**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# VIRGO GLORIOSA ET BENEDICTA

Once we wrote: *The prayer 'Sub tuum praesidium'* ends with these words: *'O glorious and blessed Virgin.*' These words are a true confession of faith about the Mother of Jesus and our Mother. Why does our faith confess that Mary is glorious and blessed? The Virgin Mary is glorious because the Lord has enveloped her in His glory, clothed her with Himself, and entirely transformed her into light. He has given her a glory that surpasses every other glory. In glory, she infinitely surpasses the glory of the Angels and Saints combined. To give an example: if we were to take the light of every Angel and the light of every Saint and unite them together to form one enormous light, the light of the Virgin Mary alone would surpass it, and the other light would appear as a shadow in the presence of the glory that shines in the Virgin Mary. The Book of Revelation contemplates the Mother of Jesus in this way: *A great sign appeared in the sky: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars* (Rev. 12, 1). The Virgin Mary is the fourth light of Paradise. It is a light that participates more than any other in the glory of the divine nature. So exalted is the Mother of the Lord and our Mother.

The Virgin Mary is blessed. The blessing is given in the Holy Scripture to famous women who have accomplished great works of salvation for the people of the Lord. Blessed is Jael, who killed Sisera, the enemy of Israel: *“Blessed among women be Jael, blessed among tent-dwelling women. He asked for water, she gave him milk; in a princely bowl she offered curds. With her left hand she reached for the peg, with her right, for the workman's mallet. She hammered Sisera, crushed his head; she smashed, stove in his temple. At her feet he sank down, fell, lay still; down at her feet he sank and fell; where he sank down, there he fell, slain.”* (Jdg 5,24-27). Judith who cuts Holofernes’s head is blessed: *So they called Achior from the house of Uzziah. When he came and saw the head of Holofernes in the hand of one of the men in the assembly of the people, he fell forward in a faint. Then, after they lifted him up, he threw himself at the feet of Judith in homage, saying: "Blessed are you in every tent of Judah; and in every foreign nation, all who hear of you will be struck with terror. But now, tell me all that you did during these days." So Judith told him, in the presence of the people, all that she had been doing from the day she left till the time she began speaking to them. When she finished her account, the people cheered loudly, and their city resounded with shouts of joy. Now Achior, seeing all that the God of Israel had done, believed firmly in him. He had the flesh of his foreskin circumcised, and he has been united with the house of Israel to the present day.”* (Jdt 14,6-10).

The Virgin Mary is proclaimed Blessed by her cousin Elizabeth: *“During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."* (Lk 1,39-45). The Virgin Mary is blessed for She is the only one among women who has given the Messiah of the Lord to the world, from whom the redemption and peace have come for us. She is also blessed since in Her Satan was defeated for first in his pride because of the great humbleness of the Mother of God: “*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.”* (Lk 1,46-50). The mystery of the Virgin Mary is great. She is the second might of grace in Heaven, not as source though, but as mediation. The first way of mediation and also source of grace is Christ Jesus. She is the second way of mediation, in Christ, with Christ, through Christ, the glorious and blessed Mother of my Lord.

Today we bless Her for She has shown us all her love, all her mercy, all her tenderness as a Mother. We were a lost son in the distant land of this world. She came, and with the divine wisdom that is entirely in her heart, and by revealing to us how omnipotent the Holy Spirit is within her, in an instant, she transported us into the kingdom of her Son. After accomplishing this marvellous work, day after day, always taking us by the hand, she led us into the heart of the truth of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, into the heart of her truth, into the heart of the truth of the Church, into the heart of the truth of the Divine Word of the Lord, into the heart of the Doctrine, the fruit of the Holy Spirit in the Apostles, the Martyrs, the Confessors of the faith, the Fathers, and the Doctors of the Church. But she did not stop there. Every day, she helped us so that we might bear witness to her Son and to the Gospel of salvation without ever growing weary. We can read, through a Marian lens, what the Psalm says about our Lord God: “*Of David*. *Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children— with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts. The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the Lord, my soul. (Psal 103,1-22).*

We can also read what the Sirach says about the works of the Lord for our life through a Marian lens: “*The works of God are all of them good; in its own time every need is supplied. At his word the waters become still as in a flask; he had but to speak and the reservoirs were made. He has but to command and his will is done; nothing can limit his achievement. The works of all mankind are present to him; not a thing escapes his eye. His gaze spans all the ages; to him there is nothing unexpected. No cause then to say: "What is the purpose of this?" Everything is chosen to satisfy a need. His blessing overflows like the Nile; like the Euphrates it enriches the surface of the earth. Again, his wrath expels the nations and turns fertile land into a salt marsh. For the virtuous his paths are level, to the haughty they are steep; Good things for the good he provided from the beginning, but for the wicked good things and bad. Chief of all needs for human life are water and fire, iron and salt, The heart of the wheat, milk and honey, the blood of the grape, and oil, and cloth; For the good all these are good, but for the wicked they turn out evil.*

*There are storm winds created to punish, which in their fury can dislodge mountains; When destruction must be, they hurl all their force and appease the anger of their Maker. In his treasury also, kept for the proper time, are fire and hail, famine, disease, Ravenous beasts, scorpions, vipers, and the avenging sword to exterminate the wicked; In doing his bidding they rejoice, in their assignments they disobey not his command. So from the first I took my stand, and wrote down as my theme: The works of God are all of them good; every need when it comes he fills. No cause then to say: "This is not as good as that"; for each shows its worth at the proper time. So now with full joy of heart proclaim and bless the name of the Holy One. (Sir 39,16-35).*

We can read the other Psalm, too, through a Marian lens, always regarding what the Lord has done for us: “*A song of ascents. When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. Restore our fortunes, Lord, like streams in the Negev. Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them. (Psal 126,1-6).*

Now we wait, in incessant prayer, for Her to return visibly among us and manifest all Her power against the ancient serpent who has offended, tarnished, and insulted Her glory, declaring what was solely Her work as the work of man. Just as, in times past, the Pharisees and scribes attributed the liberation from unclean spirits to Satan, so today what came not from heaven, but from the heart of our Mother, has been attributed to the earth. Thus, hundreds and thousands of true conversions, fruits of the prayer of the Mother of God to Her Divine Son, fruits of the Holy Spirit who, through Her, manifested Himself to the hearts, have been declared false. Not only that, but those who bore witness to the truth of their conversion have been mocked, humiliated, and deceived by the children of Satan. Now it is right that the Virgin Mary, after testing her devoted and faithful children, should come and reclaim Her glory. She must do this not for us, not to give glory to us—because for Her, we are ready to endure every humiliation and contempt. She must come to make her glory shine upon the earth. We are certain that She will come soon, just as She has come many times before and saved Her work. However, She has done so invisibly. But now She must do it visibly, so that no one will doubt Her will, which asks that the Gospel of Her Son be brought to every heart. Mother of God, come, do not delay. This is what the Gospel of Christ Jesus, Your Son and our Lord, demands. **18 May 2025**