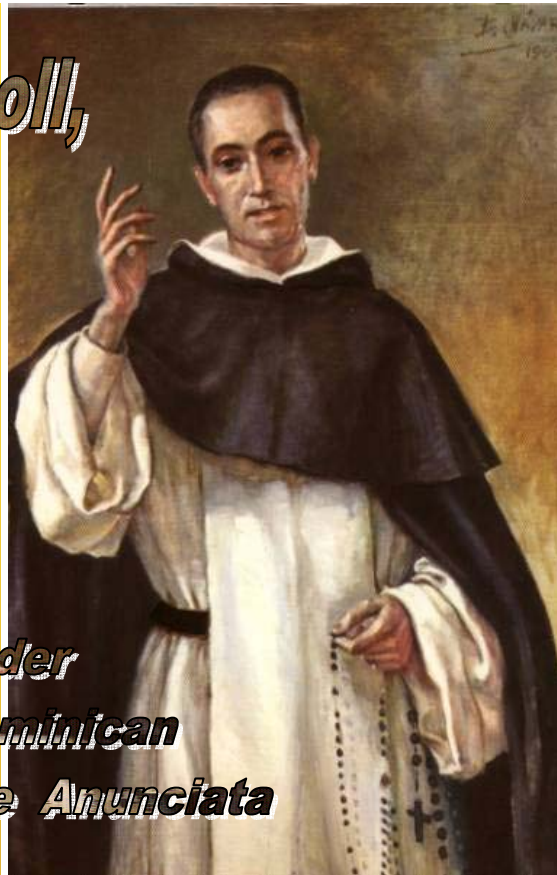


***Francisco Coll,***  
***O.P.***

***Founder***  
***of The Dominican***  
***Sisters of The Anunciata***



## ***Profile of Francis Coll***

- **Man of unshakable faith.** Francis Coll was anchored in truth and in God because his life was based on the Gospel. Amidst the social and political turbulence of his time, he had only one goal: to preach the Gospel and to lessen ignorance.
- **Man of joyful hope.** Great hope and trust in God were his beloved virtues. Thus he faced challenges and suffering with serenity. His joy was never shaken by animosity.
- **Man of love.** Love was his highest value and he did everything out of love. This love was expressed in his consoling attitude towards the afflicted. He was peaceful and reconciling towards everyone.
- **A great Dominican preacher.** Francis Coll preached the Gospel when the time was ripe and when it wasn't. At times he was a catechist and preacher, and at times a missionary and team member. He unceasingly sowed the Gospel in the furrows of the world. Be it in winter or summer, in good or in bad health, no one and nothing prevented him from preaching.
- **Prayerful man.** Fr. Coll usually spent part of the night in prayer where he fetched inspiration for preaching and energy to face the challenges and threats of his time.



- **Devoted to Our Lady.** “Love Mary because she loves those who love her; and those who seek her will find her.” (F. Coll) His devotion to Our Lady was expressed in praying the Rosary, which he installed in all. He was the founder of the Living Rosary at Moià (Spain). ‘The Rosary is my book per excellence and all I have.’ (F. Coll)
- **Creative and daring man.** Though F. Coll was living in an anti-clerical and violent society he took the risk to become a Dominican friar. He looked for new means to cater for the needs of the society he was living in. He dared to found a feminine congregation in a society where women were marginalized and without voice.
- **Poor but over-generous.** F. Coll was free from everything and so fully available to preach the Gospel to everyone and everywhere. He spent his life in simplicity and

poverty. He was tough with himself and over-generous with others.

- **A joyful and open friar.** F. Coll was a joyful Dominican who valued openness.
- **Fr. Coll cherished heaven and eternal life.** He was an apostle of Christian hope; he had a strong desire of divine life and infinite love. He could foretaste heavenly realities. Thus he constantly repeated: “Heaven, heaven, only heaven.”
- **A Dominican Saint.** Fr. Coll implemented the will of God and modelled his life in the image of Jesus. Fr. Coll is a saint today because he gave answers to people of his time, sowed hope in their hearts. He made furrows of love and service to others to be followed by everyone. He, indeed, shared with others what he received from God.



- 19-5-1812. Baptism in Gombren
- 1-4-1816: Death of his father
- 17-8-1818: Confirmation at Ripoll
- 1822- 1830: Studied Latin and Philosophy in VIC
- 1830- Started noviciate with the Dominicans friars at Gerona
- 1831: Made the first vows
- 1831- 1835: Studied Theology in Gerona
- 1833: Received Lectorate and Acolytate
- 1835: Ordained deacon in Barcelona
- 7-8- 1835; Exclaustrated under Spanish civil law
- 1836-: Completes theological studies in Vic
- 28- 5- 1836: Ordained priest at Solsona
- 1839: Appointed curate at Artès
- 1839- 1849: Curate at Moia
- 1848: Appointed "Apostolic Missionary"
- 1850: Director of the Dominican secular Third Order in Catalonia
- 1852: Published the "Hermosa Rosa" (Beautiful Rose)
- 1854: Took care of those suffering from cholera in Moia.
- **15-08-1856: Founds the Dominican Sisters of the Anunciata.**
- 2-4- 1875: Died in VIC
- 29-4- 1979. Beatified by John-Paul II.
- 11-10-2009.

### FURHTER AND FURTHER

Your gaze, F. Coll, is like the breeze  
It penetrates  
Embraces  
Motivates  
With audacity, it climbs walls.

The breeze of your gaze  
reaches the depths of the earth  
and sows the liberating word  
In the heart of the kingdom.

Far,  
Further and further  
Your voice insists.

FRANCIS!

Carry us beyond boundaries and limitations,  
take us further than the horizons of our eyes  
take us to the infinite horizon of LOVE  
your beloved virtue.  
Your gaze, Francis, invites us.

To be Apostles, TODAY  
-with valiant and daring spirit-  
your gaze invites us to save defenceless people  
and humanize the life of our brothers.

A. Poch



## ***FR. COLL, FOUNDER***



Fr. Coll clearly realised that his missionary and evangelising apostolate was shedding the light of faith and Christian life in the heart of his brothers. However, besides this apostolate, he was more concerned with the mission.

Children and youth grew up having shallow education.

That worried him and he provided answers to this two great challenges. He therefore founded schools, which were to continue implementing his evangelising apostolate and to enable young girls to join the "Dominican charism".

Thus, backed by the bishop of VIC and his General Superior, he founded the Congregation of the Dominican Sisters of Annunciation on August, 15, 1856. Seven young ladies contributed to this foundation.

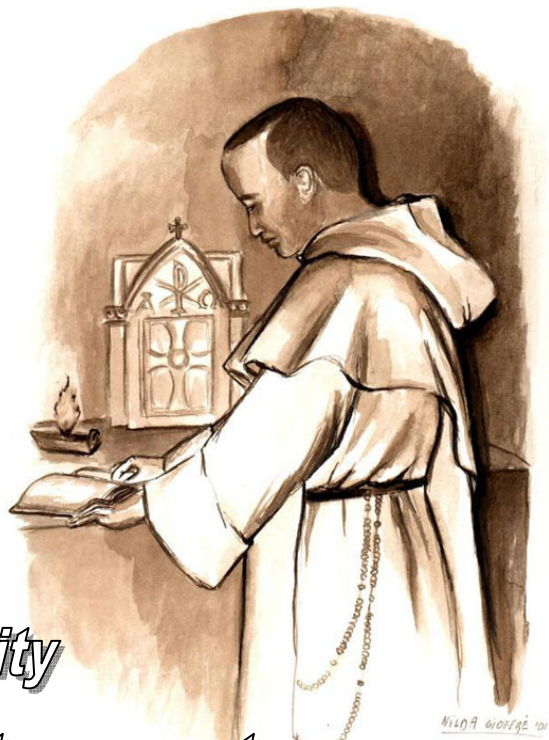
The Dominican Sisters of Annunciation work in 20 countries worldwide. They are involved in many activities, mainly in the spreading of the Word of the Lord in accordance with the will of Fr. Coll.



*Have charity*

*Practice humility*

*Embrace voluntary poverty* ...





Dominicas de la Anunciata  
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