**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# Tu honorificentia populi nostri

Once we wrote: Tu honorificentia populi nostri. Let us meditate for a moment on what the people of Israel sang in honour of Judith, after hearing the news of her great heroic deed: she had cut off the head of the one who had in mind the destruction of the covenant people. *“All the people were greatly astonished. They bowed down and worshiped God, saying with one accord, "Blessed are you, our God, who today have brought to nought the enemies of your people." Then Uzziah said to her: "Blessed are you, daughter, by the Most High God, above all the women on earth; and blessed be the Lord God, the creator of heaven and earth, who guided your blow at the head of the chief of our enemies. Your deed of hope will never be forgotten by those who tell of the might of God. May God make this redound to your everlasting honor, rewarding you with blessings, because you risked your life when your people were being oppressed, and you averted our disaster, walking uprightly before our God." And all the people answered, "Amen! Amen!"* (Jdt 13,17-20). Jerusalem also rejoices and is ecstatic before such courage and bravery: *“The high priest Joakim and the elders of the Israelites, who dwelt in Jerusalem, came to see for themselves the good things that the Lord had done for Israel, and to meet and congratulate Judith. When they had visited her, all with one accord blessed her, saying: "You are the glory of Jerusalem, the surpassing joy of Israel; You are the splendid boast of our people. With your own hand you have done all this; You have done good to Israel, and God is pleased with what you have wrought. May you be blessed by the Lord Almighty forever and ever!" And all the people answered, "Amen!"* (Jdt 15,8-10). Judith is the splendid honour of the Lord's people, for she saved them from certain death. The destroyer wanted to attack him and she forbade it, killing him, not without putting his life at risk.

On the contrary, we deny the Virgin Mary, we blaspheme Her, we despise Her, we dishonour Her, we consider Her in an unexceptional, even almost vulgar way, making Her a woman like all other women, or we do also sometimes place Her on a lower step than the others. Why all this? Judith did a visible work for the visible life of her people, even if then the invisible fruits also ripened. Visibility attracts and conquers. The enemy was visible and got rid of him visibly. The flesh of man rejoices. Visible flesh, visible enemy, visible work, visible joy. On the other hand, the Virgin Mary did an invisible work, with an invisible enemy, with an invisible victory, the fruits of which, however, are visible in those who allow themselves to be conquered by her victory. The reason for our insensitivity towards the Virgin Mary, the reason why we honour her so little and love her so little, why we glorify her so little, indeed why we try to take away all glory and all honour from her, lies precisely in this: we have not been enveloped by this victory of hers. Satan is still the enemy that holds us in siege, leaving us without spiritual water and food, deprived of all comfort of truth for our souls. We are in his kingdom of darkness, of no light, of gloom. We live in the dungeon of his temptation and sins.

On the other hand, the Virgin Mary is purest light. Whoever wants to contemplate Her must leave the kingdom of darkness, be transported into the kingdom of the fullest light, and, through this light of truth, will see all the beauty of the Mother of God and be able to sing her glories. Satan is the universal enemy, of every man, throughout all human history. This enemy of ours was first vanquished in Her and through Her, through her faith; Christ Jesus came, who took away all power to harm men from him. However, this is an invisible victory, entirely spiritual, because Satan is spirit, even though his fruits are seen in matter and in the visible flesh of man, who is incapable of loving according to truth and justice. Who can enjoy this victory and who can sing it? Only those who allow themselves to be totally immersed in it day after day. The more we distance ourselves from Satan, the more we see the glory of the Virgin Mary. The less we distance ourselves from our former adversary, the less we see the beauty of our Heavenly Mother. Those who do not sing of Mary, who do not boast of Her, who do not proclaim her honour and glory, who do not proclaim Her blessed, testify that Satan still reigns in their hearts and they are still part of his sad and dismal reign.

Today we add one more truth: The Virgin Mary came among us, as the Angels of God in the town of Sodom. Unlike Lot's two sons-in-law who did not believe his word inviting them to leave the town, because it was about to be destroyed - the two sons-in-law thought their father-in-law was joking - we fought her coming for a good forty years. She could do nothing to save the small town She had so laboriously begun to build. She did, however, save the seed of the Gospel in those hearts that had welcomed it with love and are now waiting for Her to come among us again to begin the interrupted work, but in other ways and by other means. For those who have remained faithful to her message of love, She is truly their pride, their glory, their splendour, their magnificence. They have overcome evil because She has overcome it in their hearts. She is their strength, their mighty support, their daily encouragement. If She were to withdraw for a single moment, Satan would again conquer their hearts and minds. That is why we daily ask Her to return among us in visible form. Then her glory would be manifested and many would believe in her presence among us. Mother of God, come soon, do not delay. Manifest yourself in your great glory. **02 March 2025**