

Dacci oggi il nostro pane

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SEVENTH DAY

Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary



My soul magnifies the Lord

We can magnify God, our God, in his works that are out of us but also for his works He made for us. The people of God pass through the Red Sea barefoot, then the Sea retreats and overwhelms horses and equestrians in his waves. Here is how Israel magnifies his God: "I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. He is my God, I praise him; the God of my father, I extol him. The LORD is a warrior, LORD is his name!." (Es 15, 1-3) Anna, too, Samuel's mother, glorifies the Lord. She was sterile and the Lord made her mother "My heart exults in the LORD,

my horn is exalted in my God. I have swallowed up my enemies; I rejoice in my victory. There is no Holy One like the LORD; there is no Rock like our God." (1Sam2, 1-2) The Lord is magnified, exalted, greatly raised for his wonderful and fine works.

Why does the Virgin Mary magnify the Lord? Because She is the only woman God raised to such a high dignity to let her become Mother of His Only Begotten Son, of his Word by means of which He

created heaven and earth and what is in them. No creature will have such a high elevation. She alone is the Mother of the Lord, of the God Creator, Saviour, Redeemer, Truth, Grace, Way, Light, eternal Life for every man. She confesses that nothing is by her work. Everything is fruit of the benevolence of her 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

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done great things for me, and holy is his name. (Lk 1, 46-49) By the Virgin Mary God is seen as the only Lord of the history. When He pronounces a Word, this will always be fulfilled. He promised to bestow his mercy on Israel, his servant, and with the upcoming of the Messiah, He carried out his promise. One must always trust the Lord. His name is Eternal Love, infinite Mercy. Mother of my Lord, let all your children, contemplating what the Lord did for you, magnify our God and exalt him for the eternal centuries.

LAMP UNTO MY FEET

The Mother of my Lord

The Virgin Mary is greeted by Elizabeth with these words: "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." Who is "The Mother of my Lord? If we ask it to the Apostle John, here is his answer: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's

side, has revealed him." (cf Jn 1, 1-18) My Lord is the Only Begotten Son of the Father who made himself flesh in her womb.

Instead, if we ask the Apostle Paul who "My Lord" is, here is his answer: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved. In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him

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as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth. In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ.

In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory." (Eph 1, 3-14) "My Lord" is the Only Begotten Son of the Father, Crucified and Risen, he is the Redeemer and the Saviour, he is the One in whose body, becoming body of his body, our redemption and eternal salvation is fulfilled.

Today, if we asked a Christian who "My Lord" is, the answer would be an amount of thought with no truth. But also referring to the Virgin Mary, the answer would be an amount of thoughts with no light. A Christian who does not know the greatness and the beauty of his Mother attests to live, he too, in an amount of thoughts with no truth. Mother of my Lord, come to our rescue. Always lent us your heart to magnify, we too, your God and Lord. Thank you, Holy Father, for having given us such a sublime Mother.



IF YOU LISTEN...

Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God

After having greeted her the Angel Gabriel says to the Virgin "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." (Lk 1, 30) This expression - you have found favour with God - addressed to the Virgin Mary has a most high meaning for us. Let us try to highlight it. The Lord creates the Virgin Mary full of grace, he preserved her, for a singular privilege by virtue of the merits of Christ to Her applied in forecast, from every stain of original sin. He makes her entirely beautiful, shining, he makes her brighter than the sun. What the prophet Ezekiel narrates of the beauty created by God in the woman found in the desert is a most pale figure: "Again I passed by you and saw that you were now old enough for love. So I spread the corner of my cloak over you to cover your nakedness; I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you; you became mine, says the Lord GOD. Then I bathed you with water, washed away your blood, and anointed you with oil. I clothed you with an embroidered gown, put sandals of fine leather on your feet; I gave you a fine linen sash and silk

robes to wear. I adorned you with jewelry: I put bracelets on your arms, a necklace about your neck, a ring in your nose, pendants in your ears, and a glorious diadem upon your head. Thus you were adorned with gold and silver; your garments were of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. Fine flour, honey, and oil were your food. You were exceedingly beautiful, with the dignity of a queen. You were renowned among the nations for your beauty, perfect as it was, because of my splendor which I had bestowed on you, says the Lord GOD. (Ez 16, 8-14)

Why is this beauty a most pale figure of the magnificence of the Virgin Mary? Because she was clothed with all the beauty of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. All the light of the Angels of heaven is a pale shadow compared to the light shining in Mary, eternal Light invisible to the human eye, visible only to God's eyes. Now the Lord contemplates his work, that is his masterpiece, the coronation of all his creation and falls in love with Her. This means for us "You

have found favour with God": the Lord saw you, placed his eyes on you, fell in love with you. Mary is the most sublime creature made by the Lord. The Angel tells this truth to the Virgin Mary: the Lord fell in love with your beauty. Here are the words of the Psalm: "Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear: forget your people and your father's house, and the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your lord, bow to him All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold. In many-colored robes she is led to the king." (Psal 45, 11-15). Before such divine beauty created by God for the Virgin Mary, God falls in love with her. He falls in love so much to elect her to be the Mother of his Son. Even if he wanted, he might not create such beautiful creature. In Her the Lord God has exhausted his omnipotence. There is no beyond. Mother of my Lord let every Christian fall in love with you and raise you to Queen and Mother of his heart.

FROM JACOB'S WELL

In our most holy faith, the worship toward God in his mystery and trinity is of adoration or latria. Adoration belongs only to God, as He alone is the Creator and the Lord. The worship of veneration or dulia is tributed to Saints. Dulos means servant. The Saints are the servants of the Lord. The Virgin Mary is venerated by the Christian people with a particular worship that we call hyperdulia. Mary is not only the Servant of the Lord, She is the Mother of the Lord. She is not one of the many Saints. She is the Queen of Angels and Saints, Queen of Martyrs and of Confessors of faith. She is the most shining star made by the Lord. Mary only misses the divinity. Every other gift was given to Her by her Lord and God. In heaven she is seated on the right hand of her Son.

IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

Responses of Faith

Let us read from the Revelation: "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." What is the mystery enclosed in these words?

All the mystery of the Mother of God is enclosed in these words of the Revelation. She is the woman clothed with the sun. The Lord entirely wrapped her with his light. God is the eternal son of truth, of grace, of mercy, of forgiveness, of consolation, of every true and perfect justice. The Virgin Mary was made by her Lord and God sun of his truth, grace, forgiveness, consolation, sun of every true and perfect justice. God has entirely placed himself in the heart of his Mother. The mystery of Mary is great. She exercises every received power always in her humility of prayer. Humility is her own nature, his essence created. As a rock is made of matter, so the Virgin Mary is made of humility. Being, her nature, humility, she always exercises every power conferred by God as humble woman, always asking the son for the permission to be able to use it and to the Spirit the wisdom and the advice so that it is used according to the will of the Father. Whoever wants to know the Mother of the Lord might never prescind from his ontological constitution that is most pure humility.

The Moon is the figure or image of everything that changes, that turns. In Mary there was no change in her love, in her faith, in her obedience, in her humility.

She has the change under her feet. Satan under her feet, the one who first wanted to change nature and, from creature, he wanted to raise himself to be true God, the same as him, God as equal as God. The Virgin Mary remained in her purity of heart and mind with no change. Better, from humble she became most humble, growing from faith into faith and from wisdom into wisdom, always guided by the Divine Teacher that is the

Holy Spirit. The twelve stars are figures of all the Angels of heaven, but also of the patriarchs of the Old Testament and of the Twelve Apostles of the New Covenant. The Lord wanted the Saints both of the Old and the New Testament to be her crown. Whoever looks at the Virgin Mary must always confess: whether she is a woman so beautiful as more beautiful is her Author. All Saints must cry out in eternity: truly, the Lord, in creating his Mother, placed all his divine omnipotence, wisdom, intelligence,

advice, so that this work was the queen of all his works. Here is who Mary is: the insuperable work that not even God might ever overcome. Beyond Mary, there is only God. Mother of God, help us to magnify the Lord contemplating your mystery so supreme.

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE

We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God

Truths revealing who Christ Jesus is

Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son

Why does Jesus set the mercy as foundation of his discipleship? Can we define that his is the religion of faith and mercy? Is there a difference between religion and faith?

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