**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# HAIL, HOLY QUEEN, MOTHER OF MERCY

Holy Mother Church, Teacher of truth of faith, has always praised God's wonderful work that is the Virgin Mary. If the hagiographer who recounted God creating all things from nothing had lived at the times of the New Testament, I am convinced that he would have added a few more verses to his narrative. Let us read the whole history and then try to imagine what he might have written. However, we know that the Virgin Mary was conceived by God before creation itself, because before creation, the incarnation of the Word of life was conceived.

*In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." Thus evening came, and morning followed - the first day. Then God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other." And so it happened: God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. God called the dome "the sky." Evening came, and morning followed - the second day. Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear." And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land "the earth," and the basin of the water he called "the sea." God saw how good it was. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it." And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed - the third day. Then God said: "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth." And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed - the fourth day. Then God said, "Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky." And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, "Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth." Evening came, and morning followed - the fifth day.*

*Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds." And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God also said: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food." And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed - the sixth day. (Gen 1,1-31). Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation. (Gen 2,1-3).*

This is the first part of God's creation. It is the old creation. Then on the eighth day God creates a beautiful Woman, immaculate, pure, holy, full of grace. He creates the New Eve. His Only Begotten Son is born of Her, the Eternal Word, who become flesh, a true man in her virginal womb. Now God looks at what He has done and knows that He cannot go any further. Now His work is truly completed. Now His creation has reached the culmination of beauty and perfection. Of course, the hagiographer would have written these things in his own style, in his own way. We say it in a theological way, even if it is very simple. The Church is the hagiographer of the Holy Spirit, writing day after day of the glories of God accomplished in Mary. The Church has turned her faith in the Virgin Mary into unceasing prayer. The Church constantly updates her understanding of this wonderful work of God with ever new invocations, each of which sheds more light on the mystery of the Woman. The Church never tires of turning the faith of the Christian people in the Virgin Mary into the truth of faith. The Church has built up an immense treasure on the Mother of God and our Mother over the centuries. It would be enough to put together all the icons, all the depictions, all the paintings, all the sketches, all the images, all the prayers, all the invocations, all the feasts to have a pale idea of Mary's greatness. In these pages, we will limit ourselves to speaking of the Mother of Jesus through some great prayers of Christian piety. This is also a simple way to honour the Mother of “My Lord”, as Elizabeth sings. Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, give us the joy of always proclaiming new things about you. Obtain for us the grace to speak in a manner worthy of your mystery. Angels and Saints of Heaven, guide our voices so that they may always be in harmony when we proclaim the glories of our heavenly Mother.

The human heart is like a raft bounced around by the winds of a strong tropical cyclone, because it is attacked by doubts, uncertainties, anxieties, thoughts and feelings that constantly deprive it of peace. As if this were not enough, vices, sins and transgressions are added, pushing him towards vanity, ephemeral and foolishness, leading him into situations leaving scars that even a lifetime of purification and penance cannot heal. From being an element of security, certainty and stability, the raft becomes itself an instrument of ruin and perdition for man. So is there no salvation for our heart, which at a certain moment becomes alien to us, a stranger to our life, because it is incapable of leading us on the paths of truth and righteousness? Salvation exists and it has only one name: Mary. Mary is the Blessed Virgin, the humble, chaste, virgin, holy Woman. Mary is the Woman of the perennial, constant yes, without ever a single hesitation. Mary is the Mother of Jesus, given to us by Him as our true Mother. Mary is the safe shelter of our salvation. Mary is our Queen, as the Church invokes her. However, She is not a Queen seated on her throne in Heaven, from which she looks down on us, poor and miserable creatures, impassive and static, without any interest in our lives.

Our Queen has her throne in our hearts, and this throne is called ‘Mercy.’ Mary is the Mother of Mercy. This is how the Church hails Her: ‘*Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our Life, our Sweetness, our Hope, Hail.*’ In our sinfulness, She is the door to mercy and forgiveness. In our death, She is the way to new life. In our daily bitterness, She is the sweetness that restores flavour to our spiritual taste. In our despair, She is the path of hope. Clinging to Her, we will never lose ourselves, we will never despair, we will never be defeated and humiliated by evil. Clinging to Her, we will always be ready to rise again, to lift ourselves up, to renew ourselves, for She gives us strength and energy, grace and every other gift. Clinging to Her, our raft will never sink, we will never be shipwrecked, we will never be devoured by the raging waves of evil. Evil may strike us down, but we will overcome it, because with the Virgin Mary we always rise again. Virgin Mary, Holy Woman, Chaste Mother, Faithful Friend, Diligent Companion, Humble Queen, help my foolish heart to return to your Son Jesus. Renew my life, instil hope in me, grant me certainty: to live and die for You, who are my sweetest Mother. We wrote this a few years ago.

Much time has passed. During these long days, She never ceased shaping me according to her heart, always guided by the divine wisdom of the Holy Spirit. She has done a lot of work. She helped me make two decisions that transformed my whole life. The first was forty years ago. She called me to follow Her, and I followed Her without ever looking back. Forty years later, She asked me to follow Her on a rough, rocky path with bare feet, and once again I followed Her without looking back, not to become a pillar of salt. Today She asks me not to give up, to keep going, to persevere in the work She has asked me to accomplish. Every day She tells me not to listen to the many sirens whose lives are not bound to Her with pure faith. Every day She has promised She will give me the strength I need to live through the day. Then tomorrow She will give me the strength I need for tomorrow. This is so that my heart may always be bound to hers and never think that anything comes from me. After all, She has always attested me that everything in my life has come from Her and that She has arranged days and hours so that I was always at the service of her glory. Lately, She has granted me the greatest grace. I asked Her for it, and She gave it to me with great might. However, now there is a grace that She must grant me: to instil a pure faith in you in all those hearts that must work for the sanctification of the flock of Christ the Lord and to add new members to it. Without a pure faith in you, the thoughts of the world will conquer them. They will work for the flock of Christ out of habit, but not out of love, not with the love of the Virgin Mary in their hearts. Mother of God and our Mother, give your heart to those who care for the flock of your Son. Let it beat in their hearts. They will love the flock of Christ as you love Christ your Son, and it will be this love of yours in their hearts, lived with your heart, that will give divine life, eternal life, life of grace and truth, life of justice and peace, life of holiness to the Church and, through the Church, to the whole world. All the other graces I ask of you, Holy Mother, are all necessary so that we may love the flock of Jesus with your heart. Holy Mother, hear my prayer today and always. Help me now to climb the mountain you have shown me.

**31 August 2025**