# 42. The Confraternity of the Faithful of both sexes living in the world

*The following text is part of the Summarium presented by Fr Colin to Cardinal Odescalchi on his first visit to Rome, with the aim of gaining approbation for the Society of Mary. We remember that in 1816, Colin was part of a group of seminarians who had pledged to found this Society. The Summarium is the fruit of his years at Cerdon where he laboured to write a Rule. An intrinsic and equal part of this Society of Mary was the Confraternity of the Faithful.*

### FROM THE SUMMARIUM OF 1833

**The general aim of the Society is to contribute in the best possible way, both by its prayers and its efforts, to the conversion of sinners and the perseverance of the faithful, and to gather, so to speak, all the members of Christ, whatever their age, sex, or standing, under the protection of the Blessed Mary, the Immaculate Mother of God; and to revive their faith and piety and nourish them with the doctrine of the Roman Church, so that at the end of time as at the beginning, all the faithful may with God's help be of one heart and one mind in the bosom of the Roman Church, and that all, walking worthily before God and under Mary's guidance, may attain eternal life. For this reason entry to the Society is also open to lay people living in the world in this Confraternity or Third Order of Blessed Mary.**

LM Doc. 9, par. 109. (See E. Keel, p. 57)

Although some of the wording and sense of the document
appears strange to us, because of its nineteenth century context,
its intention (and that of its author) is all-embracing.
Colin had what we would call today an "open-door policy",
which welcomes all people to the nourishment of a life
lived in the way of Mary.
Given the mentality of the nineteenth century church in France,
Colin's overarching vision of "one heart and one mind",
its openness and inclusiveness, is astounding.
Accidentally (or providentially), the response
from Rome to Colin's request
was to give approbation only to the lay Confraternity!