KEEP ME COMPANY FOR 15 MINUTES

Our Lady to Sr. Lucia, 10th December 1925

First Saturday of the Month

The Fifth Glorious Mystery

The Crowning of Maryas Queen of Heaven and Earth

Mercy that looks down on us from on high

Introduction:

We offer to Our Lady of Fatima as reparation for the offences committed against her Immaculate Heart our First Saturday devotion, meditating today on the Fifth Glorious Mystery: The Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth. She is resplendent next to the throne of her Son, the King of kings interceding for all of us. Her dignity as the Queen of the Universe, far from distancing Our Lady from her children on earth, makes Her even more solicitous and merciful towards each one of them.



"Coronation of the Virgin Mary"
Rubens

Meditation Setting

For our Meditation setting, let us imagine the grandiose scene of the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven as perhaps we have seen in works of art and paintings: a multitude of Angels and Saints surrounding the thrones of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and the throne where Mary Most Holy is seated. She bows before the Blessed Trinity, who place upon her head a crown resplendent with light, while all of Heaven intones a hymn of praise and of glory to our Queen.

Preparatory Prayer

O Queen of Fatima and of the Universe, who in your body and soul glorified by the Blessed Trinity inhabit eternal blessedness: turn your gaze of goodness towards each one of us and grant us the graces necessary to meditate well on this Mystery of the Rosary that exalts you as the Sovereign and Mistress of all creation. Let it be so that, encouraged by your help, we may reap from this pious exercise many fruits for our sanctification. Amen.

Gospel: Rev,12, 1

"Behold there appeared in the Heavens a great wonder: A Woman clothed with the sun, having the moon beneath her feet and upon Her head a crown of twelve stars."



"Coronation of the Virgin"
Fra Angelico

I - SUPREME GLORY IN HEAVEN

After having been raised body and soul into Heaven, Our Lady was glorified by the Blessed Trinity and crowned as Queen of the entire Universe. With great majesty, she occupies her place beside the throne of the King, her divine Son Jesus.

1. Mother of God and Queen of the Universe

According to tradition and the Sacred Liturgy, the main argument in favour of the regal dignity of Mary is her divine maternity. St. Bernadine of Siena says that from the moment when Mary agreed to be the Mother of the Eternal Word, she was worthy of being Queen of the world and of all creatures. As the flesh of Mary became that of Jesus, so also the royalty of the Son cannot be separated from that of the Mother. And so, if Jesus is the King of the universe, then Mary is it's Queen, and the angels, men and all things in Heaven and on Earth are subject to Her.

2. Surrounded with all splendours

Who would be capable of expressing in words the honour and joy with which Mary was crowned in Heaven? "Praise and glory to the most high God who conferred on you, O Mary, a grace greater than that of all the daughters of men who have existed in the world!", exclaims the pious author of the "Imitation of Christ", adding: "and He immediately placed your seat next to the throne of your Son in the Kingdom of Heaven in the most eminent place that He had prepared for you – Oh! full of beauty from all eternity – above the choirs of Angels and of Saints."

3. Exalted sanctity that merits the throne of a Queen

As St. Alphonsus de Liguori notes, Mary having been superior to the Patriarchs in firmness of faith, to the Prophets in contemplation of divine things, to the Apostles in zeal for the honour of God and for the good of souls, to the martyrs in the virtue of fortitude, to the Holy Fathers in wisdom, to the Confessors in patience and meekness, to the Virgins in purity, and to all in sanctity, having corresponded in a most eminent degree to grace and having practised all the most precious virtues, was placed at the right hand of the Most High and crowned Queen of all Saints.

Let us ask ourselves, therefore if we have nourished in our heart the immense joy of being children and devotees of this august Queen who was exalted by God to the highest glory in Heaven and deserves all our love and fervent praise.



II- QUEEN OF PERPETUAL HELP

Although enthroned in the heights of Heaven, Our Lady's goodness reaches even the worst of sinners. She is more than accessible to us; She is disposed to attend to us and to plead for our pardon more than any earthly mother or queen. We should and we must have total confidence in her untiring love for the banished children of Eve.

1. Entirely made to help us

The saints affirm that from her most high throne of glory Mary turns her maternal gaze towards us saying: "I live in the heavens in order to enrich those who love me and to shower them with treasures." For this reason, as soon as she went to Heaven and was crowned as Queen of the Universe, Our Lady began to dispense uninterrupted graces to every person.

As St. Bernard says, never was it known that anyone who with confidence has recourse to her is left unaided, she who is the pious Mother. For this reason each century, year, day, and moment is marked in history by some favour granted to whomever has invoked her with faith.

2. Inclined to pity and to pardon

The very word "Mother" denotes pity and help for her children and supplicants. And so is Mary inclined to pity and pardon for those who have recourse to her in their necessities and their afflictions. As St. Alphonsus affirms, we should not be intimidated before the majesty of this Queen, for the more exalted and the holier she is, the sweeter and kinder she is to us.

And I, with what confidence have I approached my Queen and Mother? Have I always turned to her in my difficulties, certain that I will be heard and assisted?

3. The law of clemency is always on her lips

And according to another pious author, Our Lady never pronounced a word of condemnation even against the worst criminals. She never displayed one glance of indifference towards the least of her devotees. The sceptre of sweetness is always in her hand, the diadem of goodness upon her head, and the law of clemency on her lips. Her royal mantle is a secure asylum for the worst of sinners. So strong is the desire that the Most Blessed Virgin has to help us, that if divine justice were to declare against us, the clemency of Mary would still offer to defend us.

III. LET US ALWAYS ASK FOR THE HELP OF OUR QUEEN

We therefore understand that the crowning of Our Lady as Queen of the universe is a reality that touches heaven and earth: The Holy Mother of God lives in eternal glory, but has her eyes turned towards each one of us, accompanying us in our necessities of body and soul.

1. All mercy comes to us through the hands of Mary

God who so exalted Mary in Heaven, wished that her glorification would also have its splendour on earth. He put into Our Lady's hands the keys that open the treasure of his infinite goodness. From that moment therefore, all celestial mercy comes to men through the intercession of Mary.

Thus, no people lacks an altar raised to Mary's glory, nor one that fails to proclaim the extraordinary, miraculous graces won through the Virgin's benevolent patronage. Because of this, the Saints encourage us to place our full confidence and faith in Mary, never forgetting that she was assumed into Heaven in order to better help and care for us, as Queen and, above all, as Mother.

2. Let us honour the Most Holy Name of Mary

Thus, what better thing could we do than to run to her without ceasing. With great confidence we should approach the throne of this benevolent Mother and Sovereign, full of mercy and of grace, to ask her help in adversity, light in darkness and comfort in sorrow. Let us pay the everlasting homage of our filial devotion to this glorious Queen. Let us honour her most holy name, let us venerate her images, let us celebrate her feasts, let us always have our rosary with us and let us recite it every day, so we can sing the glories of Mary.

3. Let us imitate the virtues of our Queen

Following the counsels of the saints and of the Church, let us seek to imitate the high virtues of the Queen of Heaven, our most loving Mother. If we wish to be her true children and devotees, and hope to count on her untiring protection, let us follow the example of sanctity that she left us. Let us make an effort to avoid sin and to practice virtue. Let us increase in love of God and of neighbour so that we may please our Queen and Mother of Mercy in everything.

Each one of us should now ask: how has my devotion been to the Most Holy Mary? Do I love her with all my heart, as my Mother and Queen? Do I have her as the powerful intercessor who God placed in my life so I can obtain graces and forgiveness from Him?

CONCLUSION

Our Mother and Queen will never fail to help and aid us with her untiring solicitude. God raised her up as Queen of the world not only for her own good, but also so that She could have a wonderful compassion for us miserable ones and help all those that have recourse to her.

Let us never fail to turn to Mary, She, who is the most secure and efficacious way to obtain our eternal salvation. If the difficulties of life, our imperfections and shortcomings shock us and discourage us, let us remember that Mary was made Queen of clemency and of goodness to help us with her protection. No matter how weak and miserable we are, Our Lady will help us and will treat us as precious jewels of her celestial crown. For this, with great confidence we implore her aid.

