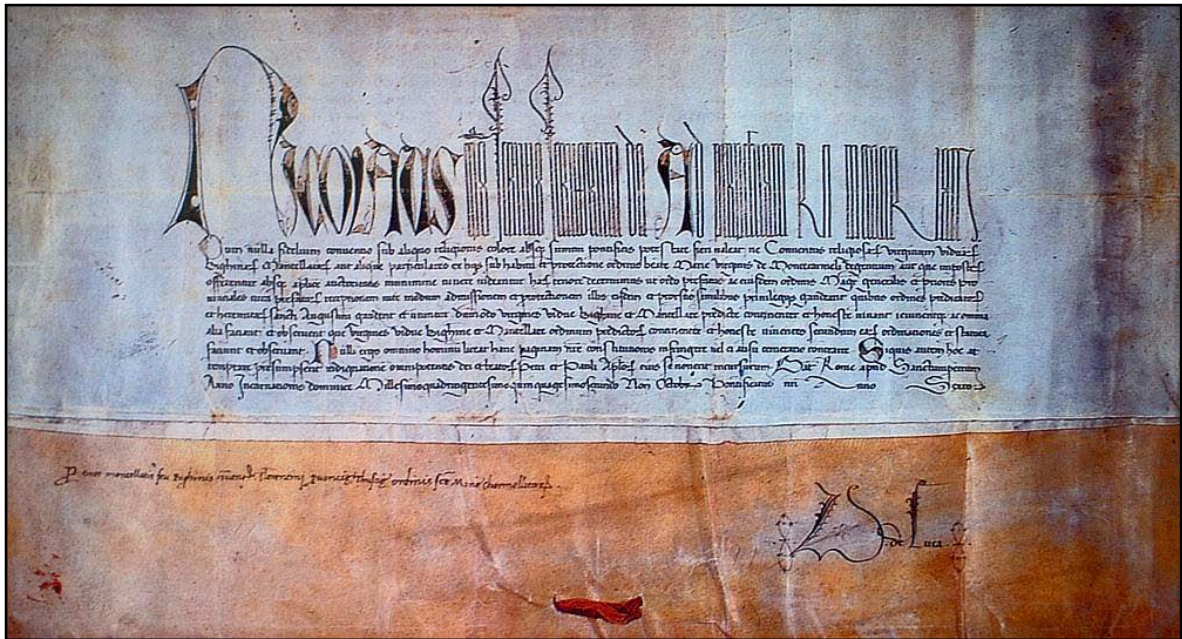


# Text of the Papal Bull *Cum Nulla*

In 1452 Pope Nicholas V issued a letter – known from its first two words in Latin as *Cum Nulla* – that granted official recognition to women religious and lay people as full members of the Carmelite Order.

The original text of the bull *Cum Nulla*, now in the State Archives of Florence, is directed to ‘The Most Reverend General of the Order of St. Mary of the Carmelites, Rome.’ It was obtained on behalf of the Prior General, Blessed John Soreth, by the Carmelite Prior of Florence.



*The papal bull Cum Nulla.*

*Nicholas, Bishop, Servant of the Servants of God. For perpetual memory.*

*No one can organize, without the permission of the Supreme Pontiff, any group of faithful, under whatever form of religion. Any group of female religious, virgins, widows, "beguines," "mantellati" or other similar groups, which exist under the title and protection of the Order of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, or who in the future offer to commit themselves, may not continue without the approval of the apostolic authority. By means of these letters, we decree that with regard to the reception, mode of life, admission and protection of the aforementioned, we decree that the Order and the Master General and the Priors Provincial enjoy and may use the same identical privileges given to the Order of Preachers and to the Hermits of St. Augustine. With these privileges the aforementioned virgins, widows, "beatas" and "mantellati" live in chastity and honesty, keeping fast and fulfilling all other duties, as they already do, according to the statutes of the virgins, "beguines", and "mantellati" of the other Orders, who also live in chastity and honesty. Let no one dare to interfere and contravene our decree. However, if someone presumes to contravene it, let that person know that he will incur the wrath of God and of his holy apostles, Peter and Paul.*

*Given in Rome, in St. Peter's, in the year 1452 of the Incarnation of Our Lord, the 7th day of October, in the sixth year of our pontificate.*