**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# TU ADVOCATA PECCATORUM

Once we wrote: Tu Advocata peccatorum. God is the Defeder of his people. He guards it, protects it, saves it, redeems it, nourishes it, leads it, delivers it from all evil. Thus the Psalm narrates this wondrous work of the Lord our God: *“May God arise, may his enemies be scattered; may his foes flee before him. May you blow them away like smoke as wax melts before the fire, may the wicked perish before God. But may the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; may they be happy and joyful. Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him—his name is the Lord. A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land. When you, God, went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, the earth shook, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel. You gave abundant showers, O God; you refreshed your weary inheritance. Your people settled in it, and from your bounty, God, you provided for the poor.”* (Psal 68,2-11). Defender is Christ Jesus. He defends us by atoning for us, dying in our place, taking upon Himself, the Immaculate Lamb, our sins to affix them to the cross and remove them from our hearts: *“My children,**[1](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/__P12C.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22%244ZA) I am writing this to you so that you may not commit sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world ”* (1 Jn 3,1-2). Jesus is defender with the Father, interceding and praying for sinners, so that they may be converted and enter eternal life, accepting his grace and truth. The Holy Spirit is the Defender. He defends us by keeping us safe from all falsehood, ignorance, foolishness, deception, cunning and malice of Satan; by leading us into all truth; by making us true witnesses of Jesus; by giving a word of truth before those who oppose us and desire our death: *“When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me. And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.”* (Jn 15,26-27). Father, Son, Holy Spirit defend our life so that no one steals it from us, takes it away from us, steals it from us.

The Virgin Mary also participates in this divine work, accomplished towards us by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. However, She is given a special, unique title: ‘Advocate for sinners’. It is as if her Son, Christ the Lord, wanted to give Her a singular mission, a highly maternal mission. The Virgin Mary is the Mother of this sinful humanity, spiritually infirm, sick in its soul, infected in its spirit, ankylosed in its heart, weak in its will, flawed in its desires. This is the current state of every man: he is a sinner. What office did Jesus give His Mother? That of finding before Him a motive for salvation, redemption, justification, not condemnation, forgiveness, great mercy, full acquiescence. What Jesus did on the cross before surrendering His spirit to the Father, when He prayed for His executioners, excusing them before God because they did not know what they were doing, this ministry is now His Mother's. It is She who must always find any extenuating circumstances for us so that the thunderbolts of divine justice do not strike down upon us and overwhelm us. Instead, the mercy, pity, compassion of the Lord for Her must always triumph over us for the sake of our salvation in time and in eternity. For her to be able to defend us to her Divine Son, it is necessary that we love her with a true, sincere, pure, holy love. If the younger son had not returned to the Father, the latter could never have defended him to the elder son: *“'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"* (Lk 15,31-32). If we do not return to the house of our heavenly Mother, She will never be able to defend us. We love Her, we return to Her, we honour Her as our true Mother, we draw near Her and She will know how to intercede for us in times of spiritual gloom and darkness, defending us before her Divine Son. Never must we detach ourselves from her presence. Always turn to Her, listen to Her, invoke Her, ask Her for mercy, compassion, support, help, defence, in the promise to change our lives, because we want to offer Her and Jesus everything about ourselves: heart, spirit, body, soul.

Today we add: Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, we have sinned, we have denied You and betrayed You, we have forsaken You, we have become tired of You, we have not believed in your Word, we have followed paths that You never asked us, we have despised you, but now we are deeply repentant. You who are the Advocate of sinners, you who are our Mother, come to our rescue, manifest your power and glory to us, speak to our hearts again, make us hear your voice once more. We promise that this time we will listen to you, obey your Word, walk according to your heart. If you do not come among us, as in ancient times, we are lost. The world will conquer us all. Satan will avenge us and the wicked will confirm themselves and believe in the goodness of the wickedness of their hearts. Angels and Saints intercede for us. Ask your Queen to have pity on us, not for us, but so that her great glory may be manifested and so that the world may come to believe in her will of salvation and redemption for every man.

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