

**Pope John Paul II's Address
to the members of the Special General Chapter of the Congregation of
Marians
at the audience on July 6, 1984**

Dear Brothers,

Three years ago I unfortunately missed the opportunity to greet the members of the General Chapter of the Congregation of Marians under the title of the Immaculate Conception. Today, having you here before me, I receive you that much more gladly.

My heart has been overjoyed by your many manifestations of kindness and loyalty to the Vicar of Christ, as well as your assurance of union with the See of Peter and the Universal Church, contained in the recent letter of the Superior General and made obvious now by your marks of esteem and affection – no less so splendidly demonstrated at that time by your prayers for my health.

Following the dictates of Mother Church you have already completed the laborious task of renewing and reviewing your existing legislation, and also editing and approving their final text. Since, from years past, I am well aware of your proper work and apostolate in the Church I have no doubt that your diligence in this matter will bring about the desired result.

There is still this one need – that those decisions be effectively translated into daily life, in solid piety as well as zealous missionary works – in whatever parts of the world your homes are situated.

It is common knowledge what excruciating difficulties assailed your Congregation over the past three centuries, that is from the time when Fr. Stanislaus Papczyński providentially founded it in my fatherland. Just as thus far your religious family succeeded in overcoming adversities and at times rising above such dangers which even threatened its very existence – so now I wish – nay, even more – I do expect that after deeper reflection and renewal of the rules of your Institute, a fresh enthusiasm will flourish in your midst.

Today, I desire to rekindle such fervor; I desire with words of fraternal exhortation to support your concern for new vocations; to remain faithful to the goals of your founders, so that in a common united effort in these next several years you may attain such a new growth of your family as the merciful God himself wishes to grant you.

Receive therefore my words of special greeting. Receive also the Apostolic Blessing. May it henceforth accompany you as a witness of my great affection for your religious family and at the same time be a guarantee of heavenly graces.

Joannes Paulus II