**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# VIRGIN MOST RENOWNED

Mary is most renowned for She has obeyed her Lord and God with all obedience made of wisdom, understanding, prudence, shrewdness, science, commitment, devotion, diligence, every other virtue. Praise is for the things that She has fulfilled and fulfils. These are works of complete and perfect cooperation with Christ the Lord for the redemption and salvation of every man. In Her there is no single work that is not most renowned.

Some help may be given by three prayers of praise: the first of Christ Jesus, the other two from the two Palms: “*At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.*" *(Mt 11,25-30).*

*“Praise the name of the Lord; praise him, you servants of the Lord, you who minister in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God. Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant. For the Lord has chosen Jacob to be his own, Israel to be his treasured possession. I know that the Lord is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods. The Lord does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths. He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; he sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses. He struck down the firstborn of Egypt, the firstborn of people and animals. He sent his signs and wonders into your midst, Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants. He struck down many nations and killed mighty kings— Sihon king of the Amorites, Og king of Bashan, and all the kings of Canaan— and he gave their land as an inheritance, an inheritance to his people Israel. Your name, Lord, endures forever, your renown, Lord, through all generations. For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants. The idols of the nations are silver and gold, made by human hands. They have mouths, but cannot speak, eyes, but cannot see. They have ears, but cannot hear, nor is there breath in their mouths. Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them. All you Israelites, praise the Lord; house of Aaron, praise the Lord; house of Levi, praise the Lord; you who fear him, praise the Lord. Praise be to the Lord from Zion, to him who dwells in Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.” (Psal 135,1-21).*

*“Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created, and he established them for ever and ever— he issued a decree that will never pass away. Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and women, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. And he has raised up for his people a horn,[b] the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord.” (Psal 148,1-14).*

Here is the praise toward three Women in the Scripture who are recalled for the deeds fulfilled by them: the first praise is for Jael, the second is for Judith, the third is for the Woman who lives in the fear of the Lord and takes care of her whole house with understanding and wisdom. Let us immediately say that the Virgin Mary is to be praised infinitively more.

*On that day Deborah (and Barak, son of Abinoam,) sang this song: Of chiefs who took the lead in Israel, of noble deeds by the people who bless the LORD, Hear, O kings! Give ear, O princes! I to the LORD will sing my song, my hymn to the LORD, the God of Israel. O LORD, when you went out from Seir, when you marched from the land of Edom, The earth quaked and the heavens were shaken, while the clouds sent down showers. Mountains trembled I n the presence of the LORD, the One of Sinai, in the presence of the LORD, the God of Israel. In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, in the days of slavery caravans ceased: Those who traveled the roads went by roundabout paths. Gone was freedom beyond the walls, gone indeed from Israel. When I, Deborah, rose, when I rose, a mother in Israel, New gods were their choice; then the war was at their gates. Not a shield could be seen, nor a lance, among forty thousand in Israel! My heart is with the leaders of Israel, nobles of the people who bless the LORD; They who ride on white asses, seated on saddlecloths as they go their way; Sing of them to the strains of the harpers at the wells, where men recount the just deeds of the LORD, his just deeds that brought freedom to Israel. Awake, awake, Deborah! awake, awake, strike up a song. Strength! arise, Barak, make despoilers your spoil, son of Abinoam.*

*Then down came the fugitives with the mighty, the people of the LORD came down for me as warriors. From Ephraim, princes were in the valley; behind you was Benjamin, among your troops. From Machir came down commanders, from Zebulun wielders of the marshal's staff. With Deborah were the princes of Issachar; Barak, too, was in the valley, his course unchecked. Among the clans of Reuben great were the searchings of heart. Why do you stay beside your hearths listening to the lowing of the herds? Among the clans of Reuben great were the searchings of heart! Gilead, beyond the Jordan, rests; why does Dan spend his time in ships? Asher, who dwells along the shore, is resting in his coves. Zebulun is the people defying death; Naphtali, too, on the open heights!*

*The kings came and fought; then they fought, those kings of Canaan, At Taanach by the waters of Megiddo; no silver booty did they take. From the heavens the stars, too, fought; from their courses they fought against Sisera. The Wadi Kishon swept them away; a wadi. . . , the Kishon. Then the hoofs of the horses pounded, with the dashing, dashing of his steeds. "Curse Meroz," says the LORD, hurl a curse at its inhabitants! For they came not to my help, as warriors to the help of the LORD."*

*Blessed among women be Jael, blessed among tent-dwelling women. He asked for water, she gave him milk; in a princely bowl she offered curds. With her left hand she reached for the peg, with her right, for the workman's mallet. She hammered Sisera, crushed his head; she smashed, stove in his temple. At her feet he sank down, fell, lay still; down at her feet he sank and fell; where he sank down, there he fell, slain. From the window peered down and wailed the mother of Sisera, from the lattice: "Why is his chariot so long in coming? why are the hoofbeats of his chariots delayed?" The wisest of her princesses answers her, and she, too, keeps answering herself: "They must be dividing the spoil they took: there must be a damsel or two for each man, Spoils of dyed cloth as Sisera's spoil, an ornate shawl or two for me in the spoil." May all your enemies perish thus, O LORD! but your friends be as the sun rising in its might! (Jdg 5,1-31).*

*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!" For thirty days the whole populace plundered the camp, giving Judith the tent of Holofernes, with all his silver, his couches, his dishes, and all his furniture, which she accepted. She harnessed her mules, hitched her wagons to them, and loaded these things on them. All the women of Israel gathered to see her; and they blessed her and performed a dance in her honor. She took branches in her hands and distributed them to the women around her, and she and the other women crowned themselves with garlands of olive leaves. At the head of all the people, she led the women in the dance, while the men of Israel followed in their armor, wearing garlands and singing hymns. Judith led all Israel in this song of thanksgiving, and the people swelled this hymn of praise (Jdt 15,8-14).*

*"Strike up the instruments, a song to my God with timbrels, chant to the Lord with cymbals; Sing to him a new song, exalt and acclaim his name. For the Lord is God; he crushes warfare, and sets his encampment among his people; he snatched me from the hands of my presecutors. "The Assyrian came from the mountains of the north, with the myriads of his forces he came; Their numbers blocked the torrents, their horses covered the hills. He threatened to burn my land, put my youths to the sword, Dash my babes to the ground, make my children a prey, and seize my virgins as spoil. "But the Lord Almighty thwarted them, by a woman's hand he confounded them. Not by youths was their mighty one struck down, nor did titans bring him low, nor huge giants attack him; But Judith, the daughter of Merari, by the beauty of her countenance disabled him.*

*She took off her widow's garb to raise up the afflicted in Israel. She anointed her face with fragrant oil; with a fillet she fastened her tresses, and put on a linen robe to beguile him. Her sandals caught his eyes, and her beauty captivated his mind. The sword cut through his neck. "The Persians were dismayed at her daring, the Medes appalled at her boldness. When my lowly ones shouted, they were terrified; when my weaklings cried out, they trembled; at the sound of their war cry, they took to flight. Sons of slave girls pierced them through; the supposed sons of rebel mothers cut them down; they perished before the ranks of my Lord.*

*"A new hymn I will sing to my God. O Lord, great are you and glorious, wonderful in power and unsurpassable. Let your every creature serve you; for you spoke, and they were made, You sent forth your spirit, and they were created; no one can resist your word. The mountains to their bases, and the seas, are shaken; the rocks, like wax, melt before your glance. "But to those who fear you, you are very merciful. Though the sweet odor of every sacrifice is a trifle, and the fat of all holocausts but little in your sight, one who fears the Lord is forever great. "Woe to the nations that rise against my people! the Lord Almighty will requite them; in the day of judgment he will punish them: He will send fire and worms into their flesh, and they shall burn and suffer forever." (Jdt 16,1-17).*

*When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. Like merchant ships, she secures her provisions from afar. She rises while it is still night, and distributes food to her household. She picks out a field to purchase; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She is girt about with strength, and sturdy are her arms. She enjoys the success of her dealings; at night her lamp is undimmed. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. She fears not the snow for her household; all her charges are doubly clothed.*

*She makes her own coverlets; fine linen and purple are her clothing. Her husband is prominent at the city gates as he sits with the elders of the land. She makes garments and sells them, and stocks the merchants with belts. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come. She opens her mouth in wisdom, and on her tongue is kindly counsel. She watches the conduct of her household, and eats not her food in idleness. Her children rise up and praise her; her husband, too, extols her: "Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all." Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates. (Pr 31,10-31)*

God the Father, his Only Begotten Son, the Holy Spirit are to be praised for they are the eternal source, almighty source, wise source, source of charity, source of mercy and of every other good. The Incarnated Word is to be praised for the work of redemption fulfilled by Him. He has taken all the sins and the sufferings of humanity on Himself, since the days of Eve and of Adam until the last day of man on earth, and has expiated in his body on the cross. God is to be praised for He has created the Virgin Mary in the holiest and most perfect way. Here is how She, from her heart filled with Holy Spirit, proclaims her praise to her Lord:

*"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." (Lk 1,46-55).*

The Virgin Mary is not source originating every grace that is poured on earth. She is originated source, derived source. Christ Jesus is the divine and human source of every grace of salvation, redemption, sanctification, blessing. The Virgin Mary is source created and always nourished by her Son. She is derived source to be praised more than every other source. She is to be praised more than Judith, more than Jael, more than Esther, more than Abraham, more than Moses, more than Joshua, more than David, more than all prophets, more than all Apostles of the Lord, more than all martyrs, all virgins, all confessors of faith. Indeed, She is Queen of Angels, Queen of Patriarchs, Queen of Prophets, Queen of Apostles, Queen of Martyrs, Queen of Virgins, Queen of all Saints, Queen of heaven and earth.

The Virgin Mary is most renowned for, in living her mission of Mother, Virgin, Queen, Advocate, Guardian of her children, She does not do things with superficiality, does not do things superficially, sloppily, carelessly, negligently, absent-mindedly, without any commitment, far from love and truth, out of all wisdom and intelligence. She puts her entire heart, her soul, her spirit, her mind, her entire self, without sparing herself in anything. Her work is always beautiful, wondrous, marvellous.

Unfortunately, today, we can no longer praise the Virgin Mary. We have deprived Her of all the great things done for Her by the Lord. We have taken away the glory of being the Mother of God, the glory of having conceived the Son of the Most High virginally through the work of the Holy Spirit, the glory of being Her the giver and the mediator of all grace, the glory of being the Woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars, the glory of being the Queen of heaven and earth, by the will of her Son, the glory of being the Mother of every disciple of the Son, the glory of being the Woman who is always concerned with our salvation and prays her Son for us day and night with no interruption. What praise can we raise to a Woman deprived of the entire divine richness with which the Lord has clothed Her, reduced to a woman like all the other women? If Christ Jesus is not – for He is deprived of his identity of eternity and of incarnation – the Mother might never be, either. Mother most renowned come and place again the Christian in his truth. **16 June 2024**