**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# Queen of the Most Holy Rosary

Once we wrote: The Holy Rosary is a simple prayer and yet it is celestial, angelic, divine. It is the prayer that makes the whole history of salvation flow before our mind, with a meditation and contemplation of the mystery that becomes new every day, for the heart that immerses itself in this history to conform to it is different every day. Since old times the mysteries that were contemplated were fifteen: five of joy, five of sorrow, five of glory. Pope John Paul II added five more: the mysteries of light, in which the entire public life of Jesus is encompassed, from his Baptism at the River Jordan to the Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. The mysteries of joy encompass the first part of the life of Christ and the Virgin Mary. Joy comes to earth from the birth of the Redeemer, the Saviour of man. Christ Jesus becomes flesh to dwell among us and fill us with grace and truth. In these mysteries the dual origin of Jesus who is both Son of God and Son of man, true Son of God and true Son of man, true God and true man is revealed. As true man Jesus is subject to the law of true humanity and this law has only one name: growth. Jesus grew in wisdom, age, grace before God and man. At the centre of these mysteries of joy is She the Virgin Mary. Everything happens in Her, through Her. Joy on earth is the fruit of her virginal womb.

The mysteries of light contemplate Jesus' evangelising mission on our earth. Jesus is made Messiah of the Lord by the Father who consecrates Him in the Holy Spirit who rests and remains upon Him after the baptism in the river Jordan. The disciples believe in Him after the miracle performed at the wedding in Cana through the intercession of His Mother. He begins his preaching of light with the gift of the Gospel of God and the invitation to conversion and to believe in the Word proclaimed. On the mountain He prepares three of his disciples, Peter, James and John, to bear the offence of his crucifixion. Finally in the Cenacle, He institutes the Sacrament of the Eucharist in His Body and Blood, the New Covenant, for the remission of sins. Immediately afterwards, the mysteries of pain or suffering begin, all centred on the last moments of Christ's life in His body of flesh. They cover from Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Olives and his agony to overcome all temptation, through the scourging in Pilate's Praetorium, the condemnation to death, *Via Crucis*, crucifixion, death and burial. The whole mystery of the Passion is contemplated by the disciple of Jesus who is also a disciple of his Mother, so that through Her, he may learn to live every suffering and offer it to the Father for his own sanctification and the redemption of the world.

On the other hand, the mysteries of glory begin with the Resurrection and glorious Ascension of Jesus into Heaven with his ‘new’ body, the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles gathered in the Cenacle in prayer with the Mother of Jesus, the Assumption of the Mother of God into Heaven in body and soul, her glorious coronation as Queen of Heaven and earth. The vision of the celestial glory of Christ and His Mother, with the strength that comes to the Christian from the Holy Spirit, must impel him to base his whole life on this hope of eternal glory that is reserved for all faithful servants of the Lord. The Virgin Mary is Queen of the Holy Rosary first because She is at the centre of the mystery, together with Christ Jesus. Secondly because meditation and contemplation are sustained by her intercession. We ask Her for the fruit of contemplation to be turned into our life by the powerful virtue of the Lord's Holy Spirit. Finally, because She is always the One who asks from Heaven for it to be recited. She wants to be invoked with this simple but mighty prayer. A humble prayer, but mighty in its power to transform a heart. Prayer of the poor that makes one rich in God, in Christ, in the Holy Spirit. Prayer of pilgrims that opens the gates of eternity. Prayer of the suffering that fills the soul with peace.

Today we add: It is not possible to pray the Holy Rosary according to truth and then have hatred for the Mother of God and our Mother in one's heart, nor hatred for the Gospel and sound doctrine, nor hatred for the missionaries of the Gospel. Neither can one have hatred for any man. How is it possible to recite the Holy Rosary with falsehood, lies, deception, slander, non-love, non-compassion, non-mercy towards the man for whom Christ Jesus died on the cross and the Virgin Mary accepted her Son as her true son? Whoever recites the Holy Rosary with love, truth and a pure heart cannot fail to sanctify himself, cannot fail to love as Christ Jesus and his Mother love, cannot fail to seek the highest good for the Lord his God and for every man living on our earth. One cannot ask to recite the Holy Rosary and then work against Christ and against his Mother. One who recites the Holy Rosary and does not sanctify himself, attests that he recites it as a hypocrite. He pretends to pray, but his heart is not in the Holy Rosary. He who seeks his own sanctification must begin with the good recitation of the Holy Rosary. He must then continue with the celebration of the Holy Mass living as a true sacrifice to renew the covenant made in Christ on the foundation of his Gospel. He must then continue by manifesting to the whole world the fruits of the celebration of the Holy Rosary and the Most Holy Eucharist that his heart produces every day in full obedience to the Word of Jesus. Everything, however, begins with the celebration of the Holy Rosary with a pure heart. A Holy Rosary wasted is a life wasted. A Holy Rosary mistreated is a life that is mistreated. A Holy Rosary lived as a hypocrite is a life that turns into hypocrisy. May the Mother of God help us to live the Holy Rosary with an ever purer and holier heart. Sanctifying the Holy Rosary is to sanctify life. **26 January 2025**