**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# ORA PRO NOBIS

Once we wrote: After singing the glories of Mary, magnifying her spiritual beauty and her splendid adornment of virtue - All beautiful you are, O Mary, and original blemish is not in you. Thou art the glory of Jerusalem. Thou the gladness of Israel. Thou the honour of our people. Thou the advocate of sinners. O Mary. O Mary. Most Prudent Virgin. Most Clement Mother - one asks Her to pray for us. Her faithful devotee asks Mary to pray, not only for himself, who is raising his praise and his song of love to Her, but also for each of his brothers and sisters living in this world and also in purgatory, since souls who have not expiated their temporal punishment yet, due to their sins, they are not in the glory of Heaven. All earth and all purgatory are placed in the hands of our Heavenly Mother, She who can always be in the presence of her Son, more than the seven Angels mentioned in the Book of Tobiah and more than Queen Esther herself before her husband the King. What is sublime in this prayer - and also in the Hail Mary prayer - is this: nothing particular, special, singular is asked. One does not ask for a grace that is urgently needed in our present life. One asks the Virgin Mary to pray for us. This very simple request - pray for us - must assume for the faithful worshipper of the Virgin Mary a most high meaning of faith, trust, handover.

Meaning of faith: we know who the Virgin Mary is. She is the Woman with vigilant, attentive, penetrating sight, capable of examining our life infinitively more than any other person. She is boundlessly beyond Balaam who thus said of Israel: *Balaam then said to him, "Stand here by your holocaust while I go over there. Perhaps the LORD will meet me, and then I will tell you whatever he lets me see." He went out on the barren height, and God met him. When he had put an utterance in Balaam's mouth, the LORD said to him, "Go back to Balak, and speak accordingly." So he went back to Balak, who was still standing by his holocaust together with all the princes of Moab. Then Balaam gave voice to his oracle: From Aram has Balak brought me here, Moab's king, from the Eastern Mountains: "Come and lay a curse for me on Jacob, come and denounce Israel." How can I curse whom God has not cursed? How denounce whom the LORD has not denounced? For from the top of the crags I see him, from the heights I behold him. Here is a people that lives apart and does not reckon itself among the nations.* (Num 23,3-9). The Virgin Mary knows everything about our life down to the depths of our heart, to the remotest recesses of our spirit, to the most impenetrable folds of our soul. What is unknown to us is known to Her. We see ourselves with great darkness of sin and concupiscence. She sees us with brighter light than a thousand suns turned towards us. We see ourselves according to our desires, which give ephemeral and passing fulfilments. She sees us always from the fullness of God's truth.

Meaning of trust: knowing the great knowledge that She has about us, we do not manifest to Her the urgencies, the reasons, the needs that afflict us. We purely and simply trust Her. She knows what is urgent for our lives. She knows what is useful and what is useless, what is truth for us and what is falsehood, what is beneficial and what is harmful, what is genuine harm and spiritual disaster for our immediate and distant future. We cannot trust our feelings, desires, aspirations. They can be a real devilish temptation for our ruin in time and in eternity. Only She can we trust, because only She, in Christ Jesus, through the work of the Holy Spirit, knows our truth, that truth that the Father wrote for us in the act of our creation, and according to this truth She addresses her heartfelt prayer to her Son. With Her we are fully realised, without even knowing ourselves.

Meaning of handover: trust must then be turned into a perpetual act of handover. This must be total, full, perfect. One places oneself in her hands. One surrenders oneself to her Mother's heart. One lets oneself be carried by Her in history until one reaches eternal glory. She must be our boat and She the daily helmsman. Her sight must steer the course and her strength must propel us perpetually forward, never stopping in her work on our behalf. Without a lasting surrender to Her, we will always pray according to our heart, never according to the will of the Lord our God. We hand ourselves over to Mary in one only way: by denying all our thoughts and desires and placing everything in her heart, so that She may pray for us according to God's thoughts and desires.

Now let us add: when storms turn to hurricanes, to tornados, to destructive and devastating monsoons, then our faith may also falter. So that our faith does not falter, does not fail, it is right that we manifest our fears to Her. It is the right thing to ask Her to intervene with Her mighty hand and calm every wind of hurricane, tornado, monsoon. It is right that we also see with the eyes of the flesh her prodigious interventions. In this way our faith will be strengthened and we will be able to resume the path of following Christ Jesus with more firmness and more fortitude of the Holy Spirit. We have seen our heavenly Mother at work and we are sure that She will never leave us alone. She will always intervene in our history to lift it out of all bewilderment and confusion, all fear and turmoil. She must intervene in our history today so that the wicked and evil do not destroy the vineyard of her Son. Mother of God, come down quickly and unveil the thoughts of hearts. We will bless you for ever, and for ever we will sing your praise. Come soon, Holy Mother, and many in your light will revive. **06 April 2025**