



The Papal Order of Pius IX



Latin: Ordo Pii Papae
Italian: Ordine di Pio IX

Also known as the Pian Order or the Ordine Piano

Established 17 June 1847

Motto: Virtuti et Merito

The Order of Pius IX was founded on June 17, 1847, by Pope Pius IX. The grade of Grand Cross is typically awarded to Ambassadors to the Holy See of Foreign States. In the case of all grades of the Order, the Holy See is free to dispense the honor as desired. Since 1994 women have been admitted to the Order as Dames in the same grades and divisions as men. It was also Saint Pius X who gave Papal knights a place of honor in Papal processions and ecclesiastical ceremonies.