

In the book of Proverbs 31,10ff we find praise on the women:

„A wife of noble character who can find? ... She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.“

Let us try to honour GOD in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, so that we do not upset these patriarchs with their princely beards, among whom I feel like a sapling, and so that we prevent their beards from quivering. It is said humorously, though, but especially one of these great men's beards started to tremble if he got upset. Amen!



Schwert-Bischof
JESU CHRISTI

Be blessed by GOD TRINITY,

**the + FATHER and the + SON
and the + HOLY GHOST. Amen!**

Schwert-Bischof
JESU CHRISTI
SB.



Great Figures of the Old Covenant

My beloved, today we celebrate the feast of the Great Figures of the Old Covenant – men and women of the Old Testament, who have acquired great merits before GOD. First and foremost, our progenitors Adam and Eve down to John the Baptist, the last prophet of the Old Covenant. And also st Joseph who still had one foot in the Old Testament and the other one already in the New Testament, as well as Mary, the Mother of GOD, who completes the Old Covenant with the birth of JESUS.

It is a feast as yet unknown to the Church, and it has always been my great desire to dedicate a separate feast to these great ones of the Old Covenant, among whom are children as well, and to invoke them as intercessors. Just imagine: Today, hundreds of men, women and children of the Old Covenant are surrounding the altar. It is an incredibly noble sight.

The highest honour we can give them is our invitation to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. To them there is nothing more beautiful and nothing more powerful on earth than the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Adam and Eve already longed for it because the mystery of redemption was revealed to them as well as to some other patriarchs. Noah received a vine branch and an ear of corn from Paradise. That is why bread and wine are the most precious food with us human beings and the SAVIOUR raised them to His Most Sacred Species. In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass they are transubstantiated into His Holy Body and His Precious Blood.

Great Men of the Old Covenant

The prophets and patriarchs express such an incredibly majestic manliness and yet they seem so normal and natural. Oh, I would that GOD gave you the spiritual sight to be able to see these magnificent figures with their great beards. Incredibly noble faces with the energetic, typically Jewish nose. Wonderful, strong, great men, among whom are also princes, much bigger and more strongly built than people nowadays. Noble, of princely stature and character. Their beards make them so wonderful. Looking at them you cannot but admire these figures. The way they are standing there with their long robes expressing such splendour when asking them: „Pray for us!“ and when they lift up their faces to GOD – Adam, Moses and so on ..., an inexpressibly wonderful sight.

Childlike Love of GOD

The ancient Fathers and Patriarchs had an incredibly childlike, devoted love of GOD. They did what GOD asked them to do in childlike devotion and confidence even if for the moment it seemed absurd. Noah was instructed to build a giant ship, the Ark, on a hill, with no water around as far as the eye could see. That is why he became a laughing stock to all people. Curiously they came from afar camping around the building site, having a picnic as they would say nowadays, in order to feast their eyes on his toil while mocking and laughing. And so Noah, a prince, a very intelligent man, which he did have to be in order to accomplish such a work, built the Ark, always with GOD's grace. He was everyone's laughing stock to the very end.

It was promised to Abraham that he would be the father of a large number of people. When he finally had a son whom he loved with a deep, fatherly love, GOD wanted him to sacrifice him as a burnt offering. At that moment Abraham was certainly not in the mood to sing Hallelujah. On the contrary, he was absolutely shattered. Only his childlike, devoted love of GOD managed to do this. Otherwise it would have crushed him down.

Praise of the Fathers – the Ancestors All Together

In the book of Jesus Sirach 44,1ff we find praise on these men:

„Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers in their generations. The

Lord apportioned to them great glory, His majesty from the beginning. There were those who ruled in their kingdoms, and were men, renowned for their power, giving counsel by their understanding, and proclaiming prophecies; leaders of the people in their liberations and in understanding of learning for the people, wise in their words of instruction; those who composed musical tunes ...“

Great Women of the Old Covenant

At the head of the great multitude of women is Mary, the Mother of GOD. Judith, Ruth, Esther and so on: They were exquisitely beautiful women!

Among them are resolute women, but also women who acted secretly. They were strong women. Remember the wives of the great prophets and patriarchs for example. Being beside such men of GOD requires fortitude. Noah's wife: being the wife of such a man who became everyone's laughing stock takes endurance. Or Moses's wife: she loved her husband in a very particular way, she was really proud of him, admired him. A wonderful woman, harsh in a way but loving. And how much do you think she was grieved when GOD called Moses to climb mount Nebo to go and die up there! There were no long ceremonies. Besides, Moses was in full possession of his vitality, when he said goodbye. It is written: Deut 34,7: „Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone.“

What strength did the mother of the seven Maccabee brothers show, who were tortured to death in the most barbarian way one after the other before the eyes of their mother. She, however, encouraged each of her children:

2 Mac 7,28f: „I beseech you, my child, to look at the heaven and at the earth and see everything that is in them and recognize that God did not make them out of things that existed! ... Do not fear this butcher ...“

There are also women who acted in public and caused a great stir, for example Judith. With cunning she cut off the head of Holofernes thus saving the Jewish people.
