

Turn to Mary

Friends in Christ.

In this short period of Ordinary Time, before we get to Lent, the Saturdays afford us an opportunity to celebrate the Mass of the Blessed Virgin.

The Book of Revelation speaks of this 'Woman,' whose offspring are pursued by the Great Dragon, the devil, and this is for sure the story of life on this earth.

Very often, people report in confession, a real sense of the interior battle going on, the warfare they experience, being waged by the Enemy of mankind.

St Paul felt it: 'I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind and making me prisoner to the law of sin.'

When we feel temptation creeping in on us, we must immediately pray, admit our weakness before God, and ask the Lord to help us.

But in these temptations, and especially if they are temptations against purity, we should be sure to call on the Great heavenly Mother that we have.

When we are tempted by the devil, says St. Thomas of Villanova, we should imitate little chickens, which as soon as they perceive approaching danger, they run under the wings of their mother.

Blessed Allan de Roche was assaulted one day by a terrible temptation, and was nearly giving in to it, when the Blessed Virgin appeared to him.

Amazingly, she pushed him and said:

Allan, why did you not call on me in such danger?

I quote:

'in order that another time Allan would remember to invoke her aid, she gave him a blow!' (*Glories of Mary*, p. 92)

This impassioned Lady is our Mother,

who remains awake all hours
until we safely return to our Father's House.

St. Alphonsus tells us, (p. 94)

that regarding the Prodigal Son who left his home for a life of sin,
if he only had a mother living,
he would never have abandoned his parental home -
or at least, he would have returned sooner than he did.

But we DO have such a mother living,
and so we should never leave the happy state of grace,
or if we should fall out of grace, our heavenly Mother should be an incentive for us
to quickly return to our father's house.

St. Joseph Cafasso says, 'let a Hail Mary, or even a look toward her image be the
signal for combat, the first shot of the battle, and then, let him not fear.

She who has already conquered so many times,
who already counts 20 centuries of victories,
will never allow anyone who trusts in her, to lose the battle.
P. 248.