

## Mary, Queen of Apostles

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

This week, we were firstly offered to meditate upon the figures of the Old Covenant throughout this Novena to Our Lady, and we united our prayer to the voice of the Church, proclaiming with those of the Ancient Age, that she was Queen of Patriarchs and Prophets. These men were the first to be chosen by God to prepare His coming and our Redemption.

When Jesus took our flesh and started His public ministry, He chose twelve companions to become His first witnesses, His heralds for the New Covenant He was preaching, His apostles. All of them were chosen at the beginning of His public life and followed His steps everywhere in Galilee and Judea. They heard his teaching; they saw his miracles. Sometimes Jesus delivered a special teaching just for them. They had the privilege to be always with Him. When He went to Heaven on His Ascension, they spread around to preach the Gospel they received from Him, and all of them ended as martyrs, confessing their Faith in the One who saved them.

Before He sent them to their holy mission, Jesus told his apostles this important recommendation: "Apart from me you can do nothing,"<sup>1</sup> which means that the fruit of their mission would be only effective if they remained united to Him and letting Him act through them.

"The sign and presupposition of the authenticity and fruitfulness of this mission is the apostles' unity with Jesus and, in him, with one another and with the Father - as the priestly prayer of our Lord, which sums up his mission, bears witness."<sup>2</sup>

As we know this union with Jesus was never better lived than in Our Lady's soul. As all the Apostles, She was the privileged witness of all the actions of Her Son. We could even say that She is more than the Apostles themselves, as She witnessed the hidden life as well, and received in the secret of Her maternal Heart, the confidences that only the Son of God could tell the Mother of God. She was present at all stages of His public life, she heard His teaching, she saw His miracles, some of them were even perform at Her request. She stood at the foot of the cross while everyone else fled, scared to death, thinking of saving their life on earth while Jesus was dying, saving their life in Heaven.

She didn't belong to the Apostolic Order, but because of this intimate union she had with Her Son, she transcends it, and we can proclaim her as Queen of the Apostles. She remained with them after Her Son left this Earth, and the Act of the Apostles reports her as the only woman to be present with them for Pentecost, receiving the Holy Ghost as they did. For sure, she was held in great honour, and one of the Apostles dedicated his life to her care and protection, until the end of her life.

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<sup>1</sup> Jn., XV, 5.

<sup>2</sup> John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, nb. 14, 25<sup>th</sup> March 1992

All the paintings and pictures of heaven represent Her on her throne of Majesty, slightly under her Son's, but above the twelve seats of the apostles. This dignity was an acknowledgement of her life of perfect union with Christ, a true life of witness, a true life of Apostle.

The apostles understood better than anyone else the great privileges of Mary. They realized her sanctity; they recognized her virtues; they knew how she had cooperated in the work of redemption; they knew how Jesus loved her. During the public life of Christ they were closely associated with the Blessed Mother. They were with her through the suffering of our Lord. With Mary they persevered in prayer in the upper room, waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit. During this long association, even before the death and resurrection of Jesus, the apostles came to know her as their Queen and Mother.

“O Mother of the Church, in the midst of the disciples in the upper room you prayed to the Spirit for the new people and their shepherds; obtain for the Order of Presbyters a full measure of gifts, O Queen of the Apostles.”<sup>3</sup>

Regina Apostolorum, Ora pro nobis!

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

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<sup>3</sup> John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, nb. 82, 25<sup>th</sup> March 1992.