

A MASS FOR ST. ANNE, MOTHER OF THE THREE MARYS

To Marguerite of France
Duchess of Alençon and of Berry

I have often pondered my lady that firm faith is the certain actor [motivating cause] of all good, which by the providence of God must come to those who by [virtue of] their faith and good works will be deserving of it. In this hope, I have written what follows and present it to you, my Lady, entreating you most humbly that it please you by your grace to receive it favorably.

He who desires to erect some permanent good work [that will last] for life must build a foundation so strong that its solidity can carry and sustain the perfection of the edifice. From the example of Jesus Christ who built his church over himself: he who is the true and firm foundation upon which the good patriarch Abraham built his faith when the divine covenant was made to him that all nations would descend from his seed. And despite the fact that he was ninety years old and [despite] also that his wife had already ceased to have natural signs of the ability to conceive, he put his trust in God. And he was justly reputed to have such faith, as Scripture tells us, that he deserved to have offspring. This he had always desired above all things. By that which was said above, it thus appears that firm faith is indeed of such excellent and fine worth that by its virtue, everything that we know to justly desire and to hope for comes easily to fruition. Moved by consideration, I have visited the Holy Scriptures where I comprehended that the loyal propagation of Abraham had been continued as such that from it proceeded a most virtuous woman. She rightfully married three husbands. From each of them came a daughter; and the three daughters had seven sons. When I had meditated often on what that said, I contemplated that the holy Church Militant was directly prefigured to us in her holy lineage at the time of the birth of Jesus Christ, who proceeds miraculously from humanity to his most excellent divinity in order to sustain mercifully our human fragility. It gives me hope and firm faith that something that we humans can and must so desire and wish could be obtained by firm faith and by those men and women who devotedly seek out this aforesaid most holy lineage and reverence for it. The following Mass had been composed, arranged, and very much experimented with in such a way that all things whose intention is to obtain to be celebrated devoutly and are now come to profit and give pleasure to those who with good heart have addressed their devotion to the already mentioned holy line through her [Anne's] intercession. We see the Church Militant calmed, the kings and princes of Christianity united and assembled for support our holy catholic faith under the submission of the most holy and sacred Roman church, mother and mistress of all other churches. Of which in good right, it has been prefigured through the aforesaid St. Anne, mother of the three noble Marys signifying the three parts of the world in which all churches represented by the seven sons are built. Since therefore at the time that they were living in the world, universal peace reigned; the universality of the church was thus prefigured to us as revealed in her holy kindred. We should come to hope that through her intercession after which the most noble kings and princes of Christianity through one very good unity will have destroyed and discomfited the Infidels. We will see once again universal peace reign according to the true prophecies declared in holy Apocalypse. Those things which are contained hereafter and organized in the composition of her Mass, which will be shown to you in the French language in a little treatise that I have begun to compose. And I will nearly have finished it soon after I will have returned from a trip that I propose to make, visiting three devout churches built and constructed in honor of God and founded in the name of the aforesaid St. Anne. I hope to present you myself my lady, and recreate in the reading how you will have seen [while reading it] that God will visit you with his grace just as he visited that glorious saint by her intercession through which he has bestowed many graces after four years and to many women. And from this you, my Lady, will be ascertained when you will have experienced its effect. And how much my brother, who, for your honor my lady, often asked me to undertake this trip, you have been presented with this Mass which has since been noted and sent in agreeable form to be celebrated by another voice at the holy church. I humbly beg you my Lady that it please you to ask the most reverend monseigneur my lord the legate that his pleasure be to recommend this Mass to apostolic others [other churches], so that more devoutly and lovingly, it can be celebrated by all of Christianity. And through these means, through the prayers and intercessions of men and women saints, is the most holy lineage and

noble generation. You, my Lady, can obtain your noble and just desires. And may universal peace be granted to us from God in all of Christendom so that we must hope according to spiritual intelligence of the holy prophets specified herein as we already have good and certain experience of it. For by the good alliance of peace that should now be confirmed between both nobles and powerful kings, all other kings and princes can at least be allies and united by submitting to the most holy and sacred Roman church for the defense of the catholic faith, as it is said. And to incite them to this great good, this alliance will obtain that it pleases them to contemplate the present devout history figured in two significant periods of seven years, two peoples—Jews and Gentiles—who should be once be assembled into a single fold under one pastor.

[ILLUSTRATION]

Marginalia:

Of all clean beasts you take seven and seven, [Genesis 7:2]

Then take seven oxen and seven rams, [Job 42:8]

Let us rejoice ye Gentiles, with his people... [Romans 15:10]

And there shall be one fold and one shepherd. [John 10:16]

These are the seven eyes of the Lord that run to and fro through the whole earth. [Zechariah 4:10]

Blessed are you most high, and may you be as seven doves of the city of refuge. [apocryphal: Joseph and Asenath]

In her sterility, Anne signified the synagogue; in her fecundity, the universal Church Militant.

To our most holy father, the pope and the monseigneur prelates of the holy church: There are no better ways beneath the skies of obtaining the rich and precious treasure of peace and of avoiding the excess of perverse, cruel and ambitious Mars (i.e. god of war), than to contemplate with a devoted heart the present writing, the story, and its meaning. Don't you believe that the God of sustenance wants it to show, sustaining this merciful beautiful sign? Look at it: out of mercy, he wants you men procuring patience.

To the most illustrious and powerful kings and princes of Christianity: Most noble kings think also about this. Princes, out of devout knowledge, be advised to have prompt victory against the Turks. Follow the course of wisdom and pursue an alliance with St. Anne. For Anne is properly her name, most appropriate as it is called the foundation of grace that sustains, by which certainly you could very easily in her way live peacefully in the direction that history takes.

To my sovereign queen and lady and my ladies of royal blood of France: Noble women, involve yourselves in the one who keeps your state and the royal blood of France at a very authentic rank. She is the mediator to hold those most firm in the catholic faith. Consider the most pacific, magnificent lady who has ever been in the regal Judaic line, and the most holy Hebraic nation, Mary excluded—it is Anne in truth! For that which from experience we looked to the way she brings about many graces, I say. In part, I wrote about and recited her sanctity, her virtues, and her bounty in two books. Yet as you can see by the last poem of the tract, I have fully proved now by authority which to God has the most sovereign power to aide us if we should fall short to serve honor and call on her. The present script makes it known to you and then pleases you, makes you understand and look ahead. [Do this and] you will see kings and princes without war. The prophecies and Holy Scriptures demonstrate that this figure is for real. I do not need the help of other saints to search for procuring, obtaining, and acquiring joy, health, and lineage. Believe it true that if Scripture does not err, Mars will be disarmed as soon as it thunders without exercising extermination, except over the false outer nation, signified by a horrible monster, that will be placed in suppression for good reason through his evil action as present history manifests.

[ILLUSTRATION]

Surely if you beat the proud one, you wound the dragon. Psalm 151. This is said about the devil, who is both lion and dragon: the lion on account of his violence, the dragon on account of his deceits. [Thus says St.] Augustine.

To the devout and catholic people of France: French people, each of you will know to pray to God who gives you and accelerates the gift of peace, of which he shows the sign and informs my request. Your spirits visit by inquiry the chronicle of the great king Charlemagne, who declares to us that we learn and teach that the Saracen idol dropped its key by a certain indication that France will at one time be a leader that the idols of the world will serve.

The Office of Mass in honor of St. Anne, the most blessed of the line, in whom the holy Church Militant was prefigured in the time of Christ, the pacific king, reigning universally. And whom the sterile St. Anne foretold first, then later, being fecund, it must be believed that she would obtain deservedly the aptitude of fecundity, the peace of the universal church, and unity from the omnipotent God. Ask for the intercession of the saints (male and female) of the aforementioned most holy line joined under the spiritual intelligence of the following prophets. For it is written *iiii*o Esdras C0 *ii*o

Office [of Mass]. Fear not, O mother of the children, for I have chosen you [2 Esd. 2:17] and prepared you seven great mountains, whereupon there grow roses and lilies, and whereby I will fill your children with joy. [2 Esd. 2:19] **Verse.** O mother, embrace your children, teach them with joy. [2 Esd. 2:15] **Respond.**

[Collect] God, who in the womb of a virgin from priestly and regal descent pre-selected your only begotten [son] in cooperation with the Holy Spirit for the renewal of humankind, you confirmed to be taken up to this and rise profitably from the world. To all the noblest saints of this generation in which humanity was deigned to assume from those interceding for the Church Militant, may you deem worthy the Christian kings and princes to unite us, pacify her generous offspring, and allow for the advancement of your holy faithful. We ask these things...

A Reading from the Letter of the Prophet Isaiah: Rejoice, O you who are barren, sing praises and hymns, you who do not bear children. For many are the children of the desolate more than of her who has a husband says the Lord. Enlarge the place of your tent, and stretch out the skins of your tabernacles. Do not spare anything. Lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes. For you shall pass on to the right hand, and to the left: and your seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and shall inhabit the desolate cities. Fear not, for you shall not be confounded, nor blush. You shall not be put to shame, because you shall forget the shame of your youth, and shall remember no more the disgrace of your widowhood. For he that made you shall rule over you. The Lord of hosts is his name: and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, shall be called the God of all the earth. For the Lord has called you as a woman forsaken and mourning in spirit, and as a wife cast off from her youth, said your God. [Is 54:1-6].

Responsory. Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand on high. Look towards the east, and behold thy children gathered together from the rising to the setting sun, by the word of the Holy One rejoicing in the remembrance of God. [Baruch 5:5]. **Verse.** I will make all your borders of desirable stones, and all your children shall be taught by the Lord: great shall be the peace of your children. [Is 54:12-13].

Alleluia. Verse. She shall be multiplied that was left forsaken, and there shall be still a tithing therein; that which shall stand therein, shall be a holy seed [Is 6:12-13].

Tract. I will move the heaven and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land. V. And I will move all nations and the desired of all nations will come. V. And I will give peace into this place, said the Lord. [Hg 2:7-8]

The Gospel according to Mark. At that time, Jesus said to his disciples: No man can enter into the house of a strong man and rob him of his goods, unless he first ties up the strong man, and then shall he plunder his house. Amen I say to you that all sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and the blasphemies wherewith they shall blaspheme. But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost, shall never have forgiveness, but shall be guilty of an everlasting sin. Because they said: He has an unclean spirit. And his mother and his brethren came; and standing without, sent for him, calling him. And the multitude sat about him; and they say to him: Behold your mother and your brethren outside; they ask for you. And answering them, he said: Who is my mother and my brethren? And looking round about on them who sat about him, he saith: Behold my mother and my brethren. The one who will do the will of God is my brother, sister, and my mother. [Mk 3:27-35]

Offertory. You will shine with a glorious light: and all the ends of the earth shall worship you. But you shall rejoice in your children. Blessed are all they that love thee and that rejoice in thy peace [Tb 13:17-18].

Secret. From your sacrament, extend, O Lord the reconciled and all those interceding with most blessed Saint Anne the noblest of the generation; satisfy our prayers with health through our Lord.

Communion. Joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of praise [Is 51:3], for my elect shall not produce in trouble: they are the seed of the Lord's blessed [Is 65:23]. Behold I will bring upon her, as it were, a river of peace. [Is: 66:12]

Postcommunion. Pray O God that we recall their memory of the sacrament by participation, for we touch their intercession with speech. May we take up these things with a pure mind. We ask this through Christ our Lord.