

3. PROTECTRESS OF CHRISTENDOM

Verse 2: Luke 1:38

Verses 4, 5: from *Acatistos Hymn to the Most Holy Theotokos*, Byzantine Liturgy

English trans.: *Emeritus* Greek Melkite Archbishop Joseph-Marie Raya (1916-2005),

See of Acca, Haifa, Nazareth, and all Galilee

Verse 6: *Redemptoris Mater*, par. 30, line 3, etc.

Pope St. John Paul II (1920-2005)

Text/Text Ed.: Mary Oberle Hubley

- 1 Great the dismay of all Creation when,
 At brink of Time, our first parents sinned.
 Boundless with joy did Nature receive her whom,
 By grace of God, its defects would mend.

Ref. 1: O Promised of God, Protectress of Christendom,
 Great is your honor, great is our joy!

- 2 “Behold the servant of the Lord,
 Be it done unto me according to Thy Word
 All creatures share profoundest awe for
 The Handmaid of God conceived her own Lord.

Ref. 2: O Mother of God, Protectress of Christendom,
 Great is your honor, great is our joy!

- 3 Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us
 The One Whom the heavens cannot contain.
 While in the fullness of her Motherhood,
 Mary a Virgin ever remained.

Ref. 3: O Mother of Christ, Protectress of Christendom,
 Great is your honor, great is our joy!

4 O you, Sophia, Seat of Wisdom,
Bright Radiance of the Mystical day;
O you, who quench the flames of error,
Beacon of those who covet God's Way:

Ref. 4: O Mirror of Truth, Protectress of Christendom,
Great is your honor, great is our joy!

5 We are your own, O Theotokos,
You are Protectress, you are our guide.
To you who save us from all danger,
Let our glad thanksgiving arise.

Ref. 5: O Mother of God, Protectress of Christendom,
Great is your honor, great is our joy!

6 Grant the reunion of all Christendom;
Grant that we may all be as one.
From East to West, our common Mother,
Gather us in the Heart of your Son.

Ref. 6: O Mother of God, Protectress of Christendom,
Unite your pilgrim People of God!

