THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Mary, pattern and Mother of the Church

V. The Lord be with you. R. And with your spirit.

V. Lift up your hearts. R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. R. It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, and to proclaim your greatness with due praise, as we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. Receiving your Word in her Immaculate Heart, she was found worthy to conceive him in her virgin's womb and, giving birth to the Creator, she nurtured the beginnings of the Church. Standing beside the Cross, she received the testament of divine love and took to herself as
sons and daughters all those who by the Death of Christ are born to heaven-life. As the Apostles awaited the Spirit you had promised, she joined her supplication to the prayers of the disciples and so became the pattern of the Church at prayer.

Raised to the glory of heaven, she accompanies your pilgrim Church with a mother's love and watches in kindness over the Church's home-ward steps, until the Lord's Day shall come in glorious splendor. And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim: