**SATURDAY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

# Queen of Martyrs

Once we wrote: The martyr is the witness of God's truth lived, though, in the greatest perfection of love, charity, faith, hope, in obedience to every Word of the Lord God. Jesus is the Faithful Witness. In Him truth and charity are one. His truth is divinely and humanly perfect. His charity is divinely and humanly perfect. Nothing lacks in them. Perfection is absolute. This is attested by the holiness with which Jesus lived his cross. On the cross He knew how to stand as the most holy. On it He reached the perfection of perfections. The Virgin Mary is also the ‘Faithful Witness’ of the truth and charity placed by God in Her heart. In faithful witness She infinitely surpasses all the faithful witnesses of any man. No man, except Christ Jesus, not even Abraham was asked to have a faith as strong as Hers, to live in a charity as holy as Hers. Mary was called to bear witness to the truth of her Son at the foot of the cross. While He was dying, She was called to believe in the immortality of her Divine Son. However, She was called to bear witness to this in the immense and boundless sorrow of a Mother. Simeon's prophecy had already foretold all these things: “*Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Lk 2,25-35).*

The Apostle John testifies how precisely this prophecy was fulfilled at the foot of the cross: *“Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.” (Jn 19,25-27).* The martyrdom of the Mother of Jesus was truly high, very high. The trial of fidelity to which She was subjected by God to gain access to every crown of glory was great, very great. No one in the world could have surpassed it. One must be filled with the same love as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. No one in the world is. Mary is rightly Queen of Martyrs. No martyr, no witness of charity will ever be able to say to Her: my pain, my suffering, my martyrdom was greater than Yours. God will never grant this glory to any man. Also because every man suffers for his sins, his transgressions, his violations of the Law of the Lord. The Virgin Mary never committed a single venial sin, not even a minor one. Pain was not due to Her. She takes it all on and lives it for us, offering it as a sacrifice, uniting it to that of her Divine Son, for our redemption. It is not physical pain that counts with the Lord, also because our flesh of sin is hard, very hard flesh. Nails cannot even scratch it, so heavy is it. Mary was not pierced in the flesh. She was crucified in the purest, most sensitive soul. That makes a difference. It makes a big difference. It is in this crucifixion of the soul at the foot of the cross that Mary deserved the palm of martyrdom and the title Queen of Martyrs. She lived this martyrdom of hers in the greatest love, in the greatest offering and oblation of herself and her Son to the Eternal Father. Through her holy sorrow, united with the also holy sorrow of her Son, grace has descended into our hearts. Better: grace descends into our hearts.

Today we add: what does the Virgin Mary ask of us today more than at any time in the history of the Church on our earth? She asks us to unite to her martyrdom ours for the redemption of many hearts. How does She want us to unite our martyrdom to Hers? Through the consecration of our lives to the proclamation, the remembrance, the gift of the Word of her Son to every man. The world has forgotten the Word of her Son. She asks us to imitate Her. Just as She conceived the Word of life in her most pure womb and then gave it to the world, so also must we conceive her Son in our hearts and then give Him to every man, in the Church and in the world, through our obedience to every Word of the Gospel and the Divine Scriptures. If, through this mission that the Mother of God entrusts to us, our physical martyrdom as well as our spiritual martyrdom is also required, this martyrdom is necessary for Jesus to be begotten in many hearts. Obedience always requires our martyrdom. A perfect vision of faith is required to be martyrs. Because we are afraid of men, we do not obey the Virgin Mary's wish and we remain without Christ and we cause the world to remain without its only Saviour and Redeemer, without the Word of eternal life. May the Mother of God come and deliver us from the fear of men and make us faithful witnesses, martyrs of her Son according to her Word.

**15 December 2024**