**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# VIRGO PRUDENTISSIMA

Once we wrote: Mary is exalted and magnified today as the ‘most prudent Virgin’. She is Most Prudent because never, from the words, deeds, relationships She lived, did evil, not even the slightest, lowest, arise through Her. Everything in Her has contributed to producing the greatest good, always. Why has the Virgin Mary's life always borne the most beautiful fruits of good, indeed of the highest good, and in us only evil is often produced? Because She is Mother and Blessed Virgin, while we remain perpetual sinners, or at best we are content to live a minimalist Christian religion, namely aimed at not committing only the most heinous crimes that disturb the collective conscience, while we indulge in all those bad sins that have now become the style, form, daily consistency of our social living. All this spiritual disaster can be traced back to an error that we now make without even realising it. Our mistake consists of this: we separate the gift of the Holy Spirit from the Holy Spirit who must always bear it in us. We believe we have the gift of the Spirit of God but without living in the Spirit of God. By now we almost all believe that the Holy Spirit can be compared to a shopkeeper. We go to His shop, take what we need, pay the price with the sacrifice of having already gone to Him, leave, and that is the end of it. The Holy Spirit stays in His shop to serve some other customer, and we go on living our lives in the belief that everything is all right, because we have the gifts of the Holy Spirit and with them we can do the good we want. Nothing is more wrong. This conviction, which has now become Christian practice, is the death of our life of faith. There can never be a separation between the gift and the Holy Spirit, because it is He who must produce it always alive, always present, always in the today of our lives. It is always He who must vivify it, make it operative, strong, irresistible, victorious. If the Spirit of the Lord is not in us, we are without His gifts and our spiritual life is a failure. It is the Holy Spirit who gives himself to us as the tree from which every fruit of prudence blossoms and ripens.

Then what is prudence and why is the Virgin Mary the Most Prudent Virgin? Most prudence is a virtue of the Mother of God because each of her action, thought, will, desire, feeling, movement of heart and spirit, have always been under the motion of the Holy Spirit. He has always moved the heart and mind of our Mother. He has always acted through Her. Mary is the most perfect instrument through which the Father of Heaven works the wonders of His love on behalf of His children. The Holy Spirit is a gift in Mary, but also her daily conquest. She grew in the Holy Spirit because of her unceasing prayer and because the path in holiness was in Her without interruption. We omit our growth in wisdom and grace, we forget to pray, we relax in our journey of faith, hope, charity. In so doing, we cannot hope to be governed by prudence. Solomon realised that he could not live without wisdom. He knew that this was a gift from God. He asked the Lord for it with heartfelt prayer: *“Therefore I prayed, and prudence was given me; I pleaded and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. I preferred her to scepter and throne, And deemed riches nothing in comparison with her, nor did I liken any priceless gem to her; Because all gold, in view of her, is a little sand, and before her, silver is to be accounted mire. Beyond health and comeliness I loved her, And I chose to have her rather than the light, because the splendor of her never yields to sleep. Yet all good things together came to me in her company, and countless riches at her hands; And I rejoiced in them all, because Wisdom is their leader, though I had not known that she is the mother of these. Simply I learned about her, and ungrudgingly do I share - her riches I do not hide away; For to men she is an unfailing treasure; those who gain this treasure win the friendship of God, to whom the gifts they have from discipline commend them. Now God grant I speak suitably and value these endowments at their worth: For he is the guide of Wisdom and the director of the wise. For both we and our words are in his hand, as well as all prudence and knowledge of crafts.”* (Wis 7,7-16). Prayer alone is not enough. Obedience to every motion of the Holy Spirit of God is needed. Mary is Most Prudent Virgin, for She is the Most Obedient Virgin. Without obedience there is no prudence, for prudence is listening and perennial obedience to our God and Lord.

Today we add: obedience is not to our own thought or will. Obedience is to the Word of the Lord. As we live in the Word and through the Word, obedience is to every motion of the Holy Spirit, who leads us so that we may make our life a gift to our Father, in Christ, through Christ, with Christ, for the salvation of the world. This is our sin today. We are not prudent. We do everything from our heart. We do almost nothing from the Word, in the Word, through the Word, always led and taken by the hand of the Holy Spirit. The truthful and moral confusion today is there for all to see. Scandals are no longer even counted. All this happens because we have separated ourselves from the Word. Without the Word, to which supreme obedience must always be given, man's thinking has replaced God's thinking. This substitution was enough and the entire edifice of righteous faith collapsed, in its place we erected skyscrapers of falsehood and lies. Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, teach us to live all the days of our lives in your same obedience. Let us also be as prudent as You. Angels, Saints, help us always walk in the Word of our God and Lord. This is the one and only path of holy prudence. **23 March 2025**