**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIGIN MARY**

# Gate of Heaven

Once we wrote: The Virgin Mary is the gate to Heaven, because through Her Heaven descended ‘*personally*’, ‘*bodily*’ onto our earth. She is the gate through which the Eternal Word, the Only-Begotten Son of God, became flesh and came to dwell among us. Thus the Old Scripture refers to the gate of Heaven: *“Jacob departed from Beer-sheba and proceeded toward Haran. When he came upon a certain shrine, as the sun had already set, he stopped there for the night. Taking one of the stones at the shrine, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep at that spot. Then he had a dream: a stairway rested on the ground, with its top reaching to the heavens; and God's messengers were going up and down on it. And there was the LORD standing beside him and saying: "I, the LORD, am the God of your forefather Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you are lying I will give to you and your descendants. These shall be as plentiful as the dust of the earth, and through them you shall spread out east and west, north and south. In you and your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing. Know that I am with you; I will protect you wherever you go, and bring you back to this land. I will never leave you until I have done what I promised you." When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he exclaimed, "Truly, the LORD is in this spot, although I did not know it!" In solemn wonder he cried out: "How awesome is this shrine! This is nothing else but an abode of God, and that is the gateway to heaven!" Early the next morning Jacob took the stone that he had put under his head, set it up as a memorial stone, and poured oil on top of it. He called that site Bethel, whereas the former name of the town had been Luz. Jacob then made this vow: "If God remains with me, to protect me on this journey I am making and to give me enough bread to eat and clothing to wear, and I come back safe to my father's house, the LORD shall be my God. This stone that I have set up as a memorial stone shall be God's abode. Of everything you give me, I will faithfully return a tenth part to you." (Gen 28,10-22).*

Jesus applies Jacob's dream to Himself and proclaims Himself the Ladder that connects Heaven and earth, upon which the Angels of God descend and ascend: *“The next day he decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (Jn 1,43-51).*

Jesus is Heaven descending to our earth, becoming flesh in Mary's virginal womb. Through Him, the Father gives Himself to men in the Holy Spirit, and always through Him, men give themselves to the Father in the Holy Spirit. The Angels, mediators of this event of grace, descend and ascend the ladder that is Christ Jesus to bring God to men and men to God, in Christ, through Christ, with Christ. However, the one who allowed Heaven to descend to our earth ‘*personally*’, ‘*bodily*’, ‘*visibly*’, ‘*humanly*’, was, is the Virgin Mary. Through her faith, through the gate of her humble, pure, chaste, all holy heart, Jesus entered her flesh, became flesh of her flesh, was born of her as true Son of the Father and true Son of the Mother, eternally of the Father, historically of the Mother and came to dwell among us. Mary is still the gate to heaven because all those reborn of water and the Holy Spirit are reborn to life through her mystical gate. It is her mystery as Mother.

Today we must add a further truth: the Virgin Mary is the gate to Heaven because through Her and in Her and with Her Christ the Lord gives Himself to the heart and the heart gives itself to Christ Jesus. All of that always happens through the Holy Spirit. Without this Holy Gate Jesus does not give Himself to the heart and the heart does not give itself to Christ Jesus. However, the Virgin Mary is not an inactive gate. She is an active gate. This is what her ministry as the Most Holy Gate is: She must ask Christ to descend into hearts, She must ask hearts to ascend to Christ. The one who must arouse this twofold action in Mary is the Holy Spirit. In the Holy Spirit the Virgin Mary addresses Christ and in the Holy Spirit she addresses hearts. But the one who must arouse the Holy Spirit's intervention at this Most Holy Gate is all of Her children. If Her children do not ask the Holy Spirit to arouse, the action of the Virgin Mary without interruption, She cannot act. She lacks the motion of the Holy Spirit. Mary's children ask the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit moves the Virgin Mary, the Virgin moves Christ, Christ Jesus moves the Father and Heaven descends to earth and the earth that is of good will ascends to heaven. If the children of Mary desire that the whole of heaven be moved by the action of the Virgin Mary, they must unceasingly pray to the Holy Spirit. But in order to pray to the Holy Spirit, the Spirit must govern their hearts and grow in them, enlivened by it, however, without any interruption. If the Holy Spirit is quenched in the son of Mary, for him the Holy Spirit can never move the heart of the Virgin Mary, and for him heaven remains in heaven and earth remains on earth. Here is the certainty of faith that the son of Mary must have and in this certainty always grow: ‘If I pray to the Holy Spirit, because He moves my heart with power, the Holy Spirit will move the heart of the Virgin Mary, the heart of the Virgin Mary will move the heart of Christ Jesus, the heart of Christ Jesus will move the heart of the Father. The Father, through Christ, through the Holy Spirit, through the heart of the Mother of God, will make Heaven descend to earth and will make those of good will ascend from earth to heaven. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of a child of Mary, who lives as a true child of Mary. Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints give us this true faith. Let the Spirit always be alive in us. **06 October 2024**