

EXPOSCIT DEBITUM  
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1. THIS VERY DAY OF JULY, FOUR CENTURIES AGO, WAS A DAY OF GREAT REJOICING TO ALL THE JESUITS THEN RESIDING <sup>at</sup> ~~in~~ ROME, AND A DATE OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO ALL JESUITS, EVER TO LIVE IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD. THE MOTIVE OF THE REJOICING PROMPTED IGNATIUS TO SAY A MASS MOST DEVOUTLY, "EFFUSIS LACHYMIS," THE OTHER FATHERS OF THE CITY TO REPEAT MOST GRATEFULLY THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING TE DEUM LAUDAMUS AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY TO CELEBRATE THE EVENT, WITH THE MOST SIMPLE RELIGIOUS FRATERNAL TYPE OF GAUDIOSA. BEFORE DISPERSING THROUGH VARIOUS COUNTRIES OF EUROPE AND ASIA, THE SIX PROFESSED FATHERS, THAT HAD BEEN ASSEMBLED FOR THE ELECTION OF THE GENERAL, EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE, CONFIRMED BY SIGNED STATEMENT, THAT THE BULL REGIMINI, OF PAUL III BE MODIFIED, EITHER CONFIRMING OR ALTERING THE PROVISIONS THEREIN CONTAINED, AND UNDER THESE AND NO OTHER CONDITIONS WERE THE FATHERS ASSUMING THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE VOW TO FOLLOW THE BULL. FOR SEVERAL YEARS, IGNATIUS AND HIS ASSOCIATES PRAYED FERVENTLY AND EXERTED EVERY EFFORT TO OBTAIN FROM THE HOLY SEE THE APOSTOLIC DOCUMENT, WHICH WOULD DETERMINE MORE PRECISELY AND CLEARLY THAN THE BULL REGIMINI, THE NATURE, THE CHARACTERISTICS, THE ESSENTIALS, THE OBLIGATIONS AND THE EXEMPTIONS OF THE INSTITUTE, SUBMITTED TO THE HOLY SEE BY IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA. IT WAS ON JULY 21, 1550, JUST FOUR CENTURIES AGO TODAY, WHEN JULIUS III SIGNED THE EXPOSCIT DEBITUM, BY WHICH THE INSTITUTE OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS, AS FINALLY SUBMITTED BY THE PROFESSED SOCIETY, WAS APPROVED BY THE SUPREME ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY. THE EXPOSCIT DEBITUM IS THE FUNDAMENTAL CHARTER OF THE CATHOLIC ARMY, FIGHTING UNDER THE BANNER OF