

## CHAPTER II

*Most Holy Mary Accompanies our Savior in His Preaching Tours; She Labors Much in This, and Looks After the Women who Follow Him, Proceeding in All Things with Consummate Perfection.*

333. It would not be foreign to the purpose of this History to describe the miracles and heroic works of Christ our Redeemer and Master, for in almost all of them his most blessed and holy Mother concurred and took a part. But I cannot presume to undertake a work so arduous and so far above human strength and capacity, for the Evangelist St. John, after having described many miracles of Christ, says at the end of his Gospel (Jn. 21:25) there were *many other things which Jesus did, which, if they were written every one, the world itself, I think, would not be able to contain the books that should be written*. If such a task seemed so impossible to the Evangelist, how much more to an ignorant woman, more useless than the dust of the earth? All that is necessary and proper, superabundant and sufficient for founding and preserving the Church has been written by the four Evangelists, and it is not necessary to repeat it in this History, though in order to weave it and not pass over in silence so many works of the great Queen which they did not mention I shall be obliged to touch on certain particulars. Moreover, to write them and thus fasten them in my memory shall be both consoling and useful for my advancement. The others, which the Evangelists did not record in their Gospels and about which I have not been commanded to write, are better reserved for the beatific vision, where the saints shall see them manifested to them by the Lord, and where they will eternally praise Him for such magnificent works.

334. From Cana of Galilee Christ the Redeemer walked to Capharnaum, a large and populous city near the sea of Tiberias. Here, according to St. John (Jn. 2:12), He remained some days, though not many, for since the time of the Pasch was approaching He gradually drew nigh to Jerusalem in order to celebrate this feast on the fourteenth of the moon of March. After the wedding feast of Cana his most holy Mother accompanied Him, having said goodbye to her house in Nazareth for that time in order to follow Him in his preaching, which from that time on She always did even to the cross. She was absent from Him only a few times, such as when the Lord absented Himself on mount Tabor (Mt. 17:1), or on some particular conversions, as for instance that of the Samaritan woman, or when the heavenly Lady herself remained behind with certain persons in order to instruct and catechize them. But always after a short time She returned to her Lord and Master, following the Sun of justice until it sank into the abyss of death. During these journeys the Queen of heaven proceeded on foot just as her divine Son. If even the Lord was fatigued on the way, as St. John says (Jn. 4:6), how much more fatigued was this most pure Lady? What hardships did She endure on such arduous journeys in all sorts of weather? With this rigor did the Mother of Mercy treat her most delicate body. What She endured in these labors alone is so great that not all mortals together can ever satisfy their obligations to Her in this regard. Sometimes by permission of the Lord She suffered such great weakness and pains that He was constrained to relieve Her miraculously; at other times He commanded Her to rest at some stopping place for a few days; while again on certain occasions He gave such lightness to her body that She could move about without difficulty as if on wings.

335. The heavenly Mistress had the entire doctrine of the evangelical law written in her Heart (as declared above [3, 65]); nevertheless, She was as solicitous and attentive as a new disciple to the preaching and doctrine of her divine Son, and She had instructed her Angels to report to Her,

if necessary, the sermons of the Master whenever She was absent. And whenever His Majesty was preaching or teaching, the great Lady always listened to Him on her knees, She alone thus giving Him, according to the utmost of her strength, the reverence and worship due to his Person and doctrine. Since She was aware at each moment of the interior operations of the soul of Christ (as I have said in other places [*Inc.* 481; *Tran.* 279]), and of his continual prayers to the eternal Father for the proper disposition of the hearts of his hearers and for the growth of the seed of his doctrine unto eternal life, the most loving Mother joined the divine Master in his petitions and prayers, and in securing for them the blessings of her most ardent and tearful charity. By her attention and reverence She taught and moved others to duly appreciate the teaching and instructions of the Savior of the world. She also knew the interior of those who listened to the preaching of the Lord, their state of grace or sin, their vices and virtues. This various and hidden knowledge, so far above the capacity of men, caused in the heavenly Mother many wonderful effects of highest charity and other virtues; it inflamed Her with zeal for the honor of the Lord and ardent desires that the fruits of his Redemption and works be not lost to souls, while at the same time the danger of this loss through sin moved Her to solicit the remedy with incomparable fervor. She felt in her Heart a piercing and cruel sorrow in seeing God not known, adored and served by all his creatures, and this sorrow was in proportion to the unequaled knowledge and understanding She had of all these mysteries. For the souls who would not give entrance to divine grace and virtue She sorrowed with incomprehensible bitterness, and because of this She was accustomed to shed tears of blood at the thought of their misfortune. What the great Queen suffered in this her solicitude and labors exceeds beyond all measure the pains endured by all the martyrs of the world.

336. All the followers of the Savior, and those He received into his ministry, She treated with incomparable prudence and wisdom, especially those whom She held in such high veneration and esteem as the Apostles of Christ. As a Mother She took care of all, and as a powerful Queen She procured necessities for their bodily nourishment and comforts. Sometimes when She had no other resources She commanded the holy Angels to bring provisions for them and for the women in their company. In order to assist them in advancing in the spiritual life the great Queen labored beyond the possibility of human understanding, not only by her continual and fervent prayers for them but by her precious example and counsels with which She nourished and strengthened them as a most prudent Mother and Teacher. When the Apostles or disciples were assailed by any doubts, which frequently happened in the beginning, or when they were attacked by some secret temptation, the great Lady immediately hastened to their assistance in order to enlighten and encourage them by the peerless light and charity shining forth in Her, and by the sweetness of her words they were befittingly restored and consoled. They were taught and they learned by her wisdom, subdued by her humility, and composed by her modesty; they found all goods accumulated in that workshop of the Holy Ghost and his gifts. For all these benefits, for the vocation of the disciples, the conversion of any soul, the perseverance of the just, and any work of grace and virtue, She made a proper return to God, and it was for the heavenly Lady a festive day, celebrated by new canticles.

337. As the Evangelists tell us, some of the women of Galilee followed Christ the Redeemer on his journeys. St. Matthew, St. Mark, and St. Luke tell us that some of those whom He had cured of demoniacal possession and of other infirmities accompanied and served Him (Mt. 27; Mk. 15; Lk. 8), for the Master of eternal life did not exclude women from his following, imitation and doctrine. Thus some of the women attended upon Him and served Him from the very beginning of his preaching, his divine Wisdom so disposing it, among other purposes, so his most holy

Mother would have their company for greater propriety. Our Queen interested Herself in a special manner in these pious and holy women, gathering them around Her, teaching and catechizing them, and bringing them as listeners to the sermons of her divine Son. Although She herself was fully enlightened and instructed in the evangelical doctrine and abundantly able to teach them the way of eternal life, nevertheless, partly in order to conceal this secret of her Heart, She always availed Herself of the sayings of Christ in his public preaching as a text for her instructions and exhortations whenever She taught these and many other women who came to Her either before or after hearing the Savior of the world. Not all of them followed Christ, but through the efforts of the heavenly Lady all of them received sufficient knowledge of the sacred mysteries for their conversion. Thus She drew innumerable women to the knowledge of Christ and to the way of eternal salvation and evangelical perfection, though the Evangelists say nothing more than some of them followed Christ our Lord, for it was not necessary for their task for the Evangelists to go into these particulars. The powerful Lady performed among these women admirable works, not only teaching the faith and virtues by words, but She also taught them by example to practice piety by visiting the sick, the poor, the hospitalized, the imprisoned, and the afflicted, bandaging their sores with her own hands, consoling the sorrowful, and relieving their necessities. In order to relate these works in detail it would be necessary to fill a great part of this History, or add to it.

338. Nor are the innumerable and vast miracles of the great Queen during the public preaching of Christ our Lord recorded in the Gospels or in other histories, for the Evangelists spoke only of the wonders wrought by Christ and insofar as was necessary to establish the faith of the Church. It was necessary for men to first be well established and confirmed in this faith before the great deeds of the most holy Mother would be manifested. But according to what has been given me to understand it is certain that She not only worked many miraculous conversions, but also raised the dead, cured the blind, and gave health to many. That this happened was proper for many reasons. On the one hand She was the Coadjutrix in the principal work for which the Word of the eternal Father was made flesh and came into the world,\* namely his preaching and Redemption, and it was through Her the Father opened the treasures of his omnipotence and infinite goodness, manifesting them through the incarnate Word and through his worthy Mother. On the other hand it was for the glory of both that the Mother resemble the Son in these miracles and reach the pinnacle of all the graces and merits corresponding to her dignity and gifts, and because by means of working miracles She gave credit to her most holy Son and his doctrine, and thus assisted in his ministry with greater loftiness, efficacy and excellence. That these miracles of most holy Mary should remain concealed was due both to the disposition of divine Providence and to the earnest request of the most prudent Mother herself; hence She performed them with such a wise secrecy that all the glory redounded to the exaltation of the Redeemer, in whose name and virtue they were wrought. The same course She also maintained in her instructions, for She did not preach in public, nor at any prearranged place or time, nor to those who were attended to by the appointed teachers and ministers of the divine word, for the great Lady knew this kind of work was not incumbent upon women (I Cor. 14:34). She contented Herself with the assistance She could render by private instruction and conversation, which She did with celestial wisdom and efficacy. By this assistance and by her prayers She secured more conversions than all the preachers of the world.

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\* cf. Jn. 1:14 [Ed.]

339. This will be better understood if we remember that along with the heavenly influence of her words She possessed a most intimate knowledge of the nature, disposition, inclinations, and bad habits of all men, of the time and occasion best suited to bring all to the way of eternal life, and that to this knowledge were added her most fervent prayers and the exquisite sweetness of her conversation. All these gifts were animated by her most ardent charity and her desire to bring souls to salvation and to the friendship of the Lord, and therefore the results of her labors were exceedingly great. She rescued innumerable souls, enlightening and moving them, since nothing She asked of the Lord was denied Her, and nothing She did was void and without the plenitude of sanctifying effect which She petitioned; and since the Redemption was the principal object of her labors, She without a doubt performed greater deeds than can ever be understood by men in this mortal life. In all these labors the heavenly Lady proceeded with the greatest gentleness, like the simplest dove, with extreme patience and forbearance, overlooking the imperfections and coarseness of the new faithful and enlightening the ignorance of the vast number of those who came to subject themselves to the doctrines of the Redeemer. She always guarded her serenity with the magnificence of a great Queen, yet at the same time only She, in imitation of the Savior, could ever have joined with it such perfection of humility and sweetness. Both treated all with such great kindness and fullness of charity that no one could ever be excused from humble subjection to such Teachers. They spoke, conversed and ate with the disciples and with the women who followed them (Mt. 9:10; Jn. 12:2; Lk. 5:29; 7:36), observing all due moderation and reserve, and hence no one found it strange or doubted that the Savior was a true man, the natural and legitimate Son of most holy Mary; and for this reason the Lord attended other banquets with such affability, as is recorded in the holy Gospels.

*TEACHING OF THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN, MARY MOST HOLY.*

340. My daughter, it is true I labored more than is thought or known by mortals in accompanying and following my most holy Son unto the cross; and my cares were not less after his death, as thou shalt understand in writing the third Part of my Life and History. Yet amid the hardships of my labors there was incomparable joy for my spirit to see the incarnate Word was laboring for the salvation of men, and opening the book closed with the seven seals of the hidden mysteries of his divinity and most holy humanity (Apoc. 5:8); and the human race owes me no less for how I rejoiced in the welfare of each one than for the solicitude by which He procured it, since all was born from the same love. In this I desire thee to imitate me, as I frequently exhort thee. And though thou dost not hear with bodily ears the instruction of my most holy Son, nor his voice and preaching, yet thou canst likewise imitate me in the reverence with which I listened to it; for one and the same is He who speaks to the heart one and the same truth and teaching. Thus I direct thee that when thou dost recognize the light and voice of thy Spouse and Pastor to kneel down with reverence and pay attention to Him, and with thanksgiving adore Him, writing his words in thy heart. If thou art in a public place, where thou cannot show this external humility, do it interiorly with affection, and obey Him in all things as if thou wert present at his preaching; for just as hearing it then with bodily ears without putting his counsels into practice would not have made thee happy, so now thou shalt be happy if thou dost execute what thou hearest spiritually, though it is not with bodily ears. Great is thy obligation, since great is the most generous kindness and mercy of the Most High and myself with thee. Do not be slow of heart, lest thou findest thyself poor amid such riches of the divine light.

341. Yet not only must thou listen with reverence to the interior voice of the Lord, but also to his ministers, priests and preachers, whose voices are the echoes of the most high God, and the aqueducts through which flow the sound doctrine of life, derived from the perennial fountain of divine truth. In them God speaks and the voice of his divine law resounds; hear them with such reverence that thou never find fault with them or judge them. For thee all must be wise and eloquent, and in each one thou must hear Christ my Son and my Lord. By this admonition thou art warned not to fall into the insane audacity of the worldly, who with vanity and pride, very reprehensible and odious in the eyes of God, despise his ministers and preachers, since they do not speak to the satisfaction of their depraved taste. Since they do not go with the purpose of hearing the divine truth, they judge only the terms and style, as if the word of God was not simple and effectual (Heb. 4:12), without such adornment and rhetoric adjusted to the itching ears\* of those who listen to it. Do not take this warning lightly; pay attention to all I give thee in this History, because as a Teacher I desire to inform thee in that which is little and that which is much, in great and in small matters,† since to perform anything with perfection is always great. Likewise I exhort thee to treat equally the poor and the rich without distinction or acceptance of persons, which is another common fault among the children of Adam. My most holy Son and I rejected and condemned this, demonstrating ourselves equally affable to all, and more with the most despised, afflicted and needy (James 2:2). Human wisdom is not interested with the existence of souls or their virtues, but with persons and worldly ostentation; but the prudence of heaven looks upon the image of God in everyone. Thou must not wonder that thy sisters and neighbors perceive that thou dost suffer the defects of nature, which are the punishment of the first sin, such as illnesses, fatigues, exhaustion, and other ailments. Sometimes to hide these defects is hypocrisy and lack of humility. The friends of God need fear only sin, and should desire to die rather than commit it; all other defects do not stain the conscience, nor is it necessary to hide them.

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\* cf. II Tim. 4:3 [Ed.]

† cf. Lk. 16:10 [Ed.]