

The Queenship of Mary Over Heaven and Earth



From the earliest ages of the catholic church a Christian people, whether in time of triumph or more especially in time of crisis, has addressed prayers of petition and hymns of praise and veneration to the Queen of Heaven. And never has that hope wavered which they placed in the Mother of the Divine King, Jesus Christ; nor has that faith ever failed by which we are taught that Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, reigns with a mother's solicitude over the entire world, just as she is crowned in heavenly blessedness with the glory of a Queen. ... From early times Christians have believed, and not without reason, that she of whom was born the Son of the Most High received privileges of grace above all other beings created by God. He "will reign in the house of Jacob forever, the Prince of Peace," the "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." And when Christians reflected upon the intimate connection that obtains between a mother and a son, they readily acknowledged the supreme royal dignity of the Mother of God. ...The early writers of the Church called Mary "the Mother of the King" and "the Mother of the Lord," basing their stand on the words of St. Gabriel the archangel, who foretold that the Son of Mary would reign forever, and on the words of Elizabeth who greeted her with reverence and called her "the Mother of my Lord." Thereby they clearly signified that she derived a certain eminence and exalted station from the royal dignity of her Son.

Since we are convinced, after long and serious reflection, that great good will accrue to the Church if this solidly established truth shines forth more clearly to all, like a luminous lamp raised aloft, by Our Apostolic authority we decree and establish the feast of Mary's Queenship, which is to be celebrated every year in the whole world on the 31st of May. We likewise ordain that on the same day the consecration of the human race to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary be renewed, cherishing the hope that through such consecration a new era may begin, joyous in Christian peace and in the triumph of religion.

(Venerable Pope Pius XII, *Ad Caeli Reginam*, #'s 1,8,9, 47, the Queenship of Mary, proclaimed October 11, feast of her maternity, 1954. Pope Paul VI changed the feast in 1969 to August 22, the octave of the feast of the Assumption when Our Lady was assumed into heavenly glory.)

One of the Church's most exalted prayers honoring Mary's Queenship is the *Salve Regina* which we pray after every rosary.



**Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry,
Poor banished children of Eve;
To thee do we send up our sighs,
Mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
Thine eyes of mercy toward us;
And after this, our exile,
Show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving
O sweet Virgin Mary.
Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

On May 31, 1957, just over eight months after our Blessed Mother appeared to Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil as Our Lady of America, she appeared to Sister under a magnificent image of our Heavenly Queen. She was dressed in a very long veil, mantle and a robe that was gathered at the waist by a wide sash that hung down the right side. The bright blue of her garments made it look like she was clothed with the sky. A small gold crown encircled her head while a large gold star held the mantle in place. Tiny gold stars were scattered over the mantle, dress and veil, and gold sandals were on her feet. Etched around the whole figure were rays of brilliant streaks of light and within this light and surrounding her was a rosary with small white beads, large gold ones, and a gold cross suspended over her head. St. Michael was on her left, holding a golden globe; on her right was St. Gabriel holding a gold scepter. Both angels were robed in gold. Our Lady held in both hands a gold casket which seemed to be overflowing with sparkling gems of every sort. Her whole bearing was most queenly and regal. She smiled like a loving Queen-Mother most eager to bestow her treasures upon her children. She said:

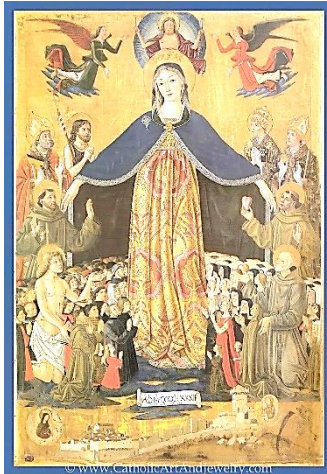
“I am the Queen of Heaven. These jewels are the graces with which I adorn my subjects. My Son wills that all grace should come through me as through a living channel. Come to me, loyal subjects, loving children, that I may clothe you with the graces which will enable you to appear more fittingly before my King-Son. Come and receive the gems of Eternal Life. My sweet child, I am indeed a Queen. I can obtain all things for my subjects, as my intercession is all powerful with God. If only they had more confidence in my power and in the great desire I have to help them!” (Letter of Sister Mildred, Feast of the Queenship of Mary, May 31, 1957.)

Barely two weeks earlier, May 15, 1957, Our Lady had appeared to Sister and revealed herself as the Mother of Mercy. With her arms extended, her blue mantle affording a safe refuge for the sinner, she said:

“I am the Mother of Mercy. Under my mantle I will hide my children. The justice of God will not reach them if they seek refuge ‘neath the protection of my mercy. My Son gives to me all those souls who come to me with confidence, calling upon my aid. Their salvation is in my hands. I will obtain for them the necessary graces to save their souls.

Come to me, poor, suffering and frightened ones. I am your Mother. Never will I forsake you. Only come to me with a wholehearted and loving trust. Place your souls

into my keeping. I am that faithful Mother who never forsakes her children. Honor me by your confidence and love. This I desire and ask of you, my poor children. Do not deny the wishes of your Mother. My sweet child, hold yourself in readiness, for I will teach you a most efficacious prayer addressed to me as the Mother of Mercy. You will know when the time is at hand. When it comes, kneel down quickly and write it.



Prayer to the Mother of Mercy

Oh, Holy Virgin, Mother of Mercy, look down in compassion upon your poor, frightened children. We come to you with fullest confidence, oh Refuge of the afflicted and distressed. Where shall we fly, or to whom shall we go but to you, oh Mother of Mercy. Our cause is in your hands. Cover us then, we beseech you, with the saving mantle of your compassion. Hide us under your cloak of loving care and pity from the just punishments of an angry God. Shield us from the chastisements which we, by our many sins and transgressions, have justly drawn upon ourselves. Be to us, oh comforter of the lonely and sorrowful, a Mother of Mercy, never leaving us in life or in death. Under the mantle of your protecting mercy, oh loving Mother, lead us to the feet of your all-merciful Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to remain there forever. Amen. (May 15, 1957.)

If Jesus was to be king of all creation, Mary, destined to share His mission, was to be queen. All titles to queenship derive from this eternal intention of God. As Jesus exercised His kingship on earth in obedience to the Father and for love of mankind, so did Mary exercise her Queenship in obedience to the will of God and in love for all the living. As the glorified Jesus remains with us as our king till the end of time, so does Mary, who was assumed into heaven and crowned queen of heaven and earth. If Christ as the new Adam must be called a King not merely because He is Son of God, but also because He is our Redeemer, so, analogously, the Most Blessed Virgin is Queen not only because she is Mother of God, but also because, as the new Eve, she is Co-Redemptrix with the new Adam. Venerable Pius XII bids us approach our Queen and Mother in all our adversities, seeking strength, light, consolation, and above all, freedom from the slavery of sin. Let us offer unceasing homage and devotion to our Queen-Mother, honoring her feast-days, praying the Rosary, gathering in prayer to sing her praises in churches, homes, hospitals, prisons, anywhere where there is a need for her help. May Mary's name be held in highest reverence, a name sweeter than honey and more precious than jewels; may none utter blasphemous words, the sign of a defiled soul, against that name graced with such dignity and revered for its motherly goodness; let no one be so bold as to speak a syllable which lacks the proper respect due it. (*Ad Caeli Reginam.*)

Song: "Our Lady of America"

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