

Mary, Queen of Patriarchs

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.

Today we are honouring Our Mother as Queen of Patriarchs. The Patriarchs are our ancestors in Faith. They are the men who marked the beginning of the history of the Chosen People. They are his fathers by the flesh, but also by their faith, modelling it upon Abraham's, "the father of many nations."¹ We could also mention Adam, Noah and Melchisedech before him, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph after him; these are the main names we should at least remember in our meditation for today.

They are the one who first believed into the promise God made to Adam, which was renewed with each of them: "I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel."² This was the promise of the Redeemer, who will come forth from a woman. In the meantime, God also indicated the mystery of her Immaculate Conception. From the time of Genesis, humanity knew that God would hold his promise and send this Redeemer. The Chosen People was chosen amongst all humanity because his fathers kept hope and faith that this promise would not be deceived. For sure they were praying daily for its fulfilment, and that the woman who would carry this promise would be chosen soon, to end up with this expectation.

The faith of the Patriarchs was fully living into Mary's soul. True daughter of Israel, and perfectly knowing all the prophecies about the coming Saviour, she was herself expecting the Promise to be fulfilled. As we already know, God's way to fulfil promises is far above our human understanding, and He always give much more than we can contain or even expect. This heavenly Promise was not only made to the Chosen People, but to the whole humanity. Mary is the chosen one who accepted that the reunion of all happened through Her.

Although she came after them, she became their queen, because of her Faith. She surpasses it above all, because of the plenitude of graces she was ornated with. The Patriarchs prepared her coming with their belief in that promise. She knew about it, and their hope became Her life. Being the descendant of the Patriarchs, Mary is also their most beautiful heir, because She practiced their Faith, Hope and Charity at the highest degree of perfection. Therefore, because of this highest level of holiness, she became their queen, and they gladly proclaimed her as such, because, through her, the Promise they longed for was accomplished.

They honour Her as Mother of the Redeemer, the One who broke the chains of blindness and slavery, the One who reopened the gates of Paradise. What kind of feast it was, when She arrived in Heaven, having all the patriarchs and their descendance, making a long triumphal avenue towards her throne of majesty.

From them, we can learn the perseverance in the darkness of the Faith. They didn't have the richness of the plenitude of the Revelation, like we have, and they believed. They believed that a Saviour would come and restore the lost happiness of the Eden Garden. As Our Lady made this Faith perfect, with her perfect acceptance of the Divine Will, she was elevated

¹ Gn., XVII, 5.

² Gn., III, 15.

above them. From Her we may receive the Faith of the Patriarchs, made perfect by the grace which adorned Her. As his Faith made Abraham the father of many nations, the patriarch of the Chosen People, Mary is a patriarch in her own right, being the mother of faith under the New Covenant. Even more, being from the Chosen People herself, She gathers both people from the Old and the New Covenant, Chosen People and Holy Church, under her sweet and kind dominion.

Regina Patriarcharum, Ora pro nobis!

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen.