**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# AVE, DOMINA ANGELORUM

Let us read again what we wrote once through a current lens: We greeted the Virgin Mary: *“Ave, Regina caelorum”*. Now let us turn to Her, greeting Her: *“Ave, Domina angelorum”*. The Mother of God is Queen and Lady of the Angels. This is the glory with which the Lord wants Her to be honoured forever and ever. The Lady is the Mistress of the house, the One who has the government of it. We can understand this truth from a passage in the Book of Proverbs: *“When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar. She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household. She picks out a field to purchase; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms. She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She fears not the snow for her household; all her charges are doubly clothed. She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing. Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land. She makes garments and sells them, and stocks the merchants with belts. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household, and eats not her food in idleness. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her: "Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all." Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.”* (Pro 31,10-31). The Lady is the active, responsible, resourceful, daring, strong Woman, capable of directing the whole house. In saying that the Virgin Mary is the Lady of the Angels, we believe with firmness of faith, indeed we see and contemplate Her at the head of the heavenly hosts, all at Her command, as the supreme general is in control of all the armies of the country, the kingdom, the nation. The Mother of God is at the head of all the angels of God and all are ready to carry out her orders at the first sign of her hand. So great is the glory with which the Lord has clothed Her. Myriads and myriads of Angels under her rule!

A legend, which came before my eyes many years ago, intrigued me deeply. Though it is a legend, it showed me that even She, the Mother of God and our Mother, makes use of her angels—of whom she is Queen—to carry out her works on behalf of her children. What the Archangel Raphael reveals to Tobit and Tobias, we can say of every angel in their relationship with their Queen, with their Lady: “I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand ready to enter before the glory of the Lord” (Tobit 12,15). In ancient times, in a remote region, there was a woman of God, known for her humility, charity, and great mercy toward all. This woman of God had taken the burdens of many others upon herself, and each day she spent her life for them, giving of herself even to the point of depriving herself of her own possessions. This woman of God knew how to build the Kingdom of God on earth. She knew how to remind men of the Gospel of Christ Jesus, for she was always filled with the Holy Spirit. She knew how to speak to hearts because she was constantly assisted by the Queen of Prophets and Confessors of the faith. Indeed, many who listened to her converted and returned to the fold of the Church. Even the one who reported this legend attests to having been led by this woman of God into the fold of the truth of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; into the fold of the truth of the Virgin Mary; into the fold of the truth of the Church; into the fold of the truth of Divine Revelation and Sacred Tradition; into the fold of the truth of time and eternity.

One day, something very sad happened in that region. A new king was proclaimed—kind, compliant, and willing to listen to everyone. However, he lacked supernatural wisdom and understanding and could not discern truth, whether theological or historical. Even if he had desired to do so, he would never have been able to make a decision in truth. His counsellors, seeing that he was unfit to govern the kingdom, took advantage of him. They clothed themselves in great hypocrisy and deceived him with every lie and falsehood. In the region, confusion reigned supreme. The king could not distinguish who was deceiving him and who had been deceived. This was his great weakness in governing. We can apply the words of the Book of Proverbs to this king: *“When the just prevail, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan. By justice a king gives stability to the land; but he who imposes heavy taxes ruins it. The man who flatters his neighbor is spreading a net under his feet. The wicked man steps into a snare, but the just man runs on joyfully. If a ruler listens to lying words, his servants all become wicked. If a king is zealous for the rights of the poor, his throne stands firm forever. When the wicked prevail, crime increases; but their downfall the just will behold. Without prophecy the people become demoralized; but happy is he who keeps the law. The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the LORD is safe. Many curry favor with the ruler, but the rights of each are from the LORD. (Cf. 29,1-27).* Those who are in command must sense the stench of falsehood, of lies, of calumny, of deceit, of flattery, of wickedness and malice even before they come knocking at their door**.** They must possess the same vision that the man of God had when the wife of Jeroboam came before him, disguised in other garments so as not to be recognized:

“*At that time Abijah, son of Jeroboam, took sick. So Jeroboam said to his wife, "Get ready and disguise yourself so that none will recognize you as Jeroboam's wife. Then go to Shiloh, where you will find the prophet Ahijah. It was he who predicted my reign over this people. Take along ten loaves, some cakes, and a jar of preserves, and go to him. He will tell you what will happen to the child." The wife of Jeroboam obeyed. She made the journey to Shiloh and entered the house of Ahijah who could not see because age had dimmed his sight. The LORD had said to Ahijah: "Jeroboam's wife is coming to consult you about her son, for he is sick. This is what you must tell her. When she comes, she will be in disguise." So Ahijah, hearing the sound of her footsteps as she entered the door, said, "Come in, wife of Jeroboam. Why are you in disguise? I have been commissioned to give you bitter news. Go, tell Jeroboam, 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I exalted you from among the people and made you ruler of my people Israel. I deprived the house of David of the kingdom and gave it to you. Yet you have not been like my servant David, who kept my commandments and followed me with his whole heart, doing only what pleased me. You have done worse than all who preceded you: you have gone and made for yourself strange gods and molten images to provoke me; but me you have cast behind your back. Therefore, I am bringing evil upon the house of Jeroboam: I will cut off every male in Jeroboam's line, whether slave or freeman in Israel, and will burn up the house of Jeroboam completely, as though dung were being burned. When one of Jeroboam's line dies in the city, dogs will devour him; when one of them dies in the field, he will be devoured by the birds of the sky. For the LORD has spoken!' So leave; go home! As you step inside the city, the child will die, and all Israel will mourn him and bury him, for he alone of Jeroboam's line will be laid in the grave, since in him alone of Jeroboam's house has something pleasing to the LORD, the God of Israel, been found. Today, at this very moment, the LORD will raise up for himself a king of Israel who will destroy the house of Jeroboam. The LORD will strike Israel like a reed tossed about in the water and will pluck out Israel from this good land which he gave their fathers, scattering them beyond the River, because they made sacred poles for themselves and thus provoked the LORD. He will give up Israel because of the sins Jeroboam has committed and caused Israel to commit." So Jeroboam's wife started back; when she reached Tirzah and crossed the threshold of her house, the child died. He was buried with all Israel mourning him, as the LORD had prophesied through his servant the prophet Ahijah. (1Kg 14,1-18).*

About this woman of God—a virtuous woman, a true woman of God—many rumours were spread: vain words, harsh judgments, calumnies, lies, and all manner of wickedness. This woman of God, who had placed so much hope in the king, was deeply saddened, and her heart grew very sorrowful. She could not understand. She wished she could. She lost sleep. She spent her nights in prayer, invoking the Mother of God. Even Heaven seemed deaf. Yet she did not give up, she did not grow weary. She prayed so fervently that the Lady of Angels intervened to console her soul. "What do you want?"—She asked her one night, appearing to her. "That you send an angel from your Heaven to see why the king and his court behave unkindly toward so many in their kingdom." Immediately, the Virgin Mary called one of her most beautiful angels and sent him to the king in human form, bearing a message. The king, not recognizing him as an angel sent by the Mother of God, upon hearing the first words of the message, cast him out from his presence and informed his counsellors of the event. They all praised the king’s actions and proclaimed him a wise, intelligent, and strong man—though they lied and deceived him. The angel, sorrowful and disheartened, returned to his Lady. Yet his descent to earth was not in vain: he had discovered that in that court, the Lord was not known. Each one walked in his own twisted ways. Now that the secrets of the hearts had been revealed, the Lady sent her angel to the woman of God with a message, this time for her: "If you want to serve me, you must trust only in me and in my Son Jesus. No one shall be with you, unless you are with me. Now choose: if you want them, you will not have me; if you want me, you will not have them." The woman of God understood that there was no place for her in the hearts of those who did not love the Lord. She cast off all her sorrow and entrusted herself entirely to the Lady of Angels, whom she chose as her only Lady, her only Mother, her only Queen, her only Comforter. From that day on, an angel was always by her side. Thus is the legend! And history confirms this truth: the Virgin Mary always intervenes in the lives of her children through her heavenly Hosts and never abandons them. It is enough to invoke Her with faith. It is enough to pray Her, and She intervenes and delivers. It is enough to trust in Her, and one is never confounded. The legend is legend, and it must remain so. But history is history, and all can attest that it is so. How many have invoked the Queen of Heaven and Earth with faith and love, and have experienced her presence in their lives! Mother of God and our Mother, Queen of Angels, Queen of Heaven and Earth, we now pray to you: Send Saint Michael the Archangel from Heaven, so that he may cast Satan into Hell and bring new life to your work, which has been struck down by all the children of Satan. Our Mother, we are certain in faith that You will send the Archangel Michael, and for this reason we have begun to recount your marvellous works done in our favour. You will send the Archangel Michael, and your glory will shine forth in the Church and in the world. Today, You have worked a marvellous deed. But it is nothing compared to the works You are already prepared to accomplish for your glory, which is the glory of your Son. Thank You, holy Mother. Thank You, our Lady and Queen. You have always listened to us, and You always will. This is our faith.