**Sub tuum praesidium confugimus**

The prayer with which the Christian turns to the Mother of God reveals and professes the truth and the purity of the mystery surrounding the Virgin Mary. Here is how, with a magnificent antiphon, one turns to our heavenly Mother: “*Sub tuum praesidium confugimus, Sancta Dei Genetrix. Nostras deprecationes ne despicias in necessitatibus, sed a periculis cunctis libera nos semper, Virgo gloriosa et benedicta”* (*“We fly to thy protection (= fortress, impenetrable rock, fortified town), O Holy Mother of God: Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.”).* Let us imagine a person in open countryside chased by many strongly armed men who want to kill him. There is a disparity of might that attests that his end has come. One person against one thousand has no way out. He will be reached and eliminated soon. Unless there is a military stronghold before him, well-fortified, well-defended, well-armed, in which he may find asylum, refuge, salvation. It is enough to enter it and his life is saved.

Now let us read this prayer with the last words of David: *“O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer, my God, my rock of refuge! My shield, the horn of my salvation, my stronghold, my refuge, my savior, from violence you keep me safe. 'Praised be the LORD,' I exclaim, and I am safe from my enemies. The breakers of death surged round about me, the floods of perdition overwhelmed me; The cords of the nether world enmeshed me, the snares of death overtook me. In my distress I called upon the LORD and cried out to my God; From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry reached his ears.* *The earth swayed and quaked; the foundations of the heavens trembled and shook when his wrath flared up. Smoke rose from his nostrils, and a devouring fire from his mouth; he kindled coals into flame. He inclined the heavens and came down, with dark clouds under his feet. He mounted a cherub and flew, borne on the wings of the wind. He made darkness the shelter about him, with spattering rain and thickening clouds. From the brightness of his presence coals were kindled to flame. "The LORD thundered from heaven; the Most High gave forth his voice. He sent forth arrows to put them to flight; he flashed lightning and routed them. Then the wellsprings of the sea appeared, the foundations of the earth were laid bare, At the rebuke of the LORD, at the blast of the wind of his wrath. "He reached out from on high and grasped me; he drew me out of the deep waters. He rescued me from my mighty enemy, from my foes, who were too powerful for me. They attacked me on my day of calamity, but the LORD came to my support. He set me free in the open, and rescued me, because he loves me. "The LORD rewarded me according to my justice; according to the cleanness of my hands he requited me. (Cf 2Sam 22,1-51)*.

Every day we are all chased by thousands devils who want to deprive us of our life, desire our spiritual death, yearn for leading our soul into hell, enjoy seeing our body into vices, are delighted when they confuse our thoughts turning for us the good into evil and the evil into good. For us there is no possibility of salvation. Unless there is before us a spiritual protection well-fortified, well-defended, well-armed, well-kept, inviolable, in which no devil might ever enter.

This well-armed, kept, defended, inviolable, impenetrable protection is the Virgin Mary. Her protection is a safe shelter, hellish, devilish, satanic bullet-proof. Once in the Church this faith was firm, stable, strong. It formed generations and generations of souls. It created certitudes in many hearts. If I am under the protection of the Mother of God, I will do it. Satan will not overcome me. The devil will not triumph over me. She will protect me, She will hide me under her holy mantle, She will be my shield and my fortress, She will be a fortified citadel, an anti-satanic and anti-devilish bunker for me. Satan has never managed to enter this fortified town and he will never succeed. Before the Virgin Mary, he will always have to confess his nothingness. He will have to cry out in eternity: “I have been defeated by You. I have been humiliated in my pride. Against You, my fiery darts were similar in all to bird feathers blown by a breath of light wind.”

The true, great Mariology has always applied these words of the Song of the Songs to the Virgin Mary: *“You are an enclosed garden, my sister, my bride, an enclosed garden, a fountain sealed. You are as beautiful as Tirzah, my beloved,*

*as lovely as Jerusalem, as awe-inspiring as bannered troops. Who is this that comes forth like the dawn, as beautiful as the moon, as resplendent as the sun,*

*as awe-inspiring as bannered troops? (Sg 4,12; 6,4.10)*. The Virgin Mary is truly an impenetrable fortress. Even if Satan kept it under siege with the hellish army of his devils, he would never destroy Her. Her city walls are of divine fire, that no one might ever cross. Satan will eternally have to feel this scorn before the Virgin Mary. He has overcome the woman. He has been defeated by the Woman. He has no power over the Woman. While the Woman has every might over him by grace. This is why it urges for every disciple of Jesus and Son of Mary to enter this impenetrable town. Here is the prophecy of Zechariah that we can apply to the Virgin Mary: *“I raised my eyes and looked; there were four horns. Then I asked the angel who spoke with me what these were. He answered me, "These are the horns that scattered Judah and Israeland Jerusalem." Then the LORD showed me four blacksmiths. And I asked, "What are these coming to do?" And he said, "Here are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no man raised his head any more; but these have come to terrify them: to cast down the horns of the nations that raised their horns to scatter the land of Judah." Again I raised my eyes and looked: there was a man with a measuring line in his hand. "Where are you going?" I asked. "To measure Jerusalem," he answered; "to see how great is its width and how great its length." Then the angel who spoke with me advanced, and another angel came out to meet him, and said to him, "Run, tell this to that young man: People will live in Jerusalem as though in open country, because of the multitude of men and beasts in her midst. But I will be for her an encircling wall of fire, says the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst." Up, up! Flee from the land of the north, says the LORD; for I scatter you to the four winds of heaven, says the LORD. Up, escape to Zion! you who dwell in daughter Babylon. For thus said the LORD of hosts (after he had already sent me) concerning the nations that have plundered you: Whoever touches you touches the apple of my eye. See, I wave my hand over them; they become plunder for their slaves. Thus you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me. Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! See, I am coming to dwell among you, says the LORD. Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD on that day, and they shall be his people, and he will dwell among you, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. The LORD will possess Judah as his portion of the holy land, and he will again choose Jerusalem. Silence, all mankind, in the presence of the LORD! for he stirs forth from his holy dwelling. (Zec 2,1-17)*.

The strength of this faith in the Virgin Mary has always helped young and adults, children and elders not to incur vices and to deliver from them. It has always sustained the path into virtues. It has always given the young women the strength to remain virgin until the wedding day. It has always prompted to a life of obedience to God, in the observance of his Commandments. Today this faith in the Virgin Mary is in dissolving. It is disappearing from the heart of many ones. The young people do not even say a Hail Mary. They live as if the Mother of Jesus did not exist for them, if She were not their heavenly Mother, the safe shelter, the protection against the assault of evil, the impenetrable fortress in which to find shelter.

If we do not restore the faith in the Virgin Mary, one might hardly build an authentically Christian life. The Virgin Mary is our true Mother. As in a family without the Mother, there is immediately its dissolution. The core of unity, charity, mercy, peace, cohesion, communion, shelter, salvation lacks. Thus is for the Virgin Mary. Whoever does not live with a strong faith in Her, one becomes an orphan soon. He is similar in all to an abandoned child, that satan takes and forms in the science and art of vice, of immorality, of pride and of every concupiscence. He teaches him all the subtleties of evil and his soul is damned forever, for he is prey of sin and of every disobedience to the law of the Lord. Today we can attest it well: the faith in the Virgin Mary is disappeared from hearts and Satan is forming generations of atheist, generations that he trains in every art of evil, in his training ground of disobedience, crime, evil, wickedness, sin. What is more, he has created his army of deacons or of his ministers who, wearing the garment of the Gospel, spread their human strategies as ways to destroy the training ground of Satan. She alone can destroy the training ground of Satan. She destroys it through all her children who attend her training ground in which She teaches the most pure obedience to Christ Jesus.

One cannot raise an entire generation without a firm faith in our Heavenly Mother. One cannot stay out of her protection even for one second. Satan know show to catch a heart and She alone can save us against his pitfalls. No one else has received by God the authority, the strength, the grace to crush the head to the enemy of man. Only the Virgin Mary can do it. She does it, if we are under her protection, if we take refuge under the shadow of her wings, if we dwell in her house. This is why it urges, more than ever, to form to the faith in our heavenly Mother. We must all grow in the great love for Her, ensuring that She may be part of our life, become our own life. If we and She become one only thing, then Satan might ever do anything against us. He might not even take away one hair of our head. Everything in us is safe, when her life becomes our life, and our life becomes her life. Great is the mystery of our heavenly Mother. It is a mystery of eternal salvation. Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, Angels and Saints, obtain for us this faith. We want to live and die in it. We want to obey in the House of the Mother of God today and always.