**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# Queen conceived without original sin

Once we wrote: from the history of theological reflection we know that this truth has always been debated. As time progressed, however, it became increasingly affirmed until it became the common faith of almost all of God's people. On 8 December 1854, Pius IX, in St Peter's Basilica in Rome, with the bull ‘*Ineffabilis Deus’* proclaimed this truth as faith for the whole Church. Today it is faith for every Christian living in the one, holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church. It is definite, dogmatic, eternal faith. For all the centuries of the ages this will henceforth be the faith of the Church on the conception of the Virgin Mary. The words of the Bull should be engraved in the memory of every pious devotee of the Virgin Mary, both in Latin and in Italian: *«Declaramus, pronuntiamus et definimus, doctrinam quae tenet beatissimam Virginem Mariam in primo instanti suae conceptionis fuisse singulari omnipotentis Dei gratia et privilegio, intuitu meritorum Christi Iesu Salvatoris humani generis, ab omni originalis culpae labe praeservatam immunem, esse a Deo revelatam atque idcirco ab omnibus fidelibus firmiter constanterque credendam». “We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.”* Four years later, on 11 February 1858, in Lourdes, when appearing to Saint Bernadette, the Virgin Mary confirmed this truth by proclaiming Herself ‘*The Immaculate Conception of God’*. This revealed truth deserves to be holily acknowledged. Mary was conceived without the stain of original sin. This is the faith of the Church. Mary was untouched by Adam's heavy inheritance. Since the first instant She has entirely been holy for her God and Lord. However, this is not all the work that the Lord did for Her. Mary is much more, infinitely more than what dogma recites, proclaims, defines, sanctions for the whole believing world.

The Virgin Mary, as She presented Herself, is the Immaculate Conception of God, namely, She is the immaculate thought of God in His creation. She is the thought without any imperfection, lack, defect, flaw. If God wished, by a mysterious plan of his eternal wisdom, to think of making something more beautiful, holy, stupendous, harmonious, shining, resplendent, fulgent, spiritual, incorruptible, immaculate, if he wished to transcend the beauty of his Mother, He could not. The Virgin Mary is the work of God's works. Beyond Her, there is only God. There is the Father, the Incarnate Son, the Holy Spirit. This truth of Mary should make us realise that we stand before the Woman in Whom God has revealed, manifested, expressed all of Himself. Speaking in terms of creation, God can no longer transcend Himself, go beyond. Mary is God's ultimate limit. He can no longer go beyond it. In Mary He has committed all his almightiness, wisdom, understanding, science, art, counsel. Beyond Mary there is only Divinity, but this is eternal and can never belong to Her. Divine eternity is uncreated, Mary is created. Eternal divinity is without principle. Mary had her beginning in time. Divine eternity is one nature. Mary has her own personal, specific human nature. In this personal, specific nature of Hers, however, God put all of himself so that it would be the holiest and most beautiful work of his creation. This honour was given to Mary, and, if not today on earth, tomorrow in eternity, every man must confess that spared Himself in nothing in creating the Mother of his Son. Not only did He spare Himself in nothing, if He wanted to make another, neither could He, for He could no longer make a Mother for His Divine Son. Any other woman could be mother of men at most, but never Mother of God. This title only belongs to Mary, the Virgin of Nazareth, the Mother of the Lord's Messiah.

Today we add: Having lost the truth of sin, which is true loss of the truth of created nature and essence - the true tearing, shattering, division, death is of this created essence - we are in the impossibility of entering the truth of such a great mystery. Sin makes us the kingdom of darkness, prisoners of Satan, slaves of death. The man in sin no longer lives in the image and likeness of his Creator and Lord, he lives in the image and likeness of Satan instead. This can never be preached about the Virgin Mary. Not only was She conceived without the stain of sin, since the first instant She has been filled with grace and the Holy Spirit without measure. God made her heart his throne, her body his temple, her soul the stupendous beauty in which He could always contemplate Himself outside Himself. In Mary, it is as if He had another self before Him. By creation and not by generation, of course. By generation only her Only-Begotten Son is the eternal image of our God. Contemplating such a marvellous created image of God, only one desire must arise in the heart of each of his children: to imitate it in its unblemished beauty. This imitation is necessary to visibly show the world how beautiful the Mother of every disciple of Jesus is. If Christians do not show the beauty of such a beautiful Mother, no one will be able to believe in this work of God, which is the most sublime work He has done. Great is the responsibility of every child of the Mother: one is called to show with his life how holy his Mother is. Immaculate Virgin, help each of your child to show the world with his life your beauty.

**12 January 2025**