the essence of our charism, was placed on a scarf under the shield. However, the Chapter did not approve any of the proposed graphic renditions.

In the year of the 100th anniversary of the Renewal and Reform of our Congregation, a new graphic rendition was created through the initiative of Fr. Krzysztof Trojan, MIC, and the effort of Br. Andrew Mączyński, MIC. It was shaped as a coat of arms in accordance with the description provided by the *Declaration* of the General Chapter of 1999. Mr. Tomasz Steifer from Poland, an artist, historian, and founding member of the Polish Heraldic Society, completed the project, following the standing rules of heraldry.

After consulting with many of our confreres and having obtained the consent of the General Council in its session on October 2, 2009, I ratify the coat of arms as the official and legally binding graphic sign of the Congregation of Marian Fathers (the sample is attached to this decree). Furthermore, I direct that from now on this coat of arms be used on seals, letterheads and our publications in accordance with proper law.

I trust that this new graphic symbol representing our community, which combines the elements of the original Marian crest, used by the Institute throughout first centuries of its existence, with the motto given by Blessed Archbishop George Matulaitis-Matulewicz to the renewed Congregation, will foster a greater unity within the Congregation.


Zbigniew Piłat, MIC
Secretary General



Jan M. Rokosz, MIC
Superior General

Attachments that are an integral part of this Decree:

1. Sample of the coat of arms of the Congregation of Maria Fathers by Mr. Tomasz Steifer;
2. *Heraldic Commentary* by Mr. Tomasz Steifer.