

Once a year the abbot of the 'mother' monastery visited all foundations, which he had established. The more the abbot visited friars, the more they were happy. This is the main regulation which is written in the basic document of the Cistercian friary called *Carta caritatis*. The visitation of 'father' abbot was ordered at the beginning of the 12th century.

As was mentioned above, the abbot had to visit all foundations which he had established. His task was to find out whether the discipline and the regulations of the friary were followed or not. He had to examine how monks follow the Saint Benedict's holy orders and he had to punish all sins. All monasteries had to strictly follow the same way of behaviour and the same rules.

The General Chapter (the gathering of the abbots, which was held every year) created directive regulations, which contained legislative, clerical and disciplinary issues of the Cistercian friary. The visitation guarded the following of these regulations and issues. Two institutions - the General Chapter and the visitation were the main guarantors of the existence of the friary.

Every day the monks confessed from their mistakes and sins during the gathering in the Chapter hall and they also warned the other monks against them. This gathering is called *capitulum culparum*. The 'father' abbot did not intervene in it. He tried to adjust the sins in the second line - during the every year visitation. He wrote down all faults, problems and limitations. The document is called *carta visitationis*. This document was read to the monks several times during the year, because they should try to improve their behaviour. The monastery was considered to be an Eden on the Earth. And the life in it was considered to be a successful attempt how to live the perfect life - *vita perfectionis*. It is the way how to achieve an eternal life.