Holy Father's Encyclical: Feast Of Mary's Queenship

Following is an English framilition of the Encyclical Let-ter AD CAILI REGINANT, of His Holness Pope Plus XII, in which he instituted the Feast of Mary, Oneon An English text of the Encyclical was not made available at the time of its issuance. This translation, from the original Latin, was made in this country with the assistance of leading scholars: -

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The Encyclical Letter Of Our Most Holy Lord Pius XII

By Divine Providence Pope

words: "Be seated, Lady for it ON THE ROYAL DIGNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN is fitting that you should sit in high place since you are a MARY AND ON THE INSTITUTION OF HER FEAST

To The Venerable Brethren Patriarchs, Primates, Archbishops, Bishops, And the other Local Ordinaries Having Peace And Communion With The Apostolic See

POPE PIUS XII

Venerable Brethren

Greetings And Apostolic Blessing

ALREADY FROM the earliest centuries of the Catholic Church, the Christian people have addressed suppliant prayers and hymns of praise and veneration to the Queen of Heaven, both when they had reason to rejoice and particularly when they were beset by serious troubles. The hope placed in the Mother of the Di-

vine King, Jesus Christ, has these things in this present en-never failed. There has never cyclical letter, so that We may been a weakening of that faith renew the praises of our heavenby which we are taraght that Iy Mother, and so that We may Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, encourage a more zealous filial reigns with her maternal heart reverence towards her, to bring over the entire world, just as she spiritual gain to the souls of all is crowned with the diadem of men. royal glory in heavenly blessed.

ness After the frightful calamities which, under Our very eyes, have even long ago, rightly believed long ago, have called the most covered flourishing cities, towns, that she from whom was born Blessed Virgin the Queen of all and villages with ruins. We, sorrowing, see so many and such One who "will reign in the world, and the Lady ruler of all House of Jacob forever", (5) the things. great spiritual evils spreading reverence, but also that of all

ow that God has placed in the will rejoice in the trimaph of sor St. Martin I called Mary rounded with beauty" (37); that Christ rules over us not only the first moment of her concer name. Ancient Writers It is pleasing and helpfull to louds, the sign of the covenant "our glorious Lady, ever Vir- "Heaven and earth praise they by native right but also by an tion, filled with such an abund-gin." (27) St. Agatho. in the as a powerful Queen" (38); "To acquired right, namely that of ance of graces as to surpass the religion and in Christian peace. that brings peace? (62) Took Nence ff is not astonishing remember that We ourselves, on the first day of November of the Therefore let all approach with upor the rainbow, and bless him greater confidence now than be- that made it it is very besuitful. that the ancient writers of the Synodal letter sent to the Fath-| day the Virgin Mary ascends the the redemption? Would that all grace of all the Saints, Hence, greater confidence now than be-Church besing their stand on Holy Year 1950, before a huge ers of the Sixth Ecumenical heavens: rejoice because she men who have forgotten how as our predecessor of happy Council called her "Our Lady, reigns with Christ forever." (39) much we have cost our Saviour memory, Plus IX, wrote in his fore' to the throne of mercy and in its brightness. It ercompassets, multitude of Cardinals, Bishope the words of St. Gabriel the grace of our Queen and Mother the Braven about with the circle priests, and of the faithful who Archmigel whe forefold that really and truly the mother of God." (28) And in the eighth To these should be added, in might remember: 'You were re. Apostolic Letter - the indescrib-addition to other things, the deemed ... not with perishable ably perfect God "so marvelousto beg help in difficulty, light of its glory, the hands of the in darkness and solace in trou- Most High have displayed Mary's Son was going to rolga had come there from every part addition to other things, the things, with silver or gold, but ly endowed her above all the with the precious blood of angels and Saints with the aburof the world, defined the dogma century Gregory II in the letter forever, (8) and on the words Litany of Loreto which daily ble and sorrow, And, what is (63) Whoever, therefore honory of the Assumption of the Blessed of Elizabeth who reverently sent to St. Germanus, the patriinvites the Christian people to very important, let them strive the Lady-ruler of angels and a Christ, 'as of a lamb without dance of all heavenly gifts from to free themselves from the men-and let no one think him. Virgin Mary into heaven (1) greeting her, praised "the arch, and read in the Seventh call upon Mary as Queen. Likeblemish and without spot.' (43) the treasury of the Divinity that We are no longer our own for she, always completely free from 'at a great price' (44) Christ every stain of sin and entirely with the beauteous veneration of loving soul let him call upon where, present in soul and body, Mother of my Lord", (9) called Ecumenical Council with all the wise, for many centuries past, "time MEather of the Fathers applauding, called the Mother of God: "The Lady ruler she reigns together with her only. Mary Christians have been accus-King," and "the Mother of the begotten Son, amid the heavenly tomed to meditate upon the beautiful and periect, possesses her children to the royal scepter her as most truly Queen and as Lord," thereby clearly signifychoirs of the angels and the of all, the true mother of God," ruling power of Mary which Now, in accomplishing this such a fullness of innocence and Saints, And moreover, since a ing that, from the royal dignity and also "the Lady ruler of all embraces heaven and earth Now, in accomplianing this such a futness of innovative and of that great Mother. May her the Queen who brings that under God 'no and inness be filled with a multi- him honor and guard the peace tainly intimately associated with and that no one other than God feasts be celebrated. May her ethems nor unrestrained license. of that great Molher. May her the Queen who brings place. Let century was being completed of her Son, she has ob Christians." (29) when they consider the fifth from the time our predecessor of - and a set ce and outstanding post-We' wish also to recall that glorious mystery of the Rosour predecessor of immortal ary which can be called the immortal memory, Plus IX, prodefined that the So it is that St memory, Christ. Appropriately, therefore. Himself can ever know." mystical crown of the heaven-Rosary be found in the hands | but is concord well ordered un great Mother of God had been ing with poetic inspiration, rep- favorably upon the doctrine of we sing in the sacred liturgy: ly Queen. Christ's Mother the command and decree of the Finally, art which is based upon Christian principles and is was standing, sorrowful, by the of all. May she father together conceived without any stain of resents her as speaking in this the Immaculate Conception of conceived without any stant of standing, sorrowiul, by the current Matian Year; (2) Now, its embrace, because I am hon-with great consolation to Our ored above it. For heaven was with great consolation to Our ored above it. For heaven was with great consolation to Our ored above it. For heaven was with great consolation to Our ored above it. For heaven was with great consolation to Our ored above it. For heaven was with great consolation to Our ored above it. For heaven was with great consolation to Our ored above it. For heaven was with great consolation to Our ored above it. For heaven was with great consolation to Our ored above it. For heaven was with great consolation to Our ored above it. For heaven was which faithfully inter-prets the sincere and freely ex-in the Middle Ages, avery plous which is supreme after that of the oreclose that necker and more the Queen and Mother of the Christian principles and is the oreclose the sincere and freely ex-in the Middle Ages, avery plous which is supreme after that of the oreclose that an any lewel, be given the precious than any lewel, be given but has also re-precious than any lewel, be given but has also re-precious than any lewel, be given but has also rething which faithfully inter-prets the sincere and freely ex-pressed filial reverence of the faithful, since the Council of Ephesus portrays Mary as Queen Lord of all things preparing all efficacy by which her Son and speak vile words against that the Alexand her peace to the Blessed ed in a striking way their faith mother." (10) And in another Apostolic Letter "Gloriosae Domand empress scated upon a royal throne adorned with the royal Mary, repairing all things by her and their most ament chanty to place he thus prays to her "... inae" in which Mary is called and their most ament charty to place he thus plays to her wards the heavenly Mother-but girl, empress and ruler, queen, "Queen of heaven and earth" also in all parts of the world, lady, protect and keep me in that fillal reverence toward the your arms lest Satan who causes that fillal reverence toward the your arms lest Satan who causes that fillal reverence toward the your arms lest me lest my municated His power of ruling the heaven and miling not only. properly said to refen over the and venerable, by her maternal hatred, and may show us all. minds and wills of men. For if grace. Such talk is the sign of a after this exile. Jeaus Why will the word, of God performs mir vile mind. And let no one dare be our enduring peace and joyhost of the angels and the same things, in each constituting by in heaven and ruling not only His command in its own nature, nature and its powers but also over the Machinations of Satan. all in restoring each to its origiacles and gives grace through say anything lacking in due rev. We cordially grant to you, vencreased more and more, and that wicked for be glorified against to her, (31) Consequently St. Alphonsus the Humanity He has assumed, erence to her. erable Brethren, and to your the principal shrines of Mary me." (11) if He employs the Sucraments Let all strive vigilanity and flocks the Apostolic Benedictionhave been visited and are still Mary is called by St. Gregory Liguori, collecting all the testiconography, to represent the nat dignity through that grace and His Saints as instruments stremuously to reproduce, each as a gage of Almighty God's for the salvation of souls, why according to his own condition, help and as a token of Our love. monles of past ages, most revbeing visited by many throngs Nazianzen "the Mother of the royal dignity of the Blessed Vir which she has merited." (47) erently writes these words: "Because the Virgin Mary was of Catholic pilgrims gathered in King of the entire universe," and gin Mary, has always been en-riched with works of the highshould He not use His mother's in their own souls and in their Given at Rome, at St. Peter, Everyone knows that We, as forth the King of the entire the "Virgin Mother who brought As Christ is our Lord and office and efforts to bring us own conduct the exalted virtues on the Feast of the Matemity of raised up to such a lofty digest artistic value and the great-King by a special title because often as the opportunity present. world," (12) And Prudentius as nity as to be the mother of the King of kings, therefore the fruits of the Redemption. As of our heavenly Queen and our the Blessed Virgin Mary, on the est beauty and has gone so far He redeemed us, so the Blenne ed itself. that is when We were seris that the mother marvels Our predecessor of immortal most loving Mother. And hence eleverath day of the month of Virgin (is our Lady and Queen) as to represent colorfully the rightly and deservedly the speaking to our children In Christ "that she has brought forth God memory, Plus IX, said: "Turning it will follow that those who are October in the year 1954, the size divine redeemer crowning his because of the unique way in who were gathered in our press as man, and even as Supreme Church has honored her with the title of "Queen." (32) her maternal heart toward us counted as Christians, honoring teenth of Our Pontificate, which she has co-operated tomother with a splendid diadem. and dealing with the affair of and imitating their Queen and ence, or when, by radio, We King." (13) Pius P. P. XIL ward our redemption by giving apoke to people aftar off. We And the royal dignity of the have exhorted all whom We could Blessod Virgin Mary is clearly The Roman Pontifis, favorour salvation; she is concerned ing this devotion of the peoof her own substance, by ofwith the whole human race. Cors-Footnates stituted by the Lord, Queen of heaven and earth, and exalted ple, have often decorated with fering Him willingly for us, Furthermore, the sacred to love our most kind and powand openly meant and stated and by desiring, praying for, liturgy, which is, as it were, a a crown, either personally or heaven and earth, and exalted above all the choirs of angels and the ranks of the Saints in heavers. standing at the right hand of her only begotten Son, Our Lord 1) Cfr. Litt. Enc. FULGENS CORONA: 3) Cfr. Litt. Enc. FULGENS CORONA: 3) Cfr. A. A. S. XXXVI, 1953, p. 577 10. 3) Cfr. A. A. S. XXXVIII, 1946, p. 3) Cfr. A. A. S. XXXVIII, 1946, p. 40 S. Allonso, LE GLORIM DI MARIA. 40 S. Allonso, LE GLORIM DI MARIA. 41) S. Allonso, LE GLORIM DI MARIA. 42 Cfr. Litt. by those who call her "Lady," erful Mother, as children should, through representatives, the and bringing about our salvafaultless mirror of the doctrine with a strong and tender love. "Mistress," and "Queen." Already in one of the homilies handed down from the elders and images of the Virgin mother of tion in a singular manner." On this point We may especially 48) call to mind the radio message attributed to Origen, Mary is believed by the Christian people God which were already dis-80) Esc liturgia Armenorumi' in foio "the through the course of all the From these premises the fol. her only begotten Son, Our Lord 264 ad. lowing argument is drawn. Mary Jesus Christ, she petitions most 4) Ctr. L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO, 4. tinguished by public venerwhich We addressed to the peo- called by Elizabeth, not only pla of Portugal, when the mir Mother of my Lord," but also aculous image of the Virgin "Thou my Lady." (14) West has sum Mary, which is venerated at The same thing is found in the Fatima, was being crowned with writings of St. Jerome where he sings them. 3() Ex: MENAEO (byanatino) = minica post Natalena, In Canonic, Matutinuma. ages both in the East and in the ation. was, by the will of God, associ- powerfully with her maternal 19 Mmil, a. 1946. 6) LUC, 1, 22. 6) IS, 9, 6. 7) APOC. 19, 16. 8) Cfr., LUC, 1, 22. 33. West has sung the praises of the The same thing is found in the heavenly Queen and constantly 3i) Officium hymni ACHATISTOS (in ; As we have already indicated ated with Jesus Christ, the prayers, and she obtains what A) MESSALES ANTHIOPICUR. Ant arbora Ilominas nostras Mariai, Mabia

Fatima, was being crowned with senger, of the "royalty" of Mary (4)
a goiden, diadern. (3), We out-in througe cannot fail.
a goiden, diadern. (3), We out-in througe cannot fail.
a goiden, diadern. (3), We out-in througe cannot fail.
bit sets, And she cannot fail.
bit of the sets, And she cannot fail.

a goiden, diadern. (3), We out-in througe cannot setsplanations explanations explanations explanations explanations with senger, of the "royalty" of Mary (4)
Sccred Libry we should realize that Mary means Lady in the sense thing in a more certain on the charves in the same thing in a more certain on the charves in the sense thing in a more certain to we constant the bow before the." (3)
Sccred Libry We should realize that Mary means Lady in the sense thing in a more certain the serain the cereating in a more certain the sense the core of the or she seeks. And she cannot fail." above, venerable brethren, the principle of salvation itself, in 8) Cfr. LUO. 1, 9) LUC, 1, 42. 31) BREEV. MON., Versiculus aut 30) Fastum Anumptionis; hym. a. p

whose womb He, being God took on human form, He today transports from earthly dwellings as Queen of the human race." (19) And in another place he speaks

of "the Queen of the entire human race faithful in reality to the meaning of her name, who is exalted above all things save

Likewise St. Germanus speaks

to the humble Virgin in these

only God Himself." (20)

Queen and glorious above all kings," (21) He likewise calls her the Lady ruler of all of those who dwell on earth." (22) She is called by St. John; Damascene: "Queen, ruler, and lady," (23) and also "the Lady ruler of every creature." (24) Another ancient writer of the Eastern Church calls her "the fortunate Queen," "the perpetual Queen beside the King, her Son," whose glorious head is crowned with a golden diadem." (25) And finally St. Ildephonsus of Toledo gathers together almost all of the titles of honor in this salutation: "O my Lady, my Ruler, Thou who governa-

me, Mother of my Lord Lady among the handmaidens, Queen among sisters." (26) The Theologians

And The Popes The theologians of the Church,

deriving their teaching from these and almost innumerable Since the Christian people, other testimonies handed down the Son of the Most High, the creatures, the Queen of the

a second the second second



Queen of the Immediate Heart

themselves abroad with fearful "Prince of Peace", (6) the "King And the supreme pastors of violence, and we behold justice of kings and the Lord of lords", the Church have considered it sings that ancient and very sweet. Now, the most Blessed Virgin this Encyclical Letter, so that out the entire world every year on May S. And likewise all may more clearly acknowledge giving way and the attractions (7) has received singular gifts their duty to approve and ad. prayer which is known as the Mary is to be called Queen not say that "There is an infinite of evil triumphing. We are filled of grace over and above all other vance by their own words of "Hall Holy Queen" and the love only by reason of her divine ma difference between God's serand more zealously venerate the We command that on that kind and maternal rule of the with great sorrow in theis threat. creatures and since they took praise the piety of the Chris. ly antiphons "Hail Heavenly ternity, but also because by the vants and His Hother." (54) Mother of God, can contribute a ening and fearful darger and cognizance of the intimate con- tian people towards the heaven. Queen," "O Queen of Heaven, Re. will of God she has had an out-In order to understand this consecration of the human thus with confidence We fly to nection between the Mother and ly Mother and Queen. And so, joice," and likewise those which standing part in the work of our most exalted grade of dignity great deal toward Tesping, race to the Innineculate Heart Mary Our Queen, manifesting not the Son, they easily acknowledged to pass over the documents of we are accustomed to recite on eternal salvation. "What more which the mother of God has obstrengthening and continuing the of the Blessod Virgin Mary. only 'our own sense of fills! the supreme royal dignity of the more recent Pontiffs, it is well feasts of the Blessed. Virgin pleasant or sweeter thought could tained above all created things, to remember that already in the Mary: "The Queen stood at Thy we have," wrote our predecessor we should recall that the holy. peace among mations which al-Upon this there is founded a most every day disquieting events disturb. Is she not the great hope that there may arise an era of happiness that to remember that already in the Mary: "The Queen stood at Thy we have," wrote our predecessor we should recall that the holy those who glory in the Christian seventh century Our predeces- right hand in golden vesture sur of happy memory, Plus XI, "than mother of God was, already, in Pope Cites

also because, as the new Eve, she elucidate and explain things that | Mother, will finally was associated with the new are contained in the deposit of they are truly brothers and

Mary Shares **Royal Dignity**

faith only obscurely and, as it purning jealousies and immed were, implicitly" stands forth for erate desires, may promote social all as "the immediate and uni-versal norm of truth." (60) 'IV of Mary to be taken readily un-And so it is that Jesus Christ versal norm of truth." (60)

alone, God and man, is King in the full, proper, and absolute sense of the term. Yet Mary

Therefore, from the monuments der her most powerful protection

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also, although in a restricted way of Christian antiquity, from unless according to her example and only by analogy, shares in liturgical prayers, from the practices justice, method the royal dignity as the mother Christian people's profound to true brotherhood not barming of Christ who is God, as His as sense of religion, and from the sociate in the labors of the Di-works of art that have been pro-ber furting anyone, but rather helping and consoling. struggle against His enemies and ments asserting that the Virgin In some parts of the world In the victory He won over them Mother of God possesses royal there are those who, becaus all, From this association with dignity. Likewise We have prov- the Christian name, suffer particular the King she obtains a ed that the arguments which securiton and are deprived of the splendor and eminence surpass- sacred theology has constructed vine and human rights to ith ing the excellence of all created by reasoning from the deposit of erty. Justified protests and re things. From this association divine faith completely confirm- peated complaints have up until with Christ comes the royal ed this same tuth. From so now availed nothing to remove function by which she can dis-many testimonies gathered to-these evils. May the Lidy, who perce the treasures of the Divine gether there is formed as it commands things and ages and Redeemer's Kingdom. Finally, were, a far-sounding chorus that who knows how to put down from this association with Christ praises the high eminence of the evils with her virginal foot turn comes the unfailing efficacy of royal honor of the Mother of her merciful eyes, whose light her maternal intercession with God- and men to whom all cre- dispels storms and clouds, and the Son and with the Father.

There is no doubt whatsoever that the most hely Mary sur-passes all created things in dignity and likewise that she. has gained a primacy, after her Son, over all things. As St. Sophronius says: "Thou hast, in fact, far surpassed every cres-ture . . . What could be more sublime than this joy, O Virgreater than this grace which thou slone hast received from God?" (52) St. Germanus adds these words of praise to that greeting: "Thine honor and dignity surpass all created things." (53) And St. John Damascene goes so far as to

ated things are subject and who brings calm, toward her innois "exalted above the choirs of cent and afflicted children. And the angels unto heavenly king- may she soon grant that, enjoy. ing at last the liberty which is doms." (61)

Mary Queen Feast Slated Since, after long and careful consideration We have

come to the onclusion that great benefits will accrue to the Church if this solidly established truth were to shine forth even more clearly to all, like a bright light placed on its pedestal, We by Our Apos-tolic Power, decree and lasttute the feast of Mary as which We have instituted through Queen to be celebrated through-

their due, they may be able to perform the public duties of religion. Furthermore, while they are serving the cause of the Gospel, may they advance the strength and the growth of earthly states by their concerted effort and by the splendid vir-tues which amidat these hard-

ships shine forth as examples. **Diessoci Virgin**

Queen Of Peace We also think that the Fourt