

A bit of history in the naming of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION as the Patroness of the United States:

Prayer of Consecration of America invoking Our Lady as Patroness of the United States under her title of the **Immaculate Conception**, has had a special presence in the United States of America ... it was Bishop John Carroll (1737-1815), the first U.S. bishop, who placed the Diocese of Baltimore, as well as the 13 colonies, under the protection of the Blessed Mother in 1792.

Then in 1830, across the Atlantic Ocean, in France, Mary appeared to St. Catherine Labouré, telling her to create a medal for Mary with the words: “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.”

Then in the 1840s were the era of expansion in the United States: the time of covered wagons going west, new settlements, the California gold rush, war with Mexico. The bishops of the United States sought divine intervention to protect all those involved in the evangelization of souls, exploration and the challenges facing the still fairly young independent nation. The bishops turned formally and publicly to the Blessed Mother — Immaculate Mary as the nation’s patroness.

Part of the first order of business of the U.S. bishops meeting at the Sixth Provincial Council of Baltimore in May 1846 was to name the Blessed Mother, under her title of the **Immaculate Conception, as the patroness of the United States**; notably, they named her patroness of the United States, not the Church of the United States, meaning everyone was protected by the Blessed Mother.

Then in 1854, eight years after the pronouncement by the U.S. bishops and encouraged by the universal belief held by laity and clergy alike, that Mary was immaculately conceived, Pope Pius IX made the Immaculate Conception an article of faith to be believed by all Catholics.

Then as if to affirm this dogma, Mary appeared to St. Bernadette at Lourdes, France, in 1858, calling herself the Immaculate Conception.



In light of the violence, the discord, the disharmony, the factions that seem to be dividing and splitting our country apart these days, we need the help of our country's Patroness, the **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**.

PLEASE...prayerfully consider praying this prayer daily in the month of October, the month of the Holy Rosary and Respect Life Month.

How we need Our Mother's intercession for God's healing and mercy to be the nation God has called us to be. So, let us pray.....

Most Holy Trinity: Our Father in heaven who chose Mary as the fairest of Your daughters; Holy Spirit who chose Mary as Your spouse; God the Son who chose Mary as Your Mother, in union with Mary, we adore Your majesty and acknowledge Your supreme eternal dominion and authority.

Most Holy Trinity we place the United States of America into the hands of Mary Immaculate in order that she may present the country to you. Through her, we wish to thank you for the great resources of this land and for the freedom which has been its heritage. Through the intercession of Mary, have mercy on the Catholic Church of America. Grant us peace. Have mercy on our President and on all the officers of our government. Grant us a fruitful economy born of justice and labor. Protect the family life of the nation. Guard the precious gift of many religious vocations. Through the intercession of

Mary our mother, have mercy on the sick, the tempted, sinners, on all who are in need..... Mary, Immaculate Virgin, our Mother, Patroness of our land, we praise and honor you and give ourselves to you.

Protect us from every harm. Pray for us that acting always according to your will and the will of your Divine Son we may live and die pleasing to God. Amen.