

## Mary's Queenship in the Tradition and liturgy

- The sacred liturgy sings the praises of our heavenly Queen: 'Salve Regina', 'Ave Regina coelorum', 'Regina coeli' etc. To this must be added the invocations to Mary the Queen in the litany of Loreto, and the fifth glorious mystery of the Rosary.
- Christians have always acknowledged the royal excellence of the Mother of God.
- The Blessed Virgin is Queen of all creation, Sovereign Mistress of all men. The Popes themselves preached devotion to our heavenly Mother and Queen.
- St. Alphonsus of Liguori said: "Because the Virgin Mary was raised to such a lofty dignity as to be the mother of the King of kings, it is deservedly and by every right that the Church has honoured her with the title of 'Queen.'"



- Finally, Christian art, ever since the definition of Mary's divine Motherhood at Ephesus (431), has loved to represent Mary as Queen and Empress, with royal crown and heavenly court. And the Roman Pontiffs have fostered Christian piety to Mary by crowning images of the Virgin Mother of God.

Let all then have recourse to our Queen and Mother with increased trust. Let them honour her queenly power by fleeing from sin. Let the faithful celebrate her feasts, and practice her rosary on every occasion and in every need. Let them venerate her name and never abuse it.



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# Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary



O Immaculata, Queen of Heaven  
and earth, refuge of sinners  
and our Mother who loves us.

## 31<sup>st</sup> of May – Feast of Queenship of Mary

• Feast of Queenship of Mary established by Pope Pius XII. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 1954, the Pontiff pronounced the new feast in his encyclical *Ad caeli reginam*. The feast was celebrated on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May, the last day of the Marian month. The initial ceremony for this feast involved the crowning of the *Salus Populi Romani* icon of Mary in Rome by Pius XII as part of a procession in Rome.



The coronation of the *Salus Populi Romani* icon by Pius XII in 1954

• "The purpose of the Feast is that all may recognize more clearly and venerate more devoutly the merciful and motherly sovereignty of she who bore God in her womb" – wrote Pope Pius XII in his encyclical *Ad caeli reginam*.

• Pope Pius XII – as Pius XI decreed the yearly renewal of the act of consecration of the human race to the Sacred Heart on the feast of the King – he ordained that on this feast the consecration of mankind to the Immaculate Heart be repeated, as a promise of an era of happiness and Christian peace.

• The feast of Mary the Queen can and should contribute greatly to peace among the nations, if all honour her who, as the rainbow, is a divine pledge of peace.

## Queenship of the Immaculata in the Writings of St. Maximilian

• "The Immaculata is the Queen of the earth, because of the fact that she is the Mother of God. Yet she desires – and is entitled to such desire – to be recognized spontaneously by every heart, to be loved as Queen of all hearts, so that each heart may be purified ever more through her, become immaculate, like her Heart and ever more worthy of union with God, with the love of God, with the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus."

• The title of 'Immaculata' allows us to take a profound look at her innermost being, at who she really is in the eyes of God, in her eternal being so to speak. 'Queen of heaven and earth' lets us recognise her power over the whole of creation, her ineffable greatness, before which the entire universe shrinks as before the boundless ocean that SHE is. We can never overestimate Mary's greatness.



## Mary's Queenship – The Foundations and Meaning

• Mary's Queenship is founded first of all on her divine Motherhood.

• She was chosen as the Mother of Christ in order to "become associated in redeeming mankind"; she offered her Son to the eternal Father on Calvary, hence we may say: as Christ is King also because He is our Redeemer, so by analogy the blessed Virgin is our Queen because she was the new Eve, associated with the new Adam.



• Mary's Queenship means first that "she is exalted in dignity above all things created and after her Son holds the primacy over all".

• To understand that dignity we must bear in mind the fullness of grace and holiness, given to her with the Immaculate Conception.

• It means also that she shares the power by which her Son reigns over the minds and wills of men; she does so by her powerful intercession in heaven where she is exalted above angels and Saints; she obtains by her motherly prayer whatever she asks; her power is "almost limitless", and rests on her "maternal authority". It is a glory for Christians to be subject to the Virgin Mother of God, to her queenly power and motherly love.