**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL

Some years ago, here is what we wrote about the Mother of good counsel: everyone can give counsel. Few are those who are givers of good counsel. What is the counsel and what is a good counsel, instead? Let us answer this question letting ourselves be helped by the Book of Sirach: *“Every counselor points out a way, but some counsel ways of their own; Be on the alert when one proffers advice, find out first of all what he wants. For he may be thinking of himself alone; why should the profit fall to him? He may tell you how good your way will be, and then stand by to watch your misfortune. Seek no advice from one who regards you with hostility; from those who envy you, keep your intentions hidden. Speak not to a woman about her rival, nor to a coward about war, to a merchant about business, to a buyer about value, to a miser about generosity, to a cruel man about mercy, to a lazy man about work, to a seasonal laborer about the harvest, to an idle slave about a great task: pay no attention to any advice they give. Instead, associate with a religious man, who you are sure keeps the commandments; Who is like-minded with yourself and will feel for you if you fall. Then, too, heed your own heart's counsel; for what have you that you can depend on more? A man's conscience can tell him his situation better than seven watchmen in a lofty tower. Most important of all, pray to God to set your feet in the path of truth.”* (Sir 37,7-15).

The Virgin Mary is Mother. As every Mother, She must also give counsel to her children, so that they may walk through the way of the perfect righteousness, so that they may love Christ Jesus in the most beautiful and holiest way. The true, righteous, holy counsel might never flow from our heart. It is not the place of the holy counsels. Only One has the counsel: the Holy Spirit. Counsel is one of his seven holy gifts: *“Wisdom, understanding, counsel, science, fortitude, piety, fear of the Lord.”* Thus this truth is taught us by the prophet Isaiah: *“But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD”* (Is 11,1-2). Another truth of counsel and of every other gift of the Holy Spirit is that: the Holy Spirit is not as the tree that bears his fruits, the farmer goes, gathers them, brings them to the market, sells them, and the buyer can make use of them as he wants, how he wants, when he wants. This is not the way that does not suit the Holy Spirit. There is no gift and Holy Spirit, as the tree and the fruit. There is only the Holy Spirit who is Spirit of Counsel, Spirit of Fortitude, Spirit of Wisdom, Spirit of Knowledge, Spirit of Understanding, Spirit of Piety, Spirit of the holy Fear of the Lord.

The Virgin Mary is the Mother of good counsel for She is the Mystical Spouse of the Holy Spirit. She is the tent in which the Holy Spirit has placed his perennial dwelling. She and the Holy Spirit are one only thing, one only heart, one only desire, one only science, one only will, one only truth, one only knowledge. This perfect communion of life ensures that the Spirit of the Lord be perennial working in Her and through Her means. This is why She is the Mother of the good counsel, for Hers is a always a counsel given in the highest truth of the Spirit of the Lord. Moreover, She is also Mother of good counsel for another reason. She is the Mother who loves her children in the truth of the Holy Spirit and in his eternal holiness. Can a Mother who loves this way want something for her own child which is not the perfect fulfilment of his vocation and mission, written for him by the Father of heaven since eternity? She can counsel her children well, for She loves them with most pure love of truth. The love of truth is only one: the fulfilment of the entire will of the Father in our life and in the life of those who are entrusted on us. The Virgin Mary has never deceived not even one of her children, She has never given a less good counsel. She has always given “*the best wine*” to everyone, always. This is her truth.

Now let us ask: if the Virgin Mary had to come in a visible form, manifesting to someone of her children, what counsel would She give? I believe that today there would not be another good counsel, but what the Lord would give to his prophets: *“Go and tell my people that it is the Church of my Son, tell them to return into my Word, to think from my Word, to live my Word, to testify my Word, to proclaim my Word, to remind my Word to every man living in the Church and in the world”.* She would say the same Word said by Jesus to his Apostles: *“Go, make disciples all the people, baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”.* She would say the same Word of the Holy Spirit: *“Go and make the body of Christ Jesus beautiful. Let it grow in a greater and greater holiness. Work so that it may grow with many other members. Let the entire world become disciple of his Saviour and Redeemer”.* She would say the same Word said by Her some decades ago: *“The world has forgotten the Word of my Son Jesus. Go, remember it on land and on sea. Be source of truth, unity, love, light, prayer, solace, peace, perfect obedience to the Gospel in the Church and in the world, according to the rules of the Gospel. Be missionaries and bearers of my Word on land, on sea, on mountain, on valley”.* She would give this counsel to popes, bishops, presbyters, deacons, confirmed, baptised, prophets, teachers, preachers, to each member of the body of Christ. The Church lives of Word of Jesus the Lord. If she does not live of Word, she dies. The world lives, if she lives of Word of the Lord; if she does not live of the Word of the Lord, she is in death. Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, let us entrust and hand ourselves over to your Counsel, today and always, for all the days of our life. **05 May 2024**