La Sainte-Chaplet / Dimanche 17me après Pentecôte 2014

« Heureux ceux qui gardent mes voies! » (Pv 8:32)

Today, on this External Solemnity of the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady calls out to each one of us in this verse from the Book of Sirac: « Venez à moi, vous tous qui me désirez, et rassasiez-vous de mes fruits » (Sirac 24:18). What are those fruits? In the first place, we think of the salutation of St-Elisabeth: la Sainte-Vierge is hailed as « bénie entre les femmes, et le fruit de vos entrailles est béni » (Lu 1 :42). At the deepest level, Christ Himself is the fruit Our Lady yearns to share with us. In that sense, there can never be any opposition or competition between Christ and Mary, for true devotion to the Mother of God protects and fosters true adoration of the Son of God, as the Ecumenical Council of Ephesus (431) demonstrates.

In the Epistle today, Our Lady mystically says, « Heureux l’homme qui m’écoute, qui veille chaque jour à mes portes, et qui en garde les montants! » (Pv 8:34) What does Our Lady have to say to us today? La Sainte-Vierge says today and every day, « Mon âme glorifie le Seigneur, et mon esprit tressaille de joie en Dieu, mon Sauveur » (Lu 1:46). This is the essential word which our Lady speaks, which each one of us must make our own if we are to share in her glory, the glory of the true Eve, Queen of Heaven and Earth—who is forever blessed by her Divine Son, the true Adam, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

In concert with Eucharistic Adoration and devout reception of the Sacraments, we make the Divine Word our own also in devout meditation on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary. We are very much mistaken if we consider this devotion something only for children or old ladies. As S. Bernard de Clairvaux famously said, « De Maria, numquam satis! » « Of Our Lady, never enough! » It is impossible to have too much true devotion to the Mother God, for as she herself mystically declared in the Book of Sirac : « Ceux qui me mangent auront encore faim, et ceux qui me boivent auront encore soif » (Sir 24:20). To hunger and thirst with true devotion for Mary, is, ultimately, to hunger and thirst for Her Divine Son—to whom be glory and praise now and forever to the ages of ages, Amen!