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SERÁFICO SÃO FRANCISCO ***

Carta da Companhia de Jesus para o seráfico São Francisco

José de Anchieta

Depois de tudo criado
por conto, peso e medida,
disse Deus: "Seja formado
o homem, como treslado
de nossa imagem subida".

E criou
a Adão, a quem dotou
da semelhança divina.
Mas foi tal sua morfina,
que mui depressa borrou
aquela imagem tão divina.

Mas Cristo, Deus humanado,
glorioso São Francisco,
para limpar o treslado,
que Adão tinha borrado,
pondo o mundo em tanto risco,

quis pintar,
e consigo conformar
a vós, de dentro e de fora,
com graça tão singular,
que vos podemos chamar
homem novo, em quem Deus mora.

Ó formoso patriarca,
ó ilustre capitão
da sagrada religião,
dentro da qual, como em arca,
se salva o povo cristão!

Vós sois aquele varão
cheio de justiça e fé
e de toda perfeição,
figurado, com razão,
no justo e santo Noé.

Noé fez a grande arca

em que o homem racional,
junto com o bruto animal,
escapassem, como em barca,
do dilúvio universal.

Vós, por ordem divinal,
na religião, que fizestes,
a bons e maus recebestes,
e livres d'água mortal,
a Deus vivo os oferecestes.

Vós sois o grande varão
que de Deus fostes achado
segundo seu coração,
e no pai de Salomão
altamente figurado.

O qual, como desprezado
por ser o filho menor,
sendo de ovelhas pastor,
apascentava seu gado
com grã cuidado e amor.

Davi, com grande vigor,
um leão mui carniceiro
e um urso roubador,
com o gigante espantador
matou, com ser ovelheiro.

Este tal, por derradeiro,
Deus o fez rei de Israel,
salvando o povo fiel,
por este grã cavaleiro,
de toda a gente cruel.

Vós vos tínheis por menor,
tendo a todos por maiores,
e maior dos pecadores,
tendo-vos Deus por maior
de todos seus servidores.

Fez-vos pastor dos menores,
uns dos quais foram cordeiros,
mas mui fortes cavaleiros,
outros, do gado pastores
e guias, como carneiros.

Concedeu-vos tal poder,
que leão, urso e gigante
matásseis, carne e Lucifer
destruindo mui possante.

Com tal capitão diante,
aumentou-se a fé e lei
da igreja militante,
e vós, já na triunfante,
sois coroado por rei.

Trepando sem nenhum medo
o príncipe Jônatas,
com seu criado de trás,
por um áspero penedo,
alcançou vitória e paz,

cometendo
o exército tremendo
dos inimigos, de repente.
E, com ânimo valente,
suas forças desfazendo,
salvou toda sua gente.

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