

Regina Apostolorum

Sermon Transcript • May 24, 2026

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

“And the Lord said to the serpent: I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel.”

Hard-pressed? You would be hard-pressed to find a house that bears witness to a greater cluster of divine acts than this one. Yet, both inside and out, it was not much to speak of. It was a simple structure, built of masonry and stone, approximately thirty feet long and thirteen wide. The interior space was likely divided: one larger principal room, and perhaps two smaller rooms.

Yes, both inside and out, it was not much to speak of, really. But even so, this is the house which saw God the Father establish the beachhead for the fulfillment of the Protoevangelium:

“I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed: she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel.”

This is the house which caught a glimpse of the first application of the saving merits of the bloody sacrifice of God the Son:

“We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.”

This is the house which beheld the birth of the only daughter of Eve to be conceived without the stain of original sin on her soul, and which stood in awe as she, with and in every thought, every desire, every intention, every act, preserved that virginal purity intact.

This is the house which stood entranced as the archangelic pure spirit bowed before this maiden and named her Full of Grace.

This is the house which heard that maiden utter the sentence that changed the whole world:

“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word.”

Yes, indeed, it was and remains a simple house, both inside and out. But you would be hard-pressed to find a house in which the hand of God was more active.

“And in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. And the angel being come in, said unto her: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.”

Hard-pressed? Friends, you would be hard-pressed to find a woman who bears in her person a cluster of divine graces greater than that with which the maiden of Nazareth had been endowed.

This is the woman whom, from the very beginning and before time began, the Eternal Father chose and prepared. This is the woman whom, above all creatures, God so loved that truly in her was the Father well pleased with singular delight.

This is the woman whom God the Father chose to be the Mother of His only-begotten Son. This is the woman whom God endowed with the abundance of all heavenly gifts, poured from the treasury of His divinity: an abundance so wonderful that it excels far above all the Angels and all the Saints.

This is the woman whom God created ever absolutely free of all stain of sin, all fair and perfect.

Hard-pressed? No, more than hard-pressed. This is the woman whom God willed to possess a fullness of holy innocence and sanctity which, apart from Himself, no one can even imagine anything greater, and no mind, save God's alone, can fully comprehend.

"But Mary kept all these words, pondering them in her heart."

Hard-pressed? Yes, you would be hard-pressed to find a human person better equipped, prepared, and suited to give witness to the work and works of God. Why?

Because she was there when Saint Gabriel declared the Father's will that she should be the Mother of His Son. She was there when the infant John leapt in Saint Elizabeth's womb and bore his first witness to the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world.

She was there when Simeon sang of a Child's kingly conquest and His Mother's sword-pierced Heart. She was there when the Wise Men three offered prophetic gifts and worshiped her infant Son.

She was there for the Egyptian flight and sojourn under the threat of mortal harm, and she was there for the return when the threat had passed.

Friends, this list could go on almost forever. And what Saint John confessed about the volumes filling the whole world were all the deeds of the Savior to be written down—what Saint John confessed about the words and works of Jesus Christ—might rightly be affirmed about the things that Our Lady witnessed concerning her Divine Son.

And that is because she was there. And when the Shepherd was struck and His apostolic sheep were scattered, the Blessed Virgin Mary was there. She remained there.

"And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode Peter and John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Jude the brother of James. All these were persevering with one mind in prayer with the women, and Mary the Mother of Jesus, and with His brethren."

"And when the days of the Pentecost were accomplished, they were all together in one place."

Hard-pressed? You would be hard-pressed to find a human person better equipped, prepared, and suited to give witness to the work and works of God.

But although the Father entrusted her body and soul with such great things, you would be hard-pressed—no, even if you were to search the whole world over, you would find it impossible—to find a human person in whom the humility of the Son of God was more evident.

And it is for these reasons that Pope Leo XIII is compelled to note the impact of the Blessed Virgin Mary upon the ministry of the Apostles and the life of the Church:

“With wonderful care, Mary nurtured the first Christians by her holy example, her authoritative counsel, her sweet consolation, her fruitful prayers. She was, and in very truth is, the Mother of the Church, the Teacher and Queen of the Apostles, to whom, besides, she confided no small part of the divine mysteries which she kept in her heart.”

Dear friends, today is Pentecost Sunday, and on this day Holy Mother Church celebrates the descent of the Holy Ghost upon Our Lady and the Holy Apostles. But even as the Church offers her Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus to the Third Person of the Most Holy Trinity, she bends her knee and nods her head to the Blessed Virgin, too.

For the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, through Saint Peter, have forevermore acclaimed her to be what this mini-catechesis has sought humbly to repeat: that the Virgin Maiden of Nazareth is the Queen of the Apostles—Regina Apostolorum.

And on this Pentecost Sunday, let us bow in adoration to the Holy Ghost, even as we continue our contemplation of the glory that He has lavished upon Our Lady.

And as we come to receive upon our tongues and in our persons the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, let us beseech God the Father to grant us the grace to imitate her holy example, to follow her authoritative counsel, to receive her sweet consolation, and to implore her fruitful prayers on our behalf.

Let us beseech God the Father to grant us the grace to enthrone the Blessed Virgin Mary within our minds and hearts as our Regina Apostolorum, saying:

“O God, who on this day hast taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Ghost, grant us by that Holy Spirit Himself to know what is right, and ever to rejoice in His consolation.”

“Almighty, everlasting God, who in the Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary didst prepare a dwelling worthy of the Holy Ghost, grant in Thy mercy that we who devoutly keep this feast may be able to live according to Thy Heart. Through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Our Lord, who with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, God, world without end. Amen.”

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.

Mystical Rose, pray for us.

Queen of Heaven, pray for us.

Queen of the Apostles, pray for us.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.