**Virgo gloriosa et benedicta**

**O glorious and blessed Virgin**

The prayer *“Sub tuum praesidium”* ends with these words: *“O glorious and blessed Virgin”*. These words are a true confession of faith about the Mother of Jesus and our Mother. Why does our faith confess that Mary is glorious and blessed? The Virgin Mary is glorious for the Lord has wrapped Her with his glory, He has clothed Her with Himself, He has entirely turned Her into light. He has given Her a glory that is greater than every other glory. In glory She infinitively overcomes the glory of the Angels and of every Saint together. If one wishes to make an example: if every Angel and every Saint were a light of candle and if we combined all their light together to create a great light, that of the Virgin Mary alone would overcome it and that would be a shadow before the glory that shines in the Virgin Mary. Thus the Book of Revelation contemplates the Mother of Jesus: *“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.”* (Rev 12,1). The Virgin Mary is the fourth light of Paradise. She is light created and not uncreated, She is not eternal light. The Light of the Father, the Light of the Son, the Light of the Holy Spirit is uncreated and eternal Light. The Light that surrounds the human nature of Christ Jesus is created Light, it is created Light surrounded by the eternal and uncreated Light of the divine Nature and Person of the Eternal Word of the Father. That of the Virgin Mary is light that participates to the glory of the divine nature more than any other one. So sublime is the Mother of the Lord and our Mother. The Lord has truly done great things for his wondrous Daughter. He spared in nothing to make Her entirely beautiful and immaculate.

The Virgin Mary is *“blessed among women”.* In the Old Scripture only two women are called *“blessed among women.”* They are said to be *“blessed among women”* because they have fulfilled works of great salvation for all the people of the Lord. Blessed is Jael who killed Sisera , the enemy of Israel: “Blessed among women be Jael, blessed among tent-dwelling women. He asked for water, she gave him milk; in a princely bowl she offered curds. With her left hand she reached for the peg, with her right, for the workman's mallet. She hammered Sisera, crushed his head; she smashed, stove in his temple. At her feet he sank down, fell, lay still; down at her feet he sank and fell; where he sank down, there he fell, slain.*”* (Jdg 5,24-27). Blessed is Judith who cuts Holofernes’s head: *“So they called Achior from the house of Uzziah. When he came and saw the head of Holofernes in the hand of one of the men in the assembly of the people, he fell forward in a faint. Then, after they lifted him up, he threw himself at the feet of Judith in homage, saying: "Blessed are you in every tent of Judah; and in every foreign nation, all who hear of you will be struck with terror. But now, tell me all that you did during these days." So Judith told him, in the presence of the people, all that she had been doing from the day she left till the time she began speaking to them. When she finished her account, the people cheered loudly, and their city resounded with shouts of joy. Now Achior, seeing all that the God of Israel had done, believed firmly in him. He had the flesh of his foreskin circumcised, and he has been united with the house of Israel to the present day.”* (Jdt 14,6-10). The Virgin Mary was proclaimed blessed by her cousin Elisabeth: *“During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "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."* (Lk 1,39-45). The Virgin Mary is blessed for She is the only one among women who gave the Messiah of the Lord to the world, from whom the redemption and the peace have come for us. She is also blessed because in Her Satan was first defeated in his pride because of the great humbleness of the Mother of God: *“And Mary said: "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 done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.”* (Lk 1,46-50). The mystery of the Virgin Mary is great. She is the second mighty grace in Heaven, not as a source, though, but as mediation. Christ Jesus is the first way of mediation and source of grace. The second way, in Christ, with Christ, through Christ, is Her, the glorious and blessed Mother of my Lord. The piety of the people of God has always honoured the Virgin Mary with the title of Mediator of all graces. Jesus is the unique Mediator between the Father and the entire humanity. The Virgin Mary draws every grace from the heart of Christ, that is the source, the spring of the grace and pours it out over this humanity tired and exhausted because of its sins and of the consequences of death they produce. The mystery that surrounds the Mother of God and our Mother is extremely great.

To such a sublime Woman it is imperative, for each of us, to give Her the love correspondent to the glory that surrounds his heavenly Mother. Love must always be correspondent to the truth of the Father, one must give the Son the love correspondent to his truth of Son, made by the Father today for eternity. To the Holy Spirit one must give the love correspondent to his divine and eternal truth. He proceeds from the Father and the Son and brings the Father and the Son into hearts, bringing Himself. If we do not give our Mother, the Mother of God, the love correspondent to her sublime glory, we are disrespectful toward Her, for we do not honour Her in a convenient, correspondent way. Our love is not perfectly true. How does one achieve this true love, correspondent love, convenient love? Growing in the knowledge of her most high truth. Asking the Holy Spirit that, day by day, He may help us know all things dealing with our sublime Mother with his divine science and wisdom. Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, obtain for us this most great faith in the truth of the Church that proclaims you glorious and blessed. Angels and Saints, let us invoke our heavenly Mother in fullness of faith and of love. Obtain for us the grace of honouring our Mother in the purity and fullness of the knowledge of her truth. With your help, our love shall be convenient, it shall be correspondent.