



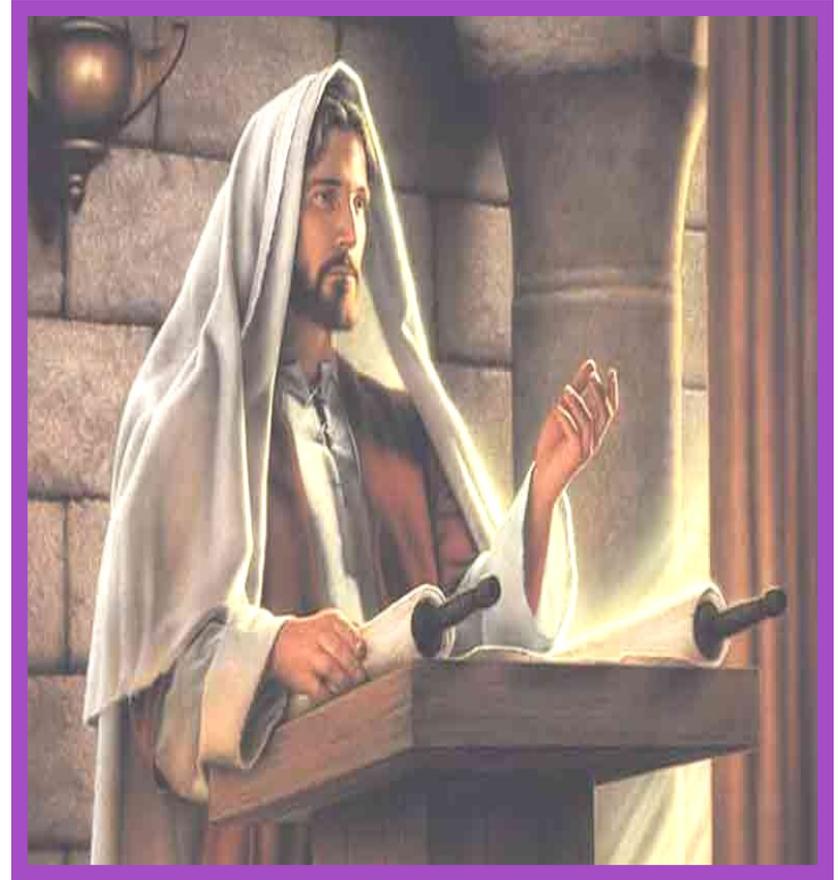
Bring redemption to captives, show yourself the solace of those wandering from home and destitute of all protection. Reach out your hand to help the whole world, so that in joy and exultation we may observe your solemn feast days in all splendor, together with this one which we are celebrating today, in Christ Jesus, King of the universe and our true God, to whom be glory and power, together with the

Father, all-holy principle of life, and the co-eternal, consubstantial Spirit, reigning now and for ever and ever.



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**SERMON ON
PRESENTATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
FROM THE FATHER'S OF THE CHURCH
130 - 1**



JESUS, OUR FIRST PREACHER!

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
DECEMBER 8TH**

Based on the Divine Office-Douay-Rheims Version

Volume 1 - Pages 1663 - 1667 (1962 edition)

Commentary on the Gospel of Luke 1: 26-28

by: Saint Germain, Bishop

Hail, Mary, full of grace, holier than the Saints, higher than the heavens, more glorious than the Cherubim, more honorable than the Seraphim, to be revered above every creature. Hail, O dove, bringing us the olive-branch of peace and announcing our deliverer from the spiritual flood, our port of salvation-dove whose wings are of silver and whose feathers of gold shine in the bright rays of the most holy and life-giving Spirit. Hail, most pleasing spiritual paradise of God, planted to the East on this day by the right hand of the most merciful and almighty God. And for Him bringing forth that fragrant lily, that unfading rose who heals those who drank the pestilence and soul-killing bitterness of death from the West. Paradise wherein grows that life-giving tree of the knowledge of truth, the tree that gives immortality to those who taste its fruit.

Holy and immaculate building, most pure palace of God the supreme King, adorned with the magnificence of the divine King, receiving all men with hospitality and refreshing them with mystical delights. Palace wherein is that spiritual bride-chamber, not made by the hands of man and bright with many-colored beauty, in which the Word wedded our flesh to Himself, choosing to call back the wandering human race, so that those who had been banished by their own will might be reconciled with the Father.

Fruitful and shady mountain of God, whereon was fed the spiritual Lamb who bore our sins and our weaknesses: mountain from which came down that stone, cut by no man's hands, that crushed the altars of idols and was made the cornerstone, a wonderful thing to our eyes. Holy throne of God, divine treasury, house of glory, most beautiful adornment, chosen and sacred vessel and mercy-seat for the whole world, heaven declaring the glory of God.

Urn wrought of purest gold, containing the most pleasing food of our souls, the manna that is Christ. O Virgin, most pure and most

worthy of all praise and reverence, temple-treasury dedicated to God, of a state excelling that of all creatures, unbroken earth, untilled field, flowering vine, fountain of flowing waters. Virgin who brought forth a Son and Mother who knew no man, hidden treasure of innocence and holiness. By your prayers to the Lord God, Maker of all things and your Son conceived by no earthly father-- your prayers so acceptable and empowered with a mother's authority-- direct all those who govern the life of the Church and lead us to the harbor of peace.

Clothe priests with the splendid garments of justice and with the exultation of tested, unstained and sincere faith. Direct to peace and prosperity the authority of right-thinking leaders who cherish you above all their splendor of gold and purple, above their pearls and precious stones, as the crown and encirclement and unfailing ornament of their reign.

Subject to them all those nations of ill-faith who blaspheme you and the God who was born of you. Strengthen the people so that, governed by good rulers, they may persevere according to the precepts of God in obedience and respect for law. And this your city, which has you for tower and foundation, crown her with victory, guard the dwelling of God with your encircling protection and preserve always the beauty of the temple. Free those who praise you from all trouble and anguish of spirit.