

1229 13/9

Perugia

Cumania (prov. of Hungaria)

Pope Gregory IX informs Bishop Theodericus OP of Cumania that he grants special privileges to the newly baptised Cumans, because just “as milk is preferable for tender infancy to wine”, the neophytes should not be discouraged by too strict an enforcement of ecclesiastical regulations. Likewise, the bishop is told to absolve new converts from minor offences, such as sacrilege and violence against priests.

Source: Transcript. Vatican Archives, Rome.

Gregorius episcopus etcetera. Venerabili fratri ... episcopo Cumanorum salutem etcetera. Cum pro fide in gente Cumanorum plantanda sollicite laboraveris, et profeceris laudabiliter dante domino incrementum: tuis precibus benignius annuentes, te ac successores tuos a cuiuslibet subjectione preterquam Romani pontificis liberos esse decernimus, et immediate ad jurisdictionem sedis apostolice pertinere: et quoniam infantia tenera potius est lacte quam vino, quod parvulis consuevit obesse, fovenda, presentium tibi et successoribus tuis auctoritate concedimus, ut si qui de gente Cumanorum ad fidem conversi iniciendo forsan manus in clericos, seu per aliud sacrilegium in canonem inciderint sententie promulgate, liceat vobis illis juxta formam ecclesie, quod merito debeant ad sedem apostolicam destinari, ne nervus ecclesiastice discipline, qui per mansuetudinem flectitur, per insolentiam dissolvatur. Nulli ergo etcetera nostre constitutionis et concessionis infringere etcetera. Si quis autem etcetera. Datum Perusii idibus septembris, pontificatus nostri anno ·iii·.

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