**MOTHER OF GOD**

Mary is true Mother of God for the Eternal Person of the Word was born of Her. The Only Begotten Son of the Father was born. In Her, the Person of the Eternal Son was made flesh. God in flesh was born of Her. Here the words of faith: “I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.” (Psal 2, 7) “Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.” (Psal 110, 4) “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God" (cf Lk 1, 26-38) “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.” (Jn 1, 14)

Thus this faith was defined by our Holy Mother Church: “We confess, then, our lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God perfect God and perfect man of a rational soul and a body, begotten before all ages from the Father in his godhead, the same in the last days, for us and for our salvation, born of Mary the virgin, according to his humanity, one and the same consubstantial with the Father in godhead and consubstantial with us in humanity, for a union of two natures took place. Therefore we confess one Christ, one Son, one Lord.”(Council of Nicaea) “We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach people to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable [rational] soul and body; consubstantial [co-essential] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning [have declared] concerning Him, and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us. (Council of Chalcedon)

Thus, the Christian confesses his faith in the mystery of the Incarnated Word today: “We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, and born of the Father before all ages. God of God, light of light, true God of true God. Begotten not made, consubstantial to the Father, by whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven. And was incarnate of the Holy Ghost and of the Virgin Mary and was made man; was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried; and the third day rose again according to the Scriptures. And ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the Father, and shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, of whose Kingdom there shall be no end. (Nicene Constantinopolitan Creed)

This is the proclaimed, revealed, fulfilled mystery, the defined mystery, the believed mystery. The Virgin Mary is true Mother of God for the Eternal Word who is God and is with God, who is in the beginning, namely since ever, God by generation, in the present of eternity, of the Father, was born of Her. The Virgin Mary is not only Mother of God, though; She is also our Mother. The Mother of God is our Mother, She was given to us as true Mother by Jesus as a testament of his great love for us. She was given as a presence to defend ourselves from evil, from every evil that always wants to deprive our life of the true light in order to have it plunged in darkness and in the slavery of Satan. If one is not in her fortitude – and our fortitude is her heart – we can hardly resist the temptation. It will captivate us and we will be prey of evil under all its forms.

The Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is for us the *praesidum* no one might ever violate. No one might enter it. Only the one who leaves this inviolable *praesidium* will fall into the hands of the ancient serpent, of the true enemy of man, and will hand himself over to all evil. All the *praesidium* invented by man are all violable, conquerable, destroyable. In fact, if we read the history of the wars of humanity, starting from the epic, fable, mythical and ending up to the real ones, also including the atypical one of the present day, that is a war against an invisible enemy, we may note that there is no invincible, inviolable, undefeatable *“praesidium*”. If one fails from earth, one goes from heaven. If it is not possible from heaven, one goes from the sea. If it becomes difficult from the sea, one goes beneath the ground. If one fails by force, one uses cunning. If law vanishes, one uses lawlessness, betrayal, deceit, any other shrewdness. The anti-nuclear bunkers are not secure, either. A human mind has planned and made them, a human mind is capable of destroying, tearing them down, uprooting them. Everything that was built by man is also destroyed, annihilated, razed to the ground by man. From Troy to the Twin Towers, history tells us that no town is ever safe. Everything being below heaven is always reachable, conquerable, destroyable.

We Christians take refuge in a *praesidium* built by man; we do not enter a tower erected by human mind. If so, our hope would be very fallacious. It would be a sandy tower, a *praesidium* of mud, an easily inflammable straw hut. Our *praesidium* is not made of human hands, but of God himself. Rather, our *praesidium* is God’s own Mother. It is She who was proclaimed Holy Mother of God. The One of whom the Son of the Most High was born when He wanted to become flesh and come to dwell among us. Mary is true Mother of God, not the sense that divinity was born of Her. This would be absurd, as well as false. Divinity is eternal. The Virgin is in time. Divinity is of no one and not even of itself, for it is eternal, namely with no principle and with no end. It has never begun to exist and it will never end. It is forever and ever and thus it is for the Three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity. They exist since eternity, for eternity, in the unique divine nature that is eternal, without principle and without end. The non-origin from anyone is part of the true divinity.

The Only Begotten Son, the only Son the Father has made in eternity, who is since ever and forever, who exists in the unique divine nature, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, descends from heaven for our salvation. He became flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Mary is the true Mother of God, for the Son who was born of Her is true God. It is not one body, one flesh, that was born of Mary. The Son of the Most High was born with a perfect humanity. The unique, true, consubstantial, Son of the Father is true, consubstantial, Son of Mary. Jesus is true God and true man, perfect God and perfect man. Not two persons, though: the human person and the divine one. But two perfect natures: the divine and the human one, in the Unique Eternal Person of the Only Begotten Son of the Father.

In Christ Jesus, we must separate what belongs to eternity and what belongs to time, instead. The entire mystery of his humanity belongs to time. Conception through the work of the Holy Spirit, birth, growth, mission, death, resurrection, glorious ascension to Heaven belong to time and from time they enter eternity, in the same way as the eternal generation, his being Son of the Father, consubstantial to Him, belongs to eternity and enters time in a particular moment of our history. Just 2021 years ago, He was made flesh, becoming history of our history and life of our life. It is foolishness, extreme ignorance to confuse, in Christ, divinity and humanity, eternity and time, eternal before and human after and after yet again in eternity, but not like the first eternity. Before the Incarnation He was without true humanity. Now He is with the true humanity. First, He was without the crucified and risen body. Now He is with the crucified and risen body. First, He was not the Redeemer of man. He was only the Creator of man and of all the visible and invisible things. Now He is our Redeemer and Saviour. First, Mary did not exist. Now She is the true Mother of the Son of the Most High. Since Mary is the true Mother of the Son of the Most High, Mary belongs to time, for the incarnation is mystery that happened in time. Christ’s humanity might never be said to be mystery that belongs to the eternity of before. Instead, it is mystery that is of the eternity of after.

The Holy Mother of God is our *praesidium*. It is undefeatable. Mary belongs to that blessed offspring whose mission is to crush the head of the ancient serpent, of the deceiver of man, of the one who has deceived Eve with his falsity and lie. There is no serpent She cannot crush its head. All the serpents of this world escape before the Virgin Mary, for they know that whether they had to approach Her, their head would be crushed. Whoever takes refuge in Mary, in this *praesidium* that is clothed with the same divine almightiness in relation to the fight against Satan, is certain to always obtain the victory. In it, below it, one needs to take refuge and remain eternally. Out of this *praesidium*, one dies. One lives in, not on our merit, but on virtue of the Holy Mother of God.

Here is what every man needs today: entering this *praesidium*, taking refuge in it. However, not only does the world not know this refuge; very often, it is despised, outraged, discredited, soiled with every falsity and lie. It is up to the Christian to dwell in this refuge to show with his life free from all sin and all vice, that, truly, really, whoever dwells in it is not conquerable by evil. Today, this is our necessary evangelization: bringing every man the good news that one can overcome evil, one can overcome desperation, one can overcome sufferance, one can overcome foolishness, one can overcome hatred, one can overcome all vice, one can live the true faith, one can build up the body of Christ, one can build the true humanity, but only if we enter and remain in this *praesidium* against which Satan might never lay his shadow. This *praesidium* is enclosed with a wall of divine fire no one might go through.

It is in the heart of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, that one can create the true universal brotherhood. Becoming, us, her true children, true children of the Mother of God, we shall become true brothers each other. However, if we are not true children of the Mother of God, we will never be able to be true brothers for each other. History reveals to us that, every time, when a man has become true son of Mary, of the Mother of God, one is always consecrated to the true good for every other man. But what is the first work of the true son of Mary? That of inviting every man to also become true son of Mary, true brother of Christ Jesus, true son of God, through the work of the Holy Spirit, by the means of the most pure faith in the name of Jesus, the only Redeemer, the only Saviour, the only name by which we shall become brothers for one another, as made in Christ in the image of his crucified charity.

Man, whoever you are, do you want to be true brother for every other man? You should know that you have one only viable way: entering the heart of the Mother of God and living as her true son. This is the only viable way. All the other ones are false, ephemeral; they last the fugacious time of an enthusiasm. Then, as enthusiasm fades away, so these ways fade away. They last the time of their proclamation or annunciation. These false ways are proclaimed, not fulfilled. They are desires, not reality. One creates the reality only in the heart of the Mother of God. Whoever enters the heart of the Mother of God goes from enthusiasm to the hard daily work leading him to live as true son of the Mother of God and as true brother of every man. This is the Gift Christ Jesus has bestowed upon us. This is the way to follow. This is the way that was traced for us on the Golgotha. Let us reflect upon this gift.

Jesus is on the cross. Beneath it, there are his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary mother of Cleopas and Mary of Magdala. There are not just women. The disciple Jesus loved is also next to the women. What was in possession of Jesus, he had already given it. He has even given his garments. The soldiers have equally divided them, and they cast lots to see whose the seamless tunic will be. Jesus still has a great treasure, though: his Mother. He is even divested of this treasure, he leaves it. He makes a gift to John. He gives Her to John as his true Mother. He give his Mother John as her true Son. Thus the Gospel concludes this wondrous event: “And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.” He takes Her with him as his true Mother. John takes the place of Jesus in the heart of his Mother. Now it is righteous that we ask: what is the theological, Christological, ecclesiological meaning of this gift?

It is easy to highlight the theological meaning. What happened in the Garden of Eden is fulfilled before the cross. Adam is alone. God makes a support that is correspondent to him. He creates the woman so as to be wife and mother. Instead, beneath the cross there is a woman and a man. Jesus gives the one to the other and vice versa, as true Mother and true Son. Mary is given as true Mother of John. John is given as true Son to Mary. It is not Mary who takes John with Herself, though. John is the one who takes Mary with himself. It means that since that moment it is obligation of the disciple to always take Mary as his true Mother if he wants to be true disciple of Jesus. There might never be a true disciple of Jesus if Mary is not his true Mother. When is Mary a true Mother? When the disciple lets himself be taught by Her so that he may love Jesus as her true Mother loves him. Mary will always have to be the Teacher of the disciple. Then, it is easy to know who the true disciple of Jesus is and who is not. It is enough to observe how the disciple loves Jesus. If he loves him as the Virgin Mary loves Him, the disciple is true disciple. If he does not love Him as the Virgin Mary, the disciple is not true disciple. Without Mary as true Teacher, no one might be true disciple of the Lord. He is lacking the Mother of Jesus. Today those who no longer believe in the Mother of Jesus given to them as true Mother, those ones do not love Christ Jesus. They may even celebrate wonderful praises in honour of the heavenly Mother, but the worship is not sign of true love. The sign of true love is only the obedience to the command of Jesus and the command of Jesus is to let oneself be ceaselessly taught by his Mother. Those who are ashamed of having Mary as Mother might never have Jesus as brother, never God as their true Father. Only the true son of Mary is true son of God.

The Christological meaning leads us in the heart of the mystery of salvation. When a person is born from water and Holy Spirit, he is made as a new creature and becomes body of Christ. Being true body of Christ, he is mystically born of the womb of the Virgin Mary. Mary is Mother of the entire body and not just of one part. As Jesus is true Son of Mary, so everyone who becomes body of Christ is true son of Mary, by generation of the Holy Spirit. This is the great mystery surrounding the body of Christ. In the sacrament of Baptism, what happened at the feet of the cross is fulfilled. If the disciple is true Son of Mary, then he must take Her with himself, as well. He must take care of Her. He must ensure that She is loved, respected, greatly honoured, accepted among all the baptised as their Mother. It is also obligation of every son to proclaim the beauty of his own Mother. The Christian must proclaim the beauties of Mary.

The ecclesiological meaning consists of making the Church a true spiritual family. The heavenly Father is in her. There are many brothers who are the body of Christ. There is the Holy Spirit in whose communion the brothers live with one only heart and one only soul. There is the Mother of Jesus, the heavenly Mother, who must be the Mother to all, no one excluded. True perfect family. No one is missing. There is the Father, the Mother, there are the brothers in Christ, their communion in the Holy Spirit is created. A family is not only based on the Father. It is not only based on brothers. It does not even stand on the Holy Spirit. The family is based also and above all on the Mother. Her love as Woman and Mother must nourish all her children. If this love fails, because the disciple does not take the heavenly Mother with him, he might never know how one turns the love of the Father, the grace of Christ, the communion of the Holy Spirit into love, grace, communion of true spiritual growth and of true evangelizing mission for the repentance of many other hearts. The love of the Mother turns all things into love of holiness, salvation, redemption, mercy, forgiveness, reconciliation. When an ecclesial family does not generate salvation, redemption, justification, peace, conversion of hearts, then it is sign that the Mother is lacking in this family. It is in the womb of the Virgin Mary that everything takes life, that is made a new life. It is in the womb of the heart of the Virgin Mary, our Mother, that everything is turned into salvation. Our sonship with the heavenly Father and our true brotherhood with every other man is in the mystical womb of the Mother of God. Mary is the heart of the entire mystery of faith. In Her and through Her, through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Only Begotten Son of the Father was made true Son of man. In Her and through Her, every son of man, every son of Adam, always through the work of the Holy Spirit, is made true son of God, true brother of every other man, Blessed is the one who believes in this mystery. Blessed is the one who fulfils it through his life. Blessed is the one who helps every other man become mystery of the mystery of the Virgin Mary, in her most high mystery of Mother of God. Mother of God, pray for us. Let every man become true Son of God and true brother of men in your mystical womb. You shall help us and the true humanity will be born through you on earth.