

1233 24/2

Anagnia

Ruthenia and Province of Polonia

*Pope Gregory IX enjoins the prior provincial of the Friars Preachers in Polonia, along with the archdeacon and the scholasticus of Kraków, that they should promulgate the need of avoiding mixed marriages between Catholic women and Ruthenian men, because the pope has been told that the perfidious Rus' are in the habit of re-baptising their Catholic wives according to Orthodox rites.*

Source: Transcripts. Vatican and Dominican Archives, Rome.

Gregorius episcopus *etcetera*. Dilectis filiis ... priori provinciali ordinis predicatorum in Polonia, ... archidiacono et ... scholastico Cracoviensibus, salutem *etcetera*. Queque nobis erronea displicent, sed turbant nimium, que vergunt in fidei detrimentum. Accepimus si quidem, quod Rutenorum perfidia non contenta, si sola dampnationis eterne tenebris immergatur, sed cupida, quod participes perditionis sue Christianos efficiat, qui sunt in eorum vicinia constituti, mulieres catholicas, quas sibi aliquando copulant in uxores, in contemptum fidei christiane secundum ritum ipsorum denuo baptizari faciunt, et eorum errores dampnabiles observare. Verum, quia nec pati volumus nec debemus, quod fideles perfidis matrimoniali copula jungantur, eo quod lucis ad tenebras conventio non existat, nec deceat membra salvatoris Christi membris sathane perditii sociari, aut picem cum balsamo commisceri, presentibus mandamus, quatinus ne in partibus illis huiusmodi detestanda matrimonia contrahantur, auctoritate nostra firmiter inhibentes, illa deinceps fieri nullomodo permittatis, contradictores et rebelles per censuram ecclesiasticam, appellatione remota, compescendo. Quod si non omnes *etcetera*. Datum Anagnie ·vi· kalendas martii, pontificatus nostri anno sexto.

Published: *Bullarium Ordinis Praedicatorum* vol. I no. 63; *Vetera Monumenta Historica Poloniae et Lithuaniae* vol. I no. 44; *Documenta Pontificum Romanorum historiam Ucrainae* vol. I no. 7.

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