

10-1962

093 - Mais De Uma Vez, Bendito Seja

Pius XII

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MARIAN LIBRARY STUDIES



POPE PIUS XII — MAIS DE UMA VEZ

POPE PIUS XII — BENDITO SEJA

No. 93 — October, 1962

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About the Documents

We are grateful to the editors of *The Pope Speaks* and the translator Rev. Eamon R. Carroll, O.Carm., S.T.D., Assistant Professor of Theology at the Catholic University of America and member of the International Marian Academy, for permission to include the two papal documents in our present study. The commentary which follows is from Father Carroll.

Pope Pius XII – "Mais de uma vez" (October 31, 1942)

Among the Marian deeds of Pius XII, only the definition of the Assumption exceeds in importance his consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This was first done at the close of the radio address to Fatima, October 31, 1942, here translated, then renewed December 8, 1942, in St. Peter's. Subsequently the pope was to refer to the consecration again and again, to urge its renewal by individuals, by families, by parishes, by dioceses, by nations. Mention of it occurs in many important encyclicals, e.g., *Mystici corporis* (June 29, 1943), *Menti Nostrae* (on the priesthood, September 23, 1950), *Haurietis aquas* (on the Sacred Heart, May 15, 1956). *Auspicia quaedam*, encyclical of May 1, 1948, concerned peace, the Holy Places in Palestine, and the Immaculate Heart. *Sacro vergente anno*, apostolic letter of July 7, 1952, consecrated the peoples of Russia to the Immaculate Heart. Consecration is the highest form of devotion, and the pope saw the achievement of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the traditional practices of the rosary (the current letter) and the brown scapular (*Neminem profecto latet*, February 11, 1950). There are many references to past Portuguese Christian history in this message, and also to the attacks on religion of the early 1900's. The principal author of the "Law of Separation" of 1911 boasted it would destroy Catholicism in Portugal in two generations, after eight centuries of Christian tradition. The events of 1917 at Fatima occurred when the fortunes of both Church and State in Portugal were at their lowest ebb, so that the restoration, religious and social, is well described as a miracle. The pope refers to the collective vow of the bishops, made during their annual retreat in 1936, when neighboring Spain was trembling on the brink of civil war. The Portuguese episco-

(Continued on inside back cover.)

The MARIAN LIBRARY STUDIES is published monthly eight times a year, October through May, with ecclesiastical approval, by the Marian Library of the University of Dayton. All changes of address, renewals, and new subscriptions should be sent to the circulation office located at the Marian Library, University of Dayton, Dayton 9, Ohio. Second-class postage paid at Dayton, Ohio. Subscription price is \$2.00 a year. Printed by Marianist Press, Dayton 30, Ohio.

The Radio Message

“MAIS DE UMA VEZ”

Pope Pius XII

October 31, 1942

“Bless the God of heaven, give glory to Him in the sight of all that live, because He hath shown His mercy to you.”¹

Once again in this year of graces, you have climbed the holy mountain of Fatima, bearing with you the hearts of all believing Portugal, to lay at the feet of your Virgin Patroness, in that oasis fragrant with faith and piety, the filial tribute of your purified love. It has been a homage of gratitude for the immense benefits you have recently received, and a confident entreaty that she would continue her patronage over your country at home and overseas, warding off from it the great tribulation which torments the world.

We, who as common Father of the faithful make Our own both the sorrows and the joys of Our children, unite Ourselves with you with all the affection of Our heart, to praise and thank the Lord, giver of all good things; to bless and thank her through whose hands the good God pours out on us these torrents of grace. We do so all the more willingly since, with filial delicacy, it has been your desire to join with this solemn eucharistic prayer and jubilee of Our Lady of Fatima the twenty-fifth anniversary of Our episcopal consecration.

The holy Virgin Mary and the Vicar on earth of Christ are two devotions profoundly Portuguese, united in the love of Portugal “most faithful” from the very dawn of her nationhood: for the very first reconquered lands – the nucleus of the future nation – were consecrated to the Mother of God as the *terra de Santa Maria*, the land of Holy Mary, and scarcely had the kingdom been established when it was placed under the protection of St. Peter.

Gratitude to Patroness of Portugal

“The first and greatest duty of man is gratitude.”² “Nothing is so acceptable to God as a soul grateful for the graces and benefits which it has received.”³ And you owe a great debt to the Virgin, queen and patroness of your country. In a tragic hour of darkness and confusion when the Portuguese ship of state – having lost the way of its most glorious traditions – was put off its course in the anti-Christian and anti-national storm, and seemed to rush towards certain shipwreck (all unconscious of actual dangers and still less of those to come; dangers which, in any case,

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mere human prudence, however clairvoyant, could not have discerned at the time) Heaven, which sees one and foresees the other, lovingly intervened, and from out of the darkness shone light; chaos gave place to order; calm followed the tempest. And Portugal was able to rediscover and knit together again the lost thread of its most noble traditions of the "most faithful nation," to follow in our day (as in the time when there were never wanting in the "little land of Lusitania Christians who dared" to "extend the law of eternal life"⁴ the course of glory proper to a crusading and missionary people.

Honor to those worthy men who were the instrument of Providence for so great an enterprise! But, first of all, glory, benediction, and thanksgiving to Our Lady the Virgin, Queen, and Mother of the *terra de Santa Maria* which she has saved a thousand times, and always rescues in tragic hours. And this she did so manifestly in what was perhaps the most tragic hour of all, so that already in 1934 Our predecessor Pius XI of immortal memory bore witness to "the extraordinary benefits with which the Virgin Mother of God recently favored your country."⁵ At that time the promise of May, 1936, against the Red peril had not yet been made — that peril so fearfully close and so unexpectedly plotted. No one could have foreseen the marvelous peace which, in spite of everything, Portugal now enjoys, and which, even with the sacrifices it demands, is immeasurably less ruinous than the present war of extermination which is devastating the world. Today to such great benefits must be added still greater ones; today the very atmosphere of miracle envelops Portugal — manifesting itself in physical prodigies and in greater and more numerous prodigies of grace and conversion which flower in this springtime of Catholic life which promises to bear abundant fruit. Yes, today with much greater reason we must confess that the Mother of God has heaped upon you truly extraordinary benefits.

Homage to Our Lady at Fatima

You have the sacred duty of giving her infinite thanks. That you have shown yourselves grateful during this year We know well. Most pleasing to heaven must have been the official acts of homage, more moving still the sacrifices of little children, the sincere penance and prayer of the humble. Your acts are emblazoned on the scrolls of God: the public honoring of Our Lady ever Virgin during her progress from the Sanctuary of Fatima to the capital of the nation on the memorable days of last April, from the eight to the twelfth, perhaps the greatest manifestation of faith in the eight centuries of your country's history; the National Pilgrimage of May 13, "that heroic day of sacrifice," when, in spite of cold and rain, and enormous distances to be travelled on foot, there were gathered together in Fatima hundreds of thousands of pilgrims to pray, give thanks, and make reparation, among whom, gleaming with youth,

enterprise, and vigor, the Catholic Youth stood out proudly; the pageant of youth belonging to the Eucharistic Crusade in which the little children, so beloved by Jesus, could with childlike confidence and innocence protest to the Mother of God that they "had done all she had asked: prayers, communions, sacrifices — in thousands" — and for this reason could implore: "Our Lady of Fatima, now it is up to you alone, say to your Divine Son one single word and the world will be saved, and Portugal will stay entirely free from the scourge of war;" the precious crown of gold and precious stones, still more of most pure love and of generous sacrifices, which you offered on the thirteenth of this month to your Heavenly Patroness in the Sanctuary of Fatima as a symbol and perpetual remembrance of enduring thankfulness; these and other splendid demonstrations which you have made in every diocese and parish during this jubilee year under the zealous guidance of the episcopate, show clearly how the faithful Portuguese people acknowledges with gratitude, and wishes to pay, its immense debt to its heavenly Queen and Mother.

Confidence — and counsels — for future

Gratitude for the past is a pledge of confidence for the future. "God demands that we give Him thanks for benefits received," not because He needs our gratitude but "that our gratitude may move Him to grant us benefits greater still."⁶ For the same reason it is right to hope that the Mother of God also, accepting your thanksgiving, will not leave her work incomplete. She will continue unfailingly the patronage extended to you up to now, guarding you from greater calamities. But in order that this confidence may not be presumptuous, it is necessary that each, recognizing his own responsibilities, make every effort to be worthy of the special favor of the Virgin Mother; everyone must try more and more to deserve Her motherly love. We must listen to the maternal counsel which she gave at the marriage feast of Cana, and do all that Jesus tells us.⁷ Our Lord tells us all to do penance⁸ — to amend our lives and avoid sin, which is the principal cause of the awful chastisement with which Eternal Justice punishes the world. In a world given over to materialism and paganism, in which "all flesh had corrupted its way upon the earth,"⁹ he bids us be the salt which preserves and the light which enlightens. He bids us carefully cultivate purity, and reflect in our way of acting the holy austerity of the Gospel. He bids us, boldly and cost what it may, as the Catholic Youth affirmed at Fatima, "live as one hundred per cent convinced and sincere Catholics." More still, that full of Christ we spread around us, near and far, the perfume of Christ, and by constant prayer, especially the daily Rosary, as well as by the sacrifices which generous zeal inspires, win for sinful souls the life of grace and life eternal.

Doing these things you will call confidently on the Lord and he will

hear you. Approach lovingly the Mother of God and she will answer: Here I am!¹⁰ Then he will not watch in vain who defends the city, for the Lord will watch with him and defend it, and the house built on the foundations of a "new order" will be more secure because the Lord will cement it.¹¹ Happy the people whose Lord is God and whose Queen is the Mother of God! She will intercede and God will bless His people with that peace which is a compendium of all blessings. *Dominus benedicet populum suum in pace.* May the Lord bless his people with peace.¹²

But you must not be blind to what is going on around you. Who can be unmoved at sight of the immense tragedy that torments the world? The greater the mercies for which today you thank Our Lady of Fatima, the more assured the confidence you place in her for the future, the nearer you feel her to be, protecting you under her mantle of light, the more tragic appears, by contrast, the fate of so many nations torn to pieces by the greatest calamity in history. Awe-inspiring manifestation of divine justice! Let us adore the divine justice in trembling; but still we must not doubt the divine mercy, for the Father in heaven does not forget us, even in the day of His wrath: *Cum iratus fueris, misericordiae recordaberis, In wrath, remember to be merciful.*¹³

Queen of Peace

Now that the fourth year of war has dawned more threateningly than ever with the extension of the conflict, now more than ever only confidence in God can be of avail, and confidence in her, who is our mediatrix before the throne of God, and whom one of Our predecessors, during the First World War, directed we should invoke as Queen of Peace. Let us call on her once more, for she alone can help; she whose maternal Heart was moved by the evils that were mounting up in your country and from which she so marvelously rescued it. Moved to compassion in foreseeing the distress arising from the immense tribulation through which the justice of God punishes the world, she had already pointed out the way of salvation by prayer and penance. She cannot withhold from us her motherly tenderness or the efficacy of her protection.

Consecration to Immaculate Heart of Mary

Queen of the most holy Rosary, help of Christians, refuge of the human race, conqueror in all the great battles of God, we humbly bow down before your throne. We are confident of winning your pity and of finding favor and timely help in these calamitous days, not because of our merits, on which we do not presume, but relying solely on the immense goodness of your maternal help. In this tragic hour of human history, as common Father of the great Christian family and Vicar of Him to Whom is given all power in heaven and on earth,¹⁴ and from Whom We have received

the care of all souls redeemed by His blood, We confide, entrust and consecrate to you and to your Immaculate Heart the holy Church, Mystical Body of your Jesus, suffering and bleeding in so many places. And We consecrate not only the Church, but also the whole world, torn asunder by internal discords, aflame with the fires of hatred, and victim if its own wickedness.

Oh, be moved at the spectacle of such moral and material ruin; of such suffering and agony of fathers and mothers, of husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, and innocent little children; of so many lives cut off in their prime; of so many bodies broken in horrible slaughter, of so many tortured and agonized souls in danger of being lost eternally.

O Mother of mercy, entreat peace for us from God, and those graces which in one moment can convert human hearts – graces which prepare, procure, and assure peace. Queen of peace, pray for us and give the world at war the peace desired by the nations: peace in the truth, the charity, and the justice of Christ. Give them peace from armed warfare and peace of soul, so that the kingdom of God may come in the tranquillity of order.

Extend your protection to unbelievers and to those who still sit in the shadow of death: give them peace and make the Sun of Truth shine on them, so that with us they may exclaim, before the only Savior of the world: Glory to God in the highest and peace to men of good will.¹⁵

Give peace to those peoples separated from the Church by error and discord, particularly those who profess a special devotion to you – so that there was no house that did not display its venerated icon (now, perhaps, put away in hiding against a better day); give them peace and bring them back to the one fold of Christ, under the one true Shepherd.

Obtain perfect peace and complete liberty for the holy Church of God. Stem the mounting flood of neopaganism and all its materialism and stir up in the faithful a love of purity, the practice of the Christian life and apostolic zeal, so that the people who serve God may increase in merits and in numbers.

Finally, just as the Church and the entire human race were consecrated to the Heart of your Jesus, placing all their hopes in Him as sign and pledge of victory and salvation,¹⁶ so from this day forth let them be consecrated forever also to you and your Immaculate Heart, to you, our Mother and Queen of the world, that your love and protection may hasten the triumph of the Kingdom of God. May all generations, at peace among themselves and with God, proclaim you blessed and intone with you throughout the entire world the eternal Magnificat of glory, love, and adoration of the Heart of Jesus, in Whom alone they can find truth, and life, and peace.

Trusting that these Our supplications and prayers may be favorably received by the divine good pleasure, We impart, as pledge of heavenly

graces, with all Our love and fatherly affection, the Apostolic blessing: to you, beloved Cardinal Patriarch, you, venerable brethren and clergy, that the grace from on high may make your labors ever more fruitful; to the President of the Republic; to the illustrious prime minister and his assistants and authorities, that, in this exceptionally grave and difficult hour, Heaven may continue to assist them in their activity for the common good and for peace; to Our beloved children one and all of Portugal, on the Continent, in the Islands, and beyond the seas. May the Virgin Mother confirm the work she has designed to do in you.

NOTES

1. *Tob.* 12:6.
2. Saint Ambrose, *De excessu fratris sui Sat.* Migne, PL 16, col. 1361.
3. Saint John Chrysostom, *Hom. 52 in Gen.* Migne, PG 54, col. 460.
4. Camoes, *Lusiadas*, canto VII, stanzas 3 and 4.
5. *Ex officiosis litteris*, *AAS*, 24 (1934), 628.
6. Saint John Chrysostom, *Hom 52 in Gen.* Migne, PG 54, col. 460.
7. *John* 2:5.
8. *Matt.* 4:17.
9. *Gen.* 6:12.
10. Cf. *Isaias* 58:9.
11. Cf. *Ps.* 126:1-2.
12. *Ps.* 28:11.
13. *Hab.* 3:2.
14. *Matt.* 28:18.
15. *Luke* 2:14.
16. Encyclical Letter *Annum Sacrum* (May 25, 1899); in *Acta Leonis XIII*, XIX, 79.

* * *

The original Portuguese text of this address was published in the *Acta Apostolicae Sedis* 34 (1942) 313-19.

The above English translation is adapted from one published in *Queen of the Universe*, ed. S. G. Mathews, S.M. (Grail Publications, 1957), pp. 223-29.

The Radio Message

"BENDITO SEJA"

Pope Pius XII

May 13, 1946

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our afflictions."¹ And with the Lord may she also be blessed whom He has appointed Mother of mercy, Queen and most loving advocate, mediatrix of His graces, dispenser of His treasures.

Four years ago, amid the turmoil of the most deadly war history has yet seen, when, for the first time, We went up this holy mountain with you in spirit to join you in thanking Our Lady of Fatima for the immense benefits with which she had recently favored you, to our usual Magnificat We added a cry of filial confidence that the immaculate Queen and patroness of Portugal would complete what she had so marvelously begun.

Your presence in this sanctuary today, in such immense numbers that they can hardly be calculated, is an affirmation that the immaculate Virgin Queen, whose motherly and compassionate heart brought about the prodigy of Fatima, has superabundantly heard Our prayers.

Your ardent and grateful love has brought you here and inspired you to give this love some material expression, concentrating and symbolizing it in this precious crown, the fruit of such generosity and sacrifice, with which We have just crowned the wonder-working image by the hands of Our Cardinal-Legate.

Blessed Virgin in Portuguese History

The precious crown is an expressive symbol, which, if in the eyes of the heavenly Queen it attests your love and gratitude, reminds you first of all of the immense love, expressed in countless blessings, which the Virgin Mother has poured on her *Terra de S. Maria*. Eight centuries of blessings! The first five were under the standard of Santa Maria de Alcobaca, Santa Maria da Vitoria, Santa Maria de Belem, in the epic struggles for nationhood against the Crescent, in all the heroic exploits of discovering new islands and new continents, where your ancestors planted the Cross of Christ with the flag. The last three centuries were under the special protection of the Immaculate whom the Monarch of the Restoration, united with the representatives of the whole nation, acclaimed the patroness of his realm and possessions, offering her his crown

as a special tribute of vassalage, and swearing to defend, even to the death, the privilege of her Immaculate Conception: "Hoping with great confidence in the infinite mercy of Our Lord, that through Our Lady, patroness and protector of our realms and possessions, whose vassals and servants we have the honor to confess and recognize that we are, He would protect and defend us against our enemies, with great increase of our kingdom for the glory of Christ our God, the exaltation of our holy Roman Catholic faith, the conversion of the pagans, and the return of the heretics."²

The Virgin most faithful did not betray the trust placed in her. It is sufficient to reflect on these last three decades equivalent to centuries by reason of the crises surmounted and the benefits received during them; sufficient to open one's eyes to see this Cova da Iria transformed into a fountain flowing with supernatural grace; to see the physical prodigies and the even greater moral miracles, the torrents which flow from here all over Portugal and then, bursting all frontiers, spread to the whole Church and the world.

Crowning of Our Lady of Fatima

How, then, is it possible not to offer thanks? Or rather, how is it possible to offer thanks worthily? Three centuries ago, the Monarch of the Restoration laid his royal crown at the feet of the Immaculate, proclaiming her Queen and patroness, as a sign of his own and his people's love and gratitude. Today it is all of you who act, the people of the *Terra de Santa Maria* together with the shepherds of your souls and your Government, here in this blessed oasis steeped in the supernatural — where her marvelous patronage is most sensibly experienced, where you all feel her Immaculate Heart closest and beating with immense tenderness and motherly care for you and the world — here, to the ardent prayers, the generous sacrifices, the Eucharistic solemnities, the thousand acts of homage inspired by filial and grateful love, you have added the gift of this precious crown and with it adorned the brow of Our Lady of Fatima.

Queenship of Our Lady

A precious crown indeed, expressive symbol of love and gratitude! But this immense gathering of your people, the fervor of your prayers, the thunder of your acclamations, the holy enthusiasm which vibrates in your hearts and cannot be hindered, and, finally, the sacred rite which has just been performed in this hour of incomparable triumph of our most holy Mother, evokes to Our spirit another scene; when, amid other multitudes still less capable of being numbered, other acclamations still more ardent, other triumphs still more divine, in that hour forever solemn of the end-

less day of eternity, the glorious Virgin entered triumphantly into the heavenly country. Welcomed by the blessed hierarchies and the angelic choirs, she was brought before the throne of the most Blessed Trinity; there was placed on her head a triple diadem of glory, and seated at the right hand of the immortal King of the Ages, she was presented to the heavenly court as the crowned queen of the universe.

Our Lady's Titles to Queenship

And paradise saw that she was truly worthy to receive honor, glory and empire. For incomparably more than the greatest saints or most sublime angels, separately or together, she was more full of grace, holier, more beautiful, more sublime. She is mysteriously related in the order of the Hypostatic Union with the most Blessed Trinity, with Him who alone, by essence, is infinite Majesty, King of kings, and Lord of lords, for our Lady is the firstborn daughter of the Father, perfect Mother of the Word, beloved Spouse of the Holy Spirit. She is Mother of the divine King, to whom from the maternal womb the Lord God gave the throne of David and ever-lasting kingship in the house of Jacob, mother of Him who proclaimed that all power had been given to Him in heaven and on earth. He, the Son of God, reflects on His heavenly Mother the glory, the majesty and the dominion of His own kingship. For, having been associated as Mother and mediatrix to the King of martyrs in the ineffable work of the redemption of mankind, she remains forever associated to him with an almost infinite power, in the distribution of the graces which flow from the redemption.

Jesus is King of the eternal ages by nature and by conquest. Through Him, with Him and subordinate to Him, Mary is Queen by grace, by divine relationship, by conquest and by singular election. And her kingdom is as vast as that of Son and God, because nothing is excluded from her dominion.

For this reason the Church salutes her as Lady and Queen of angels and of saints, of patriarchs and prophets, of apostles and martyrs, of confessors and virgins; she proclaims her Queen of heaven and earth, most glorious and worthy Queen of the universe, "Queen of heaven," "glorious Queen of the world," "most worthy Queen of the world." And the Church teaches us to call on her day and night in the middle of the sighs and tears which fill our exile: Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! For her royalty is essentially maternal, exclusively beneficent.

Mary's queenly and maternal protection of Portugal

And is it not precisely this royalty that you have experienced? Is it not the endless blessing, the innumerable marks of tenderness with which

the maternal heart of the august Queen has sweetly favored you, that today you are proclaiming and thanking her for?

The most awful war which ever devastated the world rolled for four long years about your frontiers but never crossed them, thanks above all to Our Lady who, from her throne of mercy as from a sublime watch-tower, set up here in the center of the country, watched over you and your government and did not permit the war to touch you except in the degree necessary to make you better appreciate the unheard-of calamities from which her protection preserved you.

You are crowning her Queen of peace and of the world that she may help the world to find peace again and to rise from its ruins. Thus this crown, symbol of love and gratitude for the past, of faith and fidelity in the present, becomes once again a crown expressive of loyalty and hope for the future.

Mandate for the future

Your crowning of this image of Our Lady is an attestation of faith in her royalty, but also of loyal submission to her authority, of filial and constant response to her love. It is more: for by this act you become crusaders for the conquest or reconquest of her kingdom which is the kingdom of God; you undertake, that is to say, to strive that she be loved, venerated, served all around you: in the family, in society, in the world.

In this decisive hour of history in which the kingdom of evil with diabolical strategy uses all means, deploys all its forces to destroy faith, morality, and the kingdom of God, the children of light, the children of God, must use every means and spend themselves in defending it, if we do not want to see a ruin immensely greater and more disastrous than all the material ruins caused by the war.

In this struggle there can be no neutrals, no indecisive ones. There must be an enlightened, convinced and fearless Catholicism, that holds the faith and keeps the commandments, whose sentiments and works are in accord, in private and public — the slogan proclaimed four years ago by the spirited Catholic Youth at Fatima: “one hundred per cent Catholic.”

Trusting that Our prayers may be favorably received by the Immaculate Heart of Mary and hasten the hour of her triumph and the triumph of the kingdom of God, in pledge of heavenly graces, with all Our heart and fatherly affection, We impart the apostolic blessing to you, venerable brethren and all your clergy, to the President of the Republic, to the illustrious Prime Minister and members of the Government, to the other civil and military authorities, to all of you beloved sons and daughters, devout pilgrims of Our Lady of Fatima, and to all who are united with you in spirit in Portugal, at home and overseas.

NOTES

1. 2 *Cor.* No. 1,3-4.
2. Act of proclamation of Our Lady of the Conception as patroness of Portugal by the Cortes of Lisbon, in 1646.
3. Leo XIII, *adjutricem populi*, Sept. 5, 1895, so speaks of our Lady's mediation of graces.

* * *

The original Portuguese of this document is in the *Acta Apostolicae Sedis* 38 (1946) 264-7. It is sometimes referred to as *Benedicite Deum*.

The above English translation is an adaptation of the translation published in *Queen of the Universe*, ed. S. Mathews, S.M. (Grail Publication, 1957), pp. 230-5.

(Continued from inside front cover.)

pate vowed a national pilgrimage in Mary's honor if their country were saved from Communism. The national gathering of May 13, 1938, was in fulfillment of this promise. At the end of his address, the "common Father of the great Christian family" – in explicit parallel to the consecration to the Sacred Heart of Leo XIII – consecrated both Church and world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, "queen of the most holy Rosary, help of Christians, refuge of the human race, conqueror in all the great battles of God," "that your love and protection may hasten the triumph of the kingdom of God."

Pope Pius XII – "Bendito seja" (May 13, 1946)

Solemn coronation of statues is unfamiliar in the United States; special permission from Rome is required, and this authorization is considered an approval of the doctrine depicted. Before an immense gathering on May 13, 1946, the papal legate, Cardinal Masella, crowned the statue of the Virgin of Fatima. The radio message of the Holy Father concluded the ceremony. Ever afterwards Pius XII was to refer to this with joy as his "message on the queenship." The doctrine that our Blessed Mother is queen, not only in a wide sense of excelling others, but in the strict sense of possessing dominion in her Son's kingdom of grace, was greatly advanced by Pius XII, especially by this allocution. The event of four years earlier to which reference is made was the address to Fatima, Oct. 31, 1942, *Mais de uma vez*, containing the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The splendid crown for the statue was a thank-offering to Our Lady of Fatima – for her century-long patronage of Portugal, and particularly for her protection in the trials of recent decades. The pope evokes the memory of the dependence on the Blessed Virgin in the historic struggle for nationhood, and the dedication of the country to Mary Immaculate by John IV of Portugal in 1646. From the precious crown the papal thought moves into the doctrine of the queenship. Our Lady's royalty has a double foundation – divine motherhood and association with Christ in the work of the redemption of mankind. Her kingdom is as wide as Christ's. Yet her queenship is exclusively maternal, beneficent, and the pope illustrates this in terms of recent Portuguese happenings. On October 11, 1954, by the encyclical, *Ad Caeli reginam*, Pius XII was to found the feast of Mary as Queen for May 31, and to offer the queenship as doctrinal basis for consecration to the Immaculate Heart, ordering the annual renewal of the act of consecration on the new feast.

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