Little Office of

The Immaculate Conception

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee.

The text from which the present translation has been made is taken from the Office as published by authority at Rome, in 1838 (Caeleste Palmentum, p. 243). In 1830 Our Lady appeared to St. Catherine Labouré and gave us the Miraculous Medal. In 1854 the dogma of the Immaculate Conception was defined by Pope Pius IX. In 1858 Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette at Lourdes and, in answer to the saint's question, “who are you,” said: “I am the Immaculate Conception.”
n July 13, 1917, during the Third apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, She told the three child seers, Lucy, Jacinta and Francisco, that in order to prevent the punishment of the world for its crimes by means of wars, famine, persecutions of the Church and of the Holy Father, She would come at a future date to ask for the Consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart, and the Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays.

True to Her word, on December 10, 1925, the Child Jesus appeared with Our Lady to Sister Lucy (the only surviving of the 3 child seers) in Pontevedra, Spain. Sister Lucy was shown a Heart encircled by thorns.

The Child Jesus said:

“Have compassion on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother, covered with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce It at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of Reparation to remove them.”

Then the Most Holy Virgin said:

“Look My daughter, at My Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce Me at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console Me and announce in My name that I promise to assist at the moment of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the First Saturday of five consecutive months shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep Me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making Reparation to Me.”

Sister Lucy was asked by Her confessor, Father Gonçalves, “Why five Saturdays...?”

On May 29 while visiting the Blessed Sacrament, here is what was revealed to Sister Lucy by Our Lord:

“My daughter, the reason is simple. There are five types of offenses and blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

1. Blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception.
2. Blasphemies against Her Perpetual Virginity.
3. Blasphemies against Her Divine Maternity, in refusing at the same time to recognize Her as the Mother of men.
4. The blasphemies of those who publicly seek to sow in the hearts of children indifference or scorn, or even hatred of this Immaculate Mother.
5. The offenses of those who outrage Her directly in Her holy images.”

In addition to making the Five First Saturday Communion of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, further console Our Lady with the recitation of the Little Office of The Immaculate Conception. This Office may be said anytime. In preparation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, make a novena reciting this Little Office for nine days prior to the feast day.
Preparatory Prayers

Prayer to the Holy Ghost
(Recommended for recitation at the beginning of prayers)

Veni Creator Spiritus

Veni Creator Spiritus,
Mentes Tuorum visita,
Imple superna gratia
Quæ Tu creasti pectora.

Qui diceris Paraclitus,
Altissimi donum Dei,
Fons vivus, ignis, caritas,
Et spiritalis unctio.

Tu septiformis munere,
Digitus Paternæ dexteræ,
Tu rite promissum Patris,
Sermone ditans guttura.

Accende lumen sensibus,
Infunde amorem cordibus,
Infirma nostri corporis
Virtute firmans perpeti.

Hostem repellas longius,
Pacemque dones protinus:
Ductore sic Te prævio
Vitemus omne noxium.

Per Te sciamus da Patrem,
Noscamus atque Filium,
Teque utriusque Spiritum
Credamus omni tempore.

Deo Patri sit gloria,
Et Filio, Qui a mortuis
Surrexit, ac Paraclito,
In sæculorum sæcula. Amen.

Come, O Creator Spirit blest!
And in our souls take up Thy rest,
Come with Thy grace and heav’lnly aid
To fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

Great Paraclete! To Thee we cry,
O heav’lnly gift of God Most High,
O fount of life and fire of love,
And sweet anointing from above.

Thou in Thy sevenfold gifts art known,
Thou, finger of God’s hand we own;
True promise of the Father, Thou,
Who dost the tongue with power endow.

Kindle our senses from above,
And make our hearts o’erflow with love;
With patience firm and virtue high
The weakness of our flesh supply.

Far from us drive the foe we dread,
And grant us Thy true peace instead;
So shall we not, with Thee for guide,
Turn from the path of life aside.

Oh, may Thy grace on us bestow
The Father and the Son to know,
And Thee through endless times confessed
Of both the eternal Spirit blest.

All glory while the ages run
Be to the Father and the Son
Who rose from death; the same to Thee
O Holy Ghost, eternally. Amen.
During a riot in Rome, a mob came to the house where Saint Bridget lived; a leader talked of burning her alive. She prayed to Our Lord to know if she should flee to safety. Jesus advised her to stay: “It doesn't matter if they plot thy death. My power will break the malice of thine enemies: if Mine crucified Me, it is because I permitted it.” Our Blessed Mother added: “Sing as a group the Ave Maris Stella and I will guard you from every danger.”

Ave, Maris Stella,
Dei Mater alma,
Atque semper Virgo,
Felix coeli porta.

Sumens illud Ave
Gabrielis ore,
Funda nos in pace,
Mutans Evæ nomen.

Solve vincla reis,
Profer lumen cæcis,
Mala nostra pelle,
Bona cuncta posce.

Monstra Te esse Matrem,
Sumat per Te preces,
Qui pro nobis natus,
Tulit esse Tuus.

Virgo singularis,
Inter omnes mitis,
Nos culpis solutos,
Mites fac et castos.

Vitam præsta puram,
Iter para tutum,
Ut videntes Jesum
Semper collætemur.

Sit laus Deo Patri,
Summo Christo decus,
Spiritui Sancto,
Tribus honor Unus. Amen.
Little Office of the Immaculate Conception

At Matins and Lauds.

Eja, mea labia, nunc annuntiate
Laudes et praeconia Virginis beatae.

ヵDomina, in adjutorium meum intende.
ヵMe de manu hostium potenter defende.
ヵGloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.


*From Septuagesima to Easter, instead of Alleluia is said:

STALL TIBI, Domine, Rex aeternae gloriae.

Salve, mundi Domina Coelorum Regina;
Salve, Virgo virginum, Stella matutina.

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

Ab aeterno Dominus Te praeordinavit Matrem unigeniti
Verbi, Quo creavit Terram, pontum, aethera:

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

ヵO Lady, make speed to befriend me.
ヵFrom the hands of the enemy mightily defend me.
痃Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

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

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
Te pulchram ornavit
Sibi Sponsam, Quae in
Adam non peccavit. Amen.

-te pulchram ornavit
Sibi Sponsam, Quae in
Adam non peccavit. Amen.

Own Mother to be,
By Whom He created
The earth, sky, and sea. Amen.

Elegit Eam Deus, et
prea-electit Eam.

-In tabernaculo Suo
habitare fecit Eam.

Domina, protege orationem
meam.

Et clamor meus ad Te
veniat.

God elected Her, and
pre-elected Her.

-He made Her to dwell
in His tabernacle.

-O Lady, aid my
prayer.

And let my cry come
unto Thee.

Prayer and Versicles said at the end of each Hour

Oremus.
Sancta Maria, Regina Coelorum,
Mater Domini Nostri Jesu Christi,
et mundi Domina, Quae nullum
derelinquis, et nullum despicis;
respice me, Domina, clementer
oculo pietatis, et impetra mihi apud
Tuam dilectum Filium cunctorum
veniam peccatorum: ut qui nunc
Tuam sanctam et Immaculatam
Conceptionem devote affectu recolo,
aeternae in futurum beatitudinis
bravium capiam, ipso, Quem virgo
peperisti, donante Domino Nostro
Jesu Christo: Qui cum Patre et Sancto
Spiritui vivit et regnat, in Trinitate
perfecta, Deus in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

Domina, protege orationem meam.

Et clamor meus ad Te
veniat.

-O Lady, aid my
prayer.

And let my cry come
unto Thee.
Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.
May the souls of the faithful
departed through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.
May the souls of the faithful
departed through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.
Amen.

At Prime.

O Lady, make speed
to befriend me.
From the hands of the enemy mightily defend me.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.*

*From Septuagesima to Easter, instead of Alleluia is said:

Praise be to Thee, O Lord,
King of everlasting glory.

Hymn.

Laus Tibi, Domine, Rex aeternae gloriae.
Salve, Virgo sapiens,
Domus Deo dicata,
Columna septemplici Mensaque exornata.

Ab omni contagio
Mundi praeservata:
Semper Sancta in utero
Matris, ex qua nata.

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

Hail, Virgin most wise,
Hail, Deity’s shrine,
With seven fair pillars,
And table divine.

Preserved from the guilt
Which hath come on us all:
Exempt, in the womb,
From the taint of the fall.

A new Star of Jacob,
Of angels the Queen,
O Gate of the saints,
O Mother of men.
Zabulo terribilis
Acies castrorum;
Porta et refugium
Sis Christianorum.  Amen.

V. Ipse creavit Illam in
Spiritu Sancto.
R. Et effudit Illam super
omnia opera Sua.
V. Domina, protege orationem
meam.
R. Et clamor meus ad Te
veniat.
(Pages 6 and 7, cum Oratione ut
supra).

At Terce.

V. Domina, in adjutorium
meum intende.
R. Me de manu hostium
potenter defende.
V. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et
Spiritui Sancto.
R. Sicut erat in principio, et
nunc, et semper: et in saecula

*From Septuagesima to Easter, instead of Alleluia is said:

Laus Tibi, Domine, Rex
aeternae gloriae.

Salve, arca foederis,
Thronus Salomonis,
Arcus pulcher aetheris,
Rubus visionis:
Virga frondens germinis,

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, aid my
prayer.
R. And let my cry come
unto Thee.
(With the Prayer and Versicles,
as on pages 6 and 7).

V. O Lady, make speed
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.*

Praise be to Thee, O Lord,
King of everlasting glory.

Hymn.

Hail, Solomon’s throne,
Pure ark of the law,
Fair rainbow, and bush,
Which the Patriarch saw.
Hail, Gedeon’s fleece,
Vellus Gedeonis:  
Porta clausa Numinis,  
Favusque Samsonis.  

Decebat tam nobilem  
Natum, praecavere  
Ab originali  
Labe matris Evae.  

Almam, Quam elegerat,  
Genitricem vere,  
Nulli prorsus sinens  
Culpae subjacere.  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.  
(Pages 6 and 7, cum Oratione ut supra).

V. Domina, in adjutorium meum intende.  
R. Me de manu hostium potenter defende.  
V. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.  

*From Septuagesima to Easter, instead of Alleluia is said:

Laus Tibi, Domine, Rex aeternae gloriae.

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, aid my prayer.  
R. And let my cry come unto Thee.  
(With the Prayer and Versicles, as on pages 6 and 7).

At Sext.  

V. O Lady, make speed  
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.*

Praise be to Thee, O Lord,  
King of everlasting glory.
Hymn.

Salve, Virgo puerpera,  
Templum Trinitatis,  
Angelorum guadium,  
Cella puritatis:

Solamen moerentium,  
Hortus voluptatis:  
Palma patientiae,  
Cedrus castitatis.

Terra es benedicta  
Et sacerdotalis,  
Sancta et immunis  
Culpae originalis.

Civitas Altissimi,  
Porta orientalis:  
In Te est omnis gratia,  
Virgo singularis. Amen.

V. Sicut lilium inter spinas.  
R. Sic amica Mea inter filias Adae.  
V. Domina, protege orationem meam  
R. Et clamor meus ad Te veniat.  
(Pages 6 and 7, cum Oratione ut supra).

V. Domina, in adjutorium meum intende.  
R. Me de manu hostium potenter defende.  
V. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.

V. O Lady, make speed 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.

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

*From Septuagesima to Easter, instead of Alleluia is said:

Lauda Tibi, Domine, Rex aeternae gloriae.

Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

Hymn.

Salve, urbs refugii,
Turrisque munita
David, propugnaculis
Armisque in signita.

Hail, city of refuge,
Hail, David's high tower,
With battlements crowned
And girded with power.

In conceptione
Charitate ignita;
Draconis potestas
Est a te contrita.

Filled at Thy conception
With love and with light,
The dragon by Thee
Was shorn of his might.

O mulier fortis,
Et invicta Judith,
Pulchra Abisag virgo,
Verum fovens David.

O woman most valiant,
O Judith thrice blest,
As David was nursed
In fair Abisag's breast.

Rachel curatorem
AEgypti gestavit:
Salvatorem mundi
Maria portavit. Amen.

As the Savior of Egypt
Upon Rachel's knee:
So the world's great Redeemer
Was cherished by Thee. Amen.

Tota pulchra es, amica Mea.
Et macula originalis numquam fuit in Te.
Domina, protege orationem meam.
Et clamor meus ad Te veniat.

Thou art all fair, My beloved.
And the original stain was never in Thee.
O Lady, aid my prayer.
And let my cry come unto Thee.

(Pages 6 and 7, cum Oratione ut supra).

(With the Prayer and Versicles, as on pages 6 and 7).
At Vespers.

℣ Domina, in adjutorium meum intende.
℟ Me de manu hostium potenter defende.
℣ Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.

 VLaus Tibi, Domine, Rex aeternae gloriae.

Hymn.

Salve, horologium, Quo retrogradatur Sol in decem lineis; Verbum incarnatur.

Hail, dial of Achaz, On Thee the true sun Told backward the course Which from old he had run.

Homo ut ab inferis Ad summa attollatur, Immensus ab angelis Paulo minoratur.

And, that man might be raised, Submitting to shame, A little more low Than the angels became.

Solis hujus radiis Maria coruscat; Consurgens aurora In conceptu micat.

Thou, rapt in the blaze Of His infinite light, Dost shine as the morn On the confines of night.

Lilium inter spinas, Quae serpentis conterat Caput: pulchra ut luna Errantes collustrat. Amen.

As the moon on the lost Through obscurity dawns; The serpent’s destroyer, A lily ’mid thorns. Amen.

*From Septuagesima to Easter, instead of Alleluia is said:

Praise be to Thee, O Lord, King of everlasting glory.

~ 12 ~
V. Ego feci in Coelis, ut oriretur lumen indeficiens.
R. Et quasi nebula texi omnem terram.
V. Domina, protege orationem meam.
R. Et clamor meus ad Te veniat.
(Pages 6 and 7, cum Oratione ut supra).

V. Convertat nos, Domina, Tuis precibus placatus 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. Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.

*From Septuagesima to Easter, instead of Alleluia is said:
Laus Tibi, Domine, Rex aeternae gloriae.

At Compline.

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 speed 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.*

Laus Tibi, Domine, Rex aeternae gloriae.

Hymn.

Salve, Virgo florens,
Mater illibata,
Regina Clementiae,
Stellis coronata.

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
To the haven of rest,
And see Heaven’s King
In the courts of the blest. Amen.

Thy name, O Mary, is
as oil poured out.
Thy servants have loved Thee exceedingly.
O Lady, aid my prayer.
And let my cry come unto Thee.
(With the Prayer and Versicles, as on pages 6 and 7).

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.

Thanks be to God.
Ant. Haec est virga in qua nec nodus originalis, nec cortex actualis culpae fuit.  
V. In conceptione Tua, Virgo, Immaculata fuisti.  
R. Ora pro nobis Patrem, Cujus Filium peperisti.

Oremus.  
Deus qui per Immaculatam Virginis Conceptionem dignum Filio Tuo habitaculum praeparasti: quaesumus, ut qui ex morte ejusdem Filii Tui praevisa eam ab omni labe praeservasti, nos quoque mundos ejus intercessione ad te pervenire concedas. Per eundem Christum Dominum nostrum.  
R. Amen.

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

DAILY ACT OF CONSECRATION

I am all Thine and all I have is Thine, O most loving Jesus, through Mary, Thy holy Mother. My Queen! my Mother, I give myself entirely to Thee and to show my devotion to Thee, I consecrate to Thee this day, my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my whole being, without reserve. Wherefore, good Mother, as I am Thine Own, keep me, guard me, as Thy property and possession. Amen.
Praying the Little Office of the Immaculate Conception

Like the other Little Offices of the Church, the Little Office of the Immaculate Conception, mirrors the larger Divine Office prayed daily by all Catholic priests and religious.

There are eight “hours,” or times of prayer in these Offices. While it is a commendable, traditional practice to recite the hours separately and at different times – as priests and religious living in community usually do – it is not strictly necessary. However to do so does aid in sanctifying the day, and prayerfully recalling the constant presence of Jesus and Mary in all our endeavors.

Here is a sample schedule used in some religious communities. In the Little Office of the Immaculate Conception, Matins and Lauds are combined together and are generally recited in the early morning at Midnight or 3 a.m., Prime at 6 a.m., Terce at 9 a.m., Sext at 12 noon, None at 3 p.m., Vespers at 6 p.m. and Compline at 9 p.m.

Lay people may follow a schedule similar to priests and religious or adjust accordingly. The entire office may also be prayed all at once.

When the hours are said separately throughout the day, this booklet suggests preceding the praying of each of the hours with two preparatory prayers: the Veni Creator Spiritus (prayer to the Holy Ghost) and the Ave, Maris Stella (prayer to Our Lady) before beginning the Hour. When praying all the hours or more than one of the hours at the same time, pray the preparatory prayers just once before beginning the hours.