**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# Refuge of sinners

Once we wrote: The Virgin Mary is Refugee of sinners, for everyone who approaches Her finds the refugee in the salvation that her heart of Mother obtains for them. She lives the same mission as Jesus. Before Him sinners found refuge for they knew they could find forgiveness, mercy, piety, compassion, acceptance. They escaped from the Pharisees because they were despised, denied, driven away, condemned, judged: *“While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners." (Mt 9,10-13).*

*A Pharisee invited him to dine with him, and he entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. Now there was a sinful woman in the city who learned that he was at table in the house of the Pharisee. Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment, she stood behind him at his feet weeping and began to bathe his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus said to him in reply, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. "Two people were in debt to a certain creditor; one owed five hundred days' wages and the other owed fifty. Since they were unable to repay the debt, he forgave it for both. Which of them will love him more?" Simon said in reply, "The one, I suppose, whose larger debt was forgiven." He said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment. So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The others at table said to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (Lk 7,36-50).*

Thus Paul, too, the Apostle of the Gentiles, first persecutor of the Church of God by eal, though, proclaims the mercy that the Lord wanted for him: “*I am grateful to him who has strengthened me, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he considered me trustworthy in appointing me to the ministry. I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and an arrogant man, but I have been mercifully treated because I acted out of ignorance in my unbelief. Indeed, the grace of our Lord has been abundant, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Of these I am the foremost. But for that reason I was mercifully treated, so that in me, as the foremost, Christ Jesus might display all his patience as an example for those who would come to believe in him for everlasting life*.*” (1Tm 1,12-16).*

In the Old Testament God, the heavenly Father is refuge of salvation: *“Lord my God, I take refuge in you; save and deliver me from all who pursue me (Psal 7,2). The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. (Psal 9,10). For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock. (Psal 26,5). You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. (Psal 31,7). But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. (Psal 58,17). My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. (Psal 61,8). A prayer of Moses the man of God. Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. (Psal 89,1). I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” (Psal 90,2). But the Lord has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge. (Psal 93,22). The high mountains belong to the wild goats; the crags are a refuge for the hyrax. (Psal 103,18). I cry to you, Lord; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.” (Psal 141,6). He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.” (Sal 143,2).*

If even Judah, the betrayer, had turned to the Virgin Mary, he would have been accepted, forgiven by Her, presented to Christ Jesus to obtain his forgiveness. This is the power of refuge of our heavenly Mother. Her heart of Woman, of Mother, of Queen seeks, longs and yearns it: that every sinner may be converted, may live, love again, serve the Lord in humbleness and purity of intentions, with righteous conscience. She goes first and seeks the great sinners to make them great worshippers of her Son Jesus. This is her mystery of Mother: always seeking sinners to save. While us, modern Pharisees, always go in search of the saints.

Today one needs to add that the Virgin Mary has come among us, but through us the words the Holy Spirit reveals about the Eternal Word of the Father are fulfilled: *“The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. (Jn 1,9-11).* Not only has our world not acknowledged the Virgin Mary present in our history, with satanic will and devilish stubbornness, it has declared her presence as presence of Satan, and crucified Her in her soul, piercing Her with the sword of the despise as in the past on the Golgotha. If the Refuge of sinners is declared presence of Satan among us, this means that one has gone beyond all limits in sin, that the conscience has been quenched and that God has left it once forever. We are in the sin against the Holy Spirit.

For those who go beyond the limits of evil, the Virgin Mary can never be refuge for they live in Satan’s heart so far. This dwelling attests the endless hatred that, like destroying fire, is poured over those who believe in the most pure truth of our heavenly Mother. We always pray and ask the Virgin Mary that She find a way of conversion, of repentance, of confession of the evil done, of public atonement for those ones as well, in order to gain the salvation. We know that She will listen to us. Then, if her crucifiers do not want to convert themselves, She is innocent of their eternal perdition. She has done what is in her power to do. Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels, Saints, let us love the sinners and endlessly pray for them and for ourselves, we too in need of finding refuge in her Heart of mercy.

**27 October 2024**