

## **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF VIRGIN MARY PATRON OF PHARMACISTS IN SPAIN: A THEORY TO EXPLAIN THIS PATRONAGE.**

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On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception with the Bull *Ineffabilis Deus*. However, its exact origin dates back to the period between antiquity and the Middle Ages. This decision was not adopted without some controversy in the history, which originated in Cordova but soon spread to Seville. Two opposing views: the Jesuits and Franciscans as advocates of the Conception on one side, and the Dominicans on the opposite side.

The Immaculate Conception in Spain is the Saint Patron of pharmacists. It is our intention to find the link between these health professionals and their patron. Therefore, we begin this section with a brief analysis of the *Royal and Illustrious Official College of Pharmacists of Seville*. Hypothesis speculates as to the possibility of considering the drugstores as meeting points for the general public, while more versed and educated people would meet in the rebound. We speculate that the pharmacies, as meeting points for the general public and for more educated people likewise, may have served as a transmission foci for conceptionist ideas and beliefs. Universities may also have had special influence on this spread of the doctrine, with a clear impact on graduate pharmacists. Other reasons could be social, as the desired not to be related with the Jewish religion. Besides, what better and higher saint patron could have been chosen for the pharmacists?