

Question: What does St. Hannibal di Francia mean when he tells Fr. Bergamaschi that St. Joseph was purified in the womb more so than Ss. John the Baptist and Jeremiah?

Answer: The quote you refer to is reported in the footnote below. It is noteworthy that Ss. Bernadine of Siena, Alphonsus de Liguori and Hannibal di Francia,¹ as well as Francisco Suarez and Jean Gerson maintained that St. Joseph was conceived in sin but was sanctified whilst in the womb and lived without any formal sin, and Sacred Scripture alludes to this grace in St. John the Baptist and Jeremiah. In light of the preceding, it appears that St. Hannibal intended that St. Joseph was purified in the womb sooner than all others, if not immediately after conception.

¹ St. Hannibal's letter to Fr. Bergamaschi: *"The most glorious Patriarch St. Joseph is mistreated by the [false seer named] Bay, where she writes of him being born with original sin! I maintain the opposite, or better, the opposite is upheld as a common belief and devotion among so many of the faithful, of which I recall men of erudition who are most-qualified and pious, and who would protest at such a false teaching and erroneous opinion, and yet she wishes to present this error as a celestial revelation. An erudite and pious missionary, who rejects this 'opinion' of Bay, published in a [theological] periodical – I do not recall the name - several articles containing arguments and authorized statements that demonstrate just how accredited is the position that St. Joseph was purified in the maternal womb more so than St. John the Baptist and Jeremiah."*