

Fr. Masmitja was deeply influenced by the Arch-confraternity of the Most Holy and Immaculate Heart of Mary established in Our Lady of Victory in Paris. This arch-confraternity was essentially an association in which its members prayed to the Heart of Mary to obtain the conversion of sinners. Many conversions, some of them extraordinary, were being obtained through the prayers of the association. Fr. Masmitja was confident in the power of prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the conversion of sinners. In addition to catechesis and education, he committed his Institute to the ministry of prayer through the invocation of the Immaculate Heart.

In the Forward of the Constitutions he wrote that the goal of the Arch-confraternity, and so of his community as well, was “to bring men under [the Immaculate Heart’s] protection and through her merits to draw them to her divine Son, Jesus, and the adorable Trinity, in order to obtain from the Divine Mercy the conversion of sinners”

What was unique about this community was the combination of the devotion to the Immaculate and the Sorrowful Heart of Mary. Fr. Masmitja was raised in the devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows by his father, a member of the Third Order of the Servites. He explains the relationship between the devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows, represented by a heart pierced by a sword and that of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the Forward of the Constitutions: “This Institute of the Immaculate Heart meditates on the cruel sword of sorrow that pierces this Heart at the sight of sinners renewing the passion and death of her Son and despising the merits of the blood shed for them with so much love. It seeks especially, through prayer and other pious practices, to obtain from the Divine Mercy an interior grace for sinners, so that, abandoning the state of sin, they will turn to God, the center of all happiness. Likewise, it sees in giving a solid education to girls an apt means of introducing and spreading, in all classes of society, true devotion to God and a holy fear of Him, so that others may not fall into sin.”