

## CHAPTER IX

*How Most Holy Mary was Instructed in the Articles of Faith which were to be Believed in the Holy Church, and what Use She Made of This Favor.*

96. The immutable foundation of our justification and the reason for all sanctity is the faith in the truths which God has revealed to his holy Church. Like a most skillful architect the Lord has built his Church on a firm rock so the storms and floods of her earthly course of existence would find Her altogether immovable (Lk. 6:48). Thus wisely provided with a firm foundation in her articles of faith, the evangelical Church is invincibly established as the only true one, the Roman Catholic Church (I Tim 3:15). She is one in the unity of faith, hope and charity, to be found only in Her (Eph. 4:5); one without the division (I Cor. 1:13) or contradiction which reigns in the synagogues of Satan (Apoc. 2:9). The sects and heresies are full of darkness and errors, and are at war not only with each other and with right reason, but each one is at war with itself by maintaining contradictory and erroneous doctrines at the same or different times. Against all these our holy faith shall ever remain unconquerable, without the gates of hell ever prevailing against it one iota (Mt. 16:18), though as the Master of life said the powers of hell have desired and do desire to attack it in order to winnow and sift it like wheat (Lk. 22:31), as has happened to his vicar Peter and his successors.

97. So our Queen and Lady, this wonderful ocean of grace and knowledge, could receive adequate information concerning the evangelical law, it was necessary for Her to come into possession also of all the truths of the Catholic faith which would in all times be believed by the faithful. She needed to be especially well instructed in the first principles of all Christian belief, for all truths, down to the very dogmas which were to be defined and believed concerning her own self, were within the capacity of most holy Mary and could be entrusted to her admirable wisdom. Hence (as I shall hereafter describe) She was informed of all the tenets of the Catholic faith, together with the circumstances of time, place and manner of their publication as they became opportune and necessary in the course of the history of the Church. In order to instruct the Blessed Mother (especially in these articles) the Lord gave Her an abstractive vision of the Divinity such as I have described on other occasions. In this vision were manifested to Her most hidden mysteries of his inscrutable judgments and providence. She became aware of the infinite bounty whereby He established the blessing of infused faith and enabled man, deprived of the vision of the Divinity, easily and quickly to come to the knowledge of God without hesitation and without waiting or searching for this knowledge by the limited and shortsighted investigation of natural science; for from the first dawn of reason our Catholic faith raises us immediately to the certain knowledge not only of the Divinity in three Persons, but of the humanity of Christ our Lord and the means of gaining eternal life. None of this is attained by human sciences, barren and sterile if not enhanced by the force and virtue of divine faith.

98. In this vision our great Queen knew profoundly all of these mysteries and whatever is contained in them, that the holy Church would have fourteen articles of the Catholic faith from its beginning, and that afterward would be defined at various times many propositions and truths which in these articles and in Holy Scriptures are enclosed as in their root which is cultivated to produce fruit. After knowing all this in the Lord, and issuing from the vision to which I have referred, She saw it in her ordinary manner to which I have also referred, namely in the most

holy soul of Christ, in which She knew how the entire fabric of Catholic doctrine was woven\* in the mind of the divine Artificer. Then the celestial Princess conferred with His Majesty regarding how She was to put all of this into practice. He informed Her that She was the first who would, in a singular manner, perfectly believe these articles of faith, and thus practice each one for Herself. In the first of the seven articles which pertain to the Divinity, believing She understood how there is *only one true God*, independent, necessary, infinite, immense in his attributes and perfections, unchangeable and eternal. She understood also how just and necessary it is for creatures to believe and confess this truth. She gave thanks for the revelation of this first article and begged her most holy Son to continue to favor the human race by conferring upon men the grace of believing and accepting this truth. By this infallible though obscure light She knew the wickedness of idolatry and wept with indescribable sorrow and bitterness over such aberration. In reparation She ardently exercised Herself in faith and worship of God, and performed many other acts inspired by her intimate sense of this obligation.

99. Then proceeding to the second article, *to believe in the Father*, She learned how it was to lead men to the belief of the Trinity and other doctrines which explain the three Persons in one God, so they could come to know perfectly their last end, how they were to enjoy it and the means to attain it. She understood how the Person of the Father could not be born or proceed from the other Persons, and how He is as it were the origin of all else; thus is attributed to Him the creation of heaven and earth and all creatures, and how He is without beginning and at the same time the beginning of all things. For this article our heavenly Lady gave thanks in the name of the whole human race, and She performed everything required by this truth. The third article, *to believe in the Son*, the Mother of Grace believed with particular clearness of comprehension, especially regarding the processions of the Divinity *ad intra*. The first and most important of these acts *ad intra* is none other than the eternal generation of the Son. This takes place from all eternity by the operation of the divine intellect through which the Son is engendered of the Father, being not inferior but equal in Divinity, eternity, and infinite attributes. She believed and understood the fourth article, *to believe in the Holy Ghost*, knowing the third Person, the Holy Ghost, proceeds from the Father and the Son as from one principle by an act of the will, equal to the other Persons in all things, and having only those personal distinctions which result from the emanations and processions of the infinite intellect and will. Although concerning these mysteries most holy Mary possessed the knowledge which She had already attained in her former visions (*Con.* 228, 311), it was supplemented in this vision by the knowledge of the circumstances and qualifications attached to these truths and articles of the Catholic faith, and by the discernment of the heresies which Lucifer concocted and sowed in opposition to these articles ever since he fell from heaven and knew of the Incarnation of the Word (*Con.* 123). In satisfaction for all these errors the most blessed Lady excited acts of supreme faith in the manner already described.

100. Most holy Mary believed the fifth article, *the Lord is the Creator*, understanding how the creation of all things, though it is attributed to the Father, is common to the three Persons insofar as they are only one God, infinite, omnipotent, and the first cause of the existence and preservation of all creatures, and that no other being has the power to create or produce out of nothing any other being, even if there were question of an angel creating the lowest worm, for only He who is independent of any inferior or superior cause can create. She understood the necessity of this article of the holy faith for counteracting the errors of Lucifer, so God would be

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\* cf. Jn. 19:23 [Ed.]

known and acknowledged as the Author of all things. In the sixth article, that *there is a Savior*, She understood anew all the mysteries of predestination, vocation, and final justification, and how the reprobate, because they did not profit by the means offered to them by divine mercy, lose eternal happiness. The most faithful Lady also knew how the work of salvation is common to the three Persons, and how it pertains especially to the Word insofar as He is man, because He was to be the price of the rescue which would be accepted by God in satisfaction for original and actual sins. The great Queen took notice of all the Sacraments and mysteries accepted and believed by the holy Church, and She accompanied the understanding of each of them with heroic acts of many virtues. In the seventh article, that *there is a Glorifier*, She understood what was contained therein for mortals, the happiness which was prepared in the beatific vision and fruition, and how important it was for them to have faith in this truth in order to dispose themselves to attain it, not considering themselves as residents of earth but as pilgrims upon it and citizens of heaven (Eph. 2:19), in whom faith and hope are alive and a consolation in this exile.

101. Regarding the seven articles which pertain to the divine humanity our great Queen had a similar knowledge, yet accompanied by new affections of her most pure and humble Heart. The first, that *He was conceived as man by the operation of the Holy Ghost*, She had experienced in Herself, and She knew this would be an article of faith in the holy Church Militant, along with the rest which would follow from it. Indescribable were the effects which this knowledge wrought in the most prudent Lady. She humbled Herself below the most insignificant of creatures and to the depth of the earth, and knew profoundly that She had been created out of nothing; She completed the deep trenches and built the strong foundations of humility upon which the Almighty was to erect the high and exquisite edifice of infused science and exalted perfection. She extolled the Almighty and rendered Him gratitude for Herself and for the whole human race because He had chosen such an excellent means of drawing toward Him the hearts of men by his human presence and the intimate relations established with them by the Christian faith. The same effects were produced in Her by the second of these articles, that *Christ our Lord was born of Mary, a Virgin before, during, and after childbirth*. In this mystery and condition of her intact virginity, which the heavenly Queen held in such estimation, in the modesty and dignity of this privilege, and for the glory of the Lord as well as her own, She was chosen by the Lord among all creatures as his Mother. For all that would be believed and professed by the holy Church in the certainty of the Catholic faith, and the rest which the great Lady believed and knew, it is impossible with human terms to manifest the grandeur of her operations and works, giving to each one of these mysteries the plenitude of magnificence, worship, belief, praise and gratitude it demanded; yet She herself remained most profoundly humble, for when She was exalted She annihilated Herself and adhered to the dust.

102. The third of these articles is that *Christ our Lord underwent suffering and death*; the fourth, that *He descended into hell* and freed the souls of the holy Fathers who were in limbo hoping for his coming; the fifth, that *He rose from the dead*; the sixth, that *He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the eternal Father*; and the seventh, that *from thence He is to come to judge the living and the dead* in the universal judgment in order to give to each one the recompense due to his works. These articles of faith, just as the others, most holy Mary knew, believed and understood regarding their substance, order and utility, and the necessity of this faith for mortals. She alone filled the void and made satisfaction for the defects of all those who have not believed or will not believe these truths, and for the waning of our lukewarmness in believing the divine truths and in giving them proper importance, veneration and gratitude

they demand. The whole Church calls our Queen most fortunate and blessed not only because She believed the messenger of heaven (Lk. 1:45), but because She unswervingly trusted in the fulfillment of the mysteries wrought and accomplished in her virginal womb, and because She believed them both for Herself and for all the children of Adam. She was the Champion of divine faith, who in the sight of the heavenly court unfurled the banner of holy faith to all the faithful on earth. She was the first Queen of the Catholic faith in this world and was to have no equal. In Her all Catholics have a true Mother, and therefore those who call upon Her are especially her children, for without a doubt this kind Mother and Captainess of the Catholic faith looks with special love upon those who follow Her in this great virtue of faith and who exert themselves in its spread and defense.

103. My discourse would be too verbose if I were to write all I have learned of the faith of our great Lady, her penetration into the circumstances and secrets of these articles of faith, and the truths connected with these Catholic doctrines. Certainly I have not words enough to rehearse the mysteries revealed to Her in her conferences with Jesus her divine Teacher, in her humble and prudent inquiries, in the answers of her most sweet Son, in the profound secrets laid bare before her eyes, and in the sacraments manifest only to the Mother and Son; moreover, I was informed that it is not proper to reveal all of them to men in this mortal life. But in most holy Mary the whole of this new and divine Testament was deposited, and She alone preserved it most faithfully so She could in the proper time dispense whatever the necessities of the holy Church would demand.\* Happy and blessed Mother! If a wise son is the joy of his father (Prov. 10:1), who can explain the joy this great Queen received resulting from the glory the eternal Father received from his onlybegotten Son (of whom She was Mother) by the mysteries of his works, which She knew in the truths of the holy faith of the Church?

*INSTRUCTION GIVEN ME BY THE HEAVENLY LADY, MOST HOLY MARY.*

104. My daughter, the state of mortal life has not the capacity so in it can be known what I felt by the infused knowledge of and faith in the Articles which my most holy Son established for the holy Church, and what this belief wrought upon my faculties. Thus it is inevitable that thou dost lack the terms in order to declare what thou hast understood concerning them; for all the terms which occur to thy mind fall short of comprehending the concept of this mystery and manifesting it. Yet what I desire of thee and command, as far as thou canst by the divine favor, is to guard with all reverence and care the treasure (Mt. 13:44) thou hast found in the doctrine and knowledge of such venerable sacraments; for as Mother I caution thee and warn thee of the cunning cruelty with which thy enemies lie in wait to rob thee of it. Attend diligently and carefully, so they find thee vested with fortitude (Prov. 31:17), and thy domestics, which are thy faculties and senses, *clothed with double garments* (Ib. 21) of interior and exterior watchfulness, in order to resist the onslaught of thy temptations (I Peter 5:9). The powerful arms for battling against and overcoming those who make war on thee<sup>†</sup> must be the Articles of the Catholic faith (Rom. 1:17); for the firm belief in them, and the continual exercise of them by attention and meditation, illumines souls, banishes errors, discovers the deceits of Satan, and dispels them as the rays of the sun dissipate the light fog. In addition, they serve as spiritual nourishment and sustenance which make souls robust for the battles of the Lord.

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\* cf. Eccclus. 24:42 [Ed.]

† cf. Job 7:4; Ash Wednesday, Prayer after the Blessing of Ashes [Ed.]

105. If the faithful do not feel these and other greater and more wonderful effects of faith, it is not because it lacks the efficacy and power to produce them, but because among believers there is such forgetfulness and negligence in some, and others give themselves so blindly to a carnal and bestial life (I Cor. 2:14), that they waste this benefit of faith, and scarcely remember to make use of it, any more than if they had not received it. And considering that the infidels do not have faith, and pondering (by right reason) the unhappiness and infidelity of these faithful, by this abhorrent ingratitude and contempt for such an exalted and sovereign gift of faith they come to be much worse than the unbelievers. I desire thee, my dearest daughter, to render gratitude for the gift of faith with profound humility and fervent affection, to exercise it with incessant heroic acts, and to meditate always on the mysteries faith teaches thee, so without earthly impediments thou mayest enjoy the most sweet and divine effects caused by faith. The more efficacious and powerful it is in thee, the more vivid and penetrating shall be the new understanding faith gives thee. And by concurring on thy part with proper diligence, there shall grow in thee the light and understanding of the sublime and wonderful mysteries and sacraments of the being of God, three in one; of the hypostatic union of the two natures, divine and human; of the life, death and Resurrection of my most holy Son; and of all the rest which He wrought. By this thou shalt taste of his sweetness (Ps. 33:9), and gather most copious fruit worthy of eternal rest and happiness.