**JANUARY 2017**

## FIRST DECADE OFJANUARY

### He was named Jesus

### Nm 6,22-27; Ps 66,2-3.5-6.8; Gal 4,4-7; Lk 2,16-21.

### 1 JANUARY – M.H. MARY MOTHER OF GOD

With circumcision Jesus was constituted son of Abraham. He became his descendant.

*God also said to Abraham: "On your part, you and your descendants after you must keep my covenant throughout the ages. This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you that you must keep: every male among you shall be circumcised. Circumcise the flesh of your foreskin, and that shall be the mark of the covenant between you and me. Throughout the ages, every male among you, when he is eight days old, shall be circumcised, including house born slaves and those acquired with money from any foreigner who is not of your blood. Yes, both the house born slaves and those acquired with money must be circumcised. Thus my covenant shall be in your flesh as an everlasting pact. If a male is uncircumcised, that is, if the flesh of his foreskin has not been cut away, such a one shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant" (Gen 17,9-14).*

Becoming Abraham's seed, he was also the bearer of the promised blessing, since he was also true lineage of David. True son of Abraham, the true son of David, in him all nations shall be blessed. Saint Paul, the great Master in Reading the Ancient Word of God, tells us that the blessing is not just by descent, but in descent. One becomes blessed, by becoming one with Christ.

*Brothers, in human terms I say that no one can annul or amend even a human will once ratified. Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his descendant. It does not say, "And to descendants," as referring to many, but as referring to one, "And to your descendant," who is Christ. This is what I mean: the law, which came four hundred and thirty years afterward, does not annul a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to cancel the promise. For if the inheritance comes from the law, it is no longer from a promise; but God bestowed it on Abraham through a promise. Why, then, the law? It was added for transgressions, until the descendant came to whom the promise had been made; it was promulgated by angels at the hand of a mediator.*

*Now there is no mediator when only one party is involved, and God is one. Is the law then opposed to the promises (of God)? Of course not! For if a law had been given that could bring life, then righteousness would in reality come from the law. But scripture confined all things under the power of sin, that through faith in Jesus Christ the promise might be given to those who believe. Before faith came, we were held in custody under law, confined for the faith that was to be revealed. Consequently, the law was our disciplinarian for Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a disciplinarian. For through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendant, heirs according to the promise (Gal 3,15-29).*

The blessing is not out of Christ, it is not a gift that comes from him, but that it is lived out of Him. It comes from Him, it is received in Him, it is lived in Him, with Him, for Him. There is no detachment. The blessing does not leave Christ the Lord, it never abandons his body. It is in his body, it is received in his body, becoming his body, his life; it is lived in his body, to manifest his life to every man so that he wishes to become a blessing in Him.

*So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them. When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.*

As all the Father is in Christ in the Holy Spirit, so whoever wants to be blessed he must be all in Christ, in the Holy Spirit in order to be the life of the Father through Christ.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us life in the life of Christ.

### There is one among you whom you do not recognize

### 1 Jn 2,22-28; Ps 97,1-4; Jn 1,19-28.

**2 JANUARY**

John is asked to reveal his identity. Priests and Levites want to know if some of the great prophecies on which the hope of Israel is founded are been fulfilled in him. Is John perhaps Elijah? Is he perhaps the prophet? Is he perhaps the Lord's Christ?

*Remember the law of Moses my servant, which I enjoined him on Horeb, The statutes and ordinances for all Israel. Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, Before the day of the Lord comes, the great and terrible day, To turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the land with doom. Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, Before the day of the Lord comes, the great and terrible day (Mal 3,22-24).*

*"A prophet like me will the Lord, your God, raise up for you from among your own kinsmen; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the Lord, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the Lord, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.' And the Lord said to me, 'This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. If any man will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.' "If you say to yourselves, 'How can we recognize an oracle which the Lord has spoken?', know that, even though a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if his oracle is not fulfilled or verified, it is an oracle which the Lord did not speak. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously, and you shall have no fear of him (Dt 18,15-22).*

*But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. (Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, And the rest of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel.) He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord, in the majestic name of the Lord, his God; And they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.*

John's answer is firm, resolute, with no possibility that anyone can doubt or simply interpret not according to pure truth. He is not Elijah, he is not the Prophet and he is not the Messiah. None of these prophecies is accomplished in him.

*And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites (to him) to ask him, "Who are you?" he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Messiah." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, "Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

John is announced as the voice of one crying out to the people to prepare the way for the Lord. He applies to himself the prophecy of Isaiah. In it a future is indicated, but the one who cries is not the same as the one who is to come. The Messiah is already in the midst of them, but it is not him. He was sent to prepare the hearts so that they accept Him when he will manifest himself. No man is the Messiah. But many are proclaimed as the Messiah of humanity.

*Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; Indeed, she has received from the hand of the Lord double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; The rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken (Is 40,1-5).*

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us honest in heart and mind.

### Come down like a dove from the sky

### 1 Jn 2,29-3,6; Ps 97,1.3-6; Jn 1,29-34.

### 3 JANUARY

The dove manifests Noah that the flood is over. The earth has begun to bear fruit serving for the nourishment of man. Life is in it again.

*At the end of forty days Noah opened the hatch he had made in the ark, and he sent out a raven, to see if the waters had lessened on the earth. It flew back and forth until the waters dried off from the earth. Then he sent out a dove, to see if the waters had lessened on the earth. But the dove could find no place to alight and perch, and it returned to him in the ark, for there was water all over the earth. Putting out his hand, he caught the dove and drew it back to him inside the ark. He waited seven days more and again sent the dove out from the ark. In the evening the dove came back to him, and there in its bill was a plucked-off olive leaf! So Noah knew that the waters had lessened on the earth. He waited still another seven days and then released the dove once more; and this time it did not come back (Gen 8,6-12).*

In Psalm instead the dove becomes covered with another great meaning. The desire of the righteous to be freed from the torments of death. But he will have to pass through death. The wings of the dove are needed for this: leading the Just onto Golgotha.

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My* [*heart*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03820) *is in* [*anguish*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02342)[*within*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07130) *me, And the* [*terrors*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0367) *of* [*death*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04194) *have* [*fallen*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05307) *upon me.* [*Fear*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03374) *and* [*trembling*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07461)[*come*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0935) *upon me, And* [*horror*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06427) *has* [*overwhelmed*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03680) *me. I* [*said*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0559)*,* [*"Oh*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04310)*, that I* [*had*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05414)[*wings*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=083) *like a* [*dove*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03123)*! I would* [*fly*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05774)[*away*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05774) *and be at* [*rest*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07931)*.* [*"Behold*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02009)*, I would* [*wander*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05074)[*far*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07368) *away, I would* [*lodge*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03885) *in the* [*wilderness*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04057)*.* [*Selah*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05542)*. "I would* [*hasten*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02363) *to my* [*place*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04655) *of* [*refuge*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04655) *From the* [*stormy*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05584)[*wind*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07307) *and* [*tempest*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05591)*."* [*Confuse*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01104)*, O* [*Lord*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0136)*,* [*divide*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06385) *their* [*tongues*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03956)*, For I have* [*seen*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07200)[*violence*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02555) *and* [*strife*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07379) *in the* [*city*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05892)*.* [*Day*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03119) *and* [*night*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03915) *they* [*go*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05437)[*around*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05437) *her upon her* [*walls*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02346)*, And* [*iniquity*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0205) *and* [*mischief*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05999) *are in her* [*midst*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07130)*.* [*Destruction*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01942) *is in her* [*midst*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07130)*;* [*Oppression*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=08496) *and* [*deceit*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04820) *do not* [*depart*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04185) *from her* [*streets*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07339)*. For it is not an* [*enemy*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0340) *who* [*reproaches*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02778) *me, Then I could* [*bear*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05375) *it;* [*Nor*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03808) *is it one who* [*hates*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=08130) *me who has* [*exalted*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01431) *himself* [*against*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05921) *me, Then I could* [*hide*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05641) *myself from him. But it is you, a* [*man*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0582) *my* [*equal*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06187)*, My* [*companion*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0441) *and my* [*familiar*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03045)[*friend*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03045)*; We* [*who*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0834)[*had*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04985)[*sweet*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04985)[*fellowship*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05475)[*together*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03164)[*Walked*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01980) *in the* [*house*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01004) *of* [*God*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0430) *in the* [*throng*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07285)*. Let* [*death*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04194)[*come*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05378)[*deceitfully*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05378) *upon them; Let them* [*go*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03381)[*down*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03381)[*alive*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02416) *to* [*Sheol*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07585)*, For* [*evil*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07451) *is in their* [*dwelling*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04033)*, in their* [*midst*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07130)*. As for me, I shall* [*call*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07121) *upon* [*God*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0430)*, And the* [*Lord*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03068) *will* [*save*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03467) *me.* [*Evening*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06153) *and* [*morning*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01242) *and at* [*noon*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06672)*, I will* [*complain*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07878) *and* [*murmur*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01993)*, And He will* [*hear*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=08085) *my* [*voice*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06963)*. He will* [*redeem*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06299) *my* [*soul*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05315) *in* [*peace*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07965) *from the* [*battle*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07128) *which is against me, For they are* [*many*](http://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07227) *who strive with me (Ps 55 (54) 1-24).*

In the Song of Songs the dove is a sign of the beauty of the bride. The beauty of the humanity of Jesus Christ is infinitely beyond all beauty. It shines with divine light. God has adorned it of his own glory. In the resurrection he made it of spirit.

*Ah, you are beautiful, my beloved, ah, you are beautiful; your eyes are doves! (Song 1, 15). "O my dove in the clefts of the rock, in the secret recesses of the cliff, Let me see you, let me hear your voice, For your voice is sweet, and you are lovely" (Song 2, 14). Ah, you are beautiful, my beloved, ah, you are beautiful! Your eyes are doves behind your veil. Your hair is like a flock of goats streaming down the mountains of Gilead (Ct 4, 1; 5, 2.12; 6, 9).*

Alighting on Christ the Lord as a dove, the Holy Spirit not only fulfils every meaning contained in the ancient scriptures and prophecies, he adds them all that is his own eternal essence. For Him the humanity of Christ, the true man, is always in communion with the purest and actual will of God on him. For him and for his intelligence, advice, science, but also fortitude, Jesus will always do the will of the Father. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus lives only to listen to his God and Lord.

*The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."*

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, fill us with Holy Spirit.

### They heard what he said and followed Jesus

### 1 Jn 3,7-10; Ps 97,1.7-9; Jn 1,35-42.

### 4 JANUARY

The Passover Lamb saved from death, gave the strength to begin the journey toward full freedom, abandoning forever the land of slavery. The Evangelist John presents Jesus as the true Lamb. One comes out of the figure and enters reality.

*On the tenth of this month every one of your families must procure for itself a lamb, one apiece for each household. The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish. You may take it from either the sheep or the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month, and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present, it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight. They shall take some of its blood and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel of every house in which they partake of the lamb. That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. It shall not be eaten raw or boiled, but roasted whole, with its head and shanks and inner organs. None of it must be kept beyond the next morning; whatever is left over in the morning shall be burned up. "This is how you are to eat it: with your loins girt, sandals on your feet and your staff in hand, you shall eat like those who are in flight. It is the Passover of the Lord (Ex 12,1-14). So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may (come to) believe. For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled: "Not a bone of it will be broken." And again another passage says: "They will look upon him whom they have pierced" (Jn,19-31-37).*

In the Apocalypse, *"Lamb"* is the name of Jesus. There are no other names for him. Jesus is the Lamb. He is the Lord of the Church and history, of heaven and earth. The Father has placed everything in his hands. It is he the one who opens the seals of time and events. It is in Him that all salvation is fulfilled. He and the Father are the eternal home of the redeemed. He is the spouse of his Church. The Lamb is the heart of time and eternity.

*Then I saw standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders, a Lamb that seemed to have been slain. He had seven horns and seven eyes; these are the (seven) spirits of God sent out into the whole world (Rev 5,6). "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honour and glory and blessing" (Rev 5,12). "To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour, glory and might, forever and ever" (Rev 5,13). The wall of the city had twelve courses of stones as its foundation, on which were inscribed the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (Rev 21,14).  I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb (Rev 21,22). The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb (Rev 21,23). Nothing unclean will enter it, nor any (one) who does abominable things or tells lies. Only those will enter whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life (Rev 21,27). Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb (Rev 22,1). Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him (Rev 22,3).*

John the Baptist, presenting Jesus as the Lamb of God, directs the Messianism of Jesus the Lord not to a political, but a sacrificial, atoning and Easter reading. Since the beginning, everyone will have to know that Jesus is the Lamb of the New Passover. If he is a lamb there will be no human triumphs for him. He will be seized and slain for salvation. He is the Deliverer not for victory, but for slain, for immolation and killing.

*The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Kephas" (which is translated Peter).*

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, give us the truth of Jesus.

### You will see greater things than this

### 1 Jn 3,11-21; Ps 99,2-5; Jn 1,43-51.

### 5 JANUARY

In the first chapter of the Gospel According to John, Jesus is presented by the same Evangelist, by John the Baptist, by Andrew and by Philip. Putting together their words we already have a well-defined framework of the identity of Jesus the Lord. Many truths are already clear and perfect. We already know who he is and what his mission will be.

In succession here are the testimony of the Evangelist, of John the Baptist, of Andrew, Philip and Nathaniel. Each one adds something to what the other has said before.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.*

*The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me. But there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."* *As he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God."*

*We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth. Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.*

It is fair to ask: But what does Jesus say about himself? What is his first word on his person and his mission? The first word of Jesus does not have any reference to any prophecy, any oracle of the Lord and any promise from the Lord God. He is presented in so enigmatic a way to Nathaniel, referring to a dream of Jacob. He is the ladder seen by the patriarch. On Him the angels of God descend and ascend. Through Him all of Heaven comes down to earth. Through Him all the earth rises to Heaven. He is proclaimed as the Only, Universal Mediator, in grace and truth, between God and humanity. Without ladder there is no going up and no coming down. Without Christ, God does not come to man, the man does not rise to God. The One and the other are lacking the ladder to go down and go up. This is the first word with which Jesus announces and reveals himself.

*The next day he decided to go to Galilee, and he found Philip. And Jesus said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the town of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth." But Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him." Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."*

The word of Jesus Christ is what illuminates all the other words, giving each its precise, exact meaning. Christ is the one and only, universal Mediator in creation, in redemption, in justification, in grace, in truth, in justice, in peace and in the knowledge of God. Without Christ the sky remains in the sky and the earth on the earth, there is the same abyss that exists between the righteous and the damned. Christ is the point of contact. It is in him and through him, but also by Him and with Him that all salvation is fulfilled.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us of true faith in Christ.

### Offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh

### Is 60,1-6; Ps 71,1-2.7-8.10-13; Eph 3,2-3a.5-6; Mt 2,1-12.

### 6 JANUARY – THE LORD’S EPIPHANY

The Evangelist Matthew does not love, does not want, does not desire, refuses to imprison Lord Jesus in the narrow, by now crumbling limits of the old religion of the fathers. From the first words of his Gospel: "Genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham," until the last, the one of the mission entrusted to the apostles, he has only one desire in the heart: attesting that Jesus is the Saviour, Redeemer and the life of humanity.

*The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28,16-20).*

In Magi all nations appear in Jerusalem. They come to look for their King, their God and their Saviour. Jesus is not in Scripture, it tells us where to find him. He is not in the old temple and not even in old Jerusalem. He is not Herod and not even the chief of priests and scribes. They can tell just where he will be born. No can do nothing else. They are not Christ, nor do they know him. They direct to Him, but they are not interested in him. They do not feel the need to look for him. They are satisfied with a dead letter, a dead cult, a dead Scripture, a dead law and a dead God.

The chief priests say where he is born. Scripture reveals the place. But neither chief priests, nor scribes and Scripture know where the house in which he dwells is located. A current revelation is always needed. What is known of Christ and on Christ is not enough. The is always need of an actual grace to find Jesus. This grace is in the sign of the star and star can be any grace that is very personal. Everyone gets his own grace, which will never be equal to that received by the others. The Gospel is this wonderful attestation of the multiform grace of the Lord. Only God knows what the grace, or the star is, with which to touch every heart. No heart is equal to another heart.

*When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"*

*Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.*

Even the confession of the truth of Jesus varies from heart to heart and each has his own special, particular, personal faith on Christ the Lord. For the Magi Jesus is the King. Gold must be offered him. He is also God. Incense must be given him. He is a King and a God wrapped by an unspeakable suffering. He must be offered myrrh, the sign of pain and death. In the three gifts of the Magi all the divine and human essence of Jesus the Lord is signified. Jesus is the God man and man God, but he is also the God seized by the unspeakable suffering and death. The Magi see, offer, but do not understand. They understand when the Holy Spirit will enlighten their minds, filling it with the fullness of the truth of Jesus the Lord. The truth of Christ is beyond all Scripture. It is all in the Holy Spirit.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, give us the full truth of Christ.

### Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand

### 1 Jn 3,22-4,6; Ps 2,7-8.10-11; Mt 4,12-17.23-25.

### 7 JANUARY

Conversion is not enclosable in a single word. The only word that could enclose them all is *"abandoning", "leaving", "going out,"* of one world to enter another, which is not chosen by us, but presented by God. You abandon idolatry and enter the true worship of the one and only true and living God. You leave immorality and you enter the most holy mode that comes from the observance of the Commandments. One goes out of a religion planned and willed by men and enters the religion planned and willed by the Lord. One repudiates his thoughts to embrace God's thoughts.

The conversion requested by Jesus includes all these things, but it is infinitely beyond. It requires that we abandon all that is of the Old Testament and we enter the New, we leave the Old Covenant and its laws and its rituals and embrace the New One. We no longer think according to the prescriptions of Moses, even if holy and just, but we act according to the new moral norms that flow from the heart of Jesus the Lord. We no longer think about the messianism on David's model, but on that of the Suffering Servant of the Lord. There is the Kingdom of God that advances with power and we have to get into it. No one might enter the new staying in the old with his thoughts, heart, feelings, wishes, will and the same ritual. The new demands total novelty. When Jesus asks for the abandonment of the ritual according to Moses to enter the new ritual that involves eating his flesh and drinking his blood, there was the scandal.

*The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever." As a result of this, many (of) his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God" (Jn 6,52-58.66-69).*

Being converted to an *"unthinkable, unimaginable, repugnant ritual"* for a Jew really requires the abandonment of the heart, the mind, the remembrance, the memory of the very Old Testament. One is called to pass on to a very new reality.

*When he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen." From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

*He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people. His fame spread to all of Syria, and they brought to him all who were sick with various diseases and racked with pain, those who were possessed, lunatics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan followed him.*

The conversion never ends and never finishes. It is always to the last Word that the Holy Spirit makes resound in our hearts, to the last vocation that gives us, to his last ministry or spiritual gift with which he enriches us. Conversion is true when it is real death to what is old, to what was, because the Spirit of the Lord has prepared a new course and a new life for us. But, even embracing with the body the new life, we remain with the heart, the mind and the desires in the ancient one.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us a genuine new life.

### With whom I am well pleased

### Is 42,1-4.6-7; Ps 28,1-3b.4.3a.9-10; At 10,34-38; Mt 3,13-17.

**8 JANUARY – BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

Isaiah's prophecies speak all of a Servant, to whom the Lord entrusts the mission of salvation, calling him to be a light of the Gentiles and also to take upon himself all the sins of men to atone for them. The Servant of the Lord is a man. Other things are not seen from these prophecies. They do not go beyond humanity. They remain in it.

*Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, Upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations, Not crying out, not shouting, not making his voice heard in the street. A bruised reed he shall not break, and a smouldering wick he shall not quench, Until he establishes justice on the earth; the coastlands will wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spreads out the earth with its crops, Who gives breath to its people and spirit to those who walk on it: I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice, I have grasped you by the hand; I formed you, and set you as a covenant of the people, a light for the nations, To open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness (Is 42,1-7).*

*The Lord called me from birth, from my mother's womb he gave me my name. He made of me a sharp-edged sword and concealed me in the shadow of his arm. He made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me. It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (Is 49,1-8).*

*The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, That I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; And I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; My face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. (Is 50,4-9).*

*See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him -  so marred was his look beyond that of man, and his appearance beyond that of mortals -  So shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; For those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it (Is 52,13-15ss).*

With the Father's voice that comes from heaven, we know who the Servant, the true Servant of the Lord is; it is his Only Son, His eternal Word, generated by Him in eternity, from the beginning, from always. The Son of God, God in His Person, God in His divine nature, true man in his nature, is the Servant who must fulfil the mission of salvation, redemption, light, atonement, sanctification not only of his people, but of humanity. The Servant is the beloved Son of the Father. This is the great love of God for man. He gave His Eternal Son for our redemption and gave him from the Cross.

*Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?" Jesus said to him in reply, "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened (for him), and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove (and) coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

The Baptism of Jesus is composed of two separate and distinct moments. Jesus enters into the water to give himself entirely to the will of the Father. He offers to the Father as a gift, as a sacrifice his will and his body for the sacrifice. He comes out of the water and the Father clothes him in the soul, the body and spirit, in the spirit of his Holy Spirit so that He can bring to fulfilment on the cross the gift made to him. The gift is made in an instant, but then you are committed for whole lifetime to remain faithful to it. For this fidelity our forces are not enough. The power of God which is his Holy Spirit is necessary. Clothed with Eternal and Divine Power, from this moment the Son begins his journey toward the cross. There the gift will be real, total and involving his whole Person.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us gifts to God in Christ.

### This is the time of fulfilment. The kingdom of God is at hand

### Heb 1,1-6; Ps 96,1-2b.6.7c.9; Mk 1,14-20.

### 9 JANUARY

St. Paul tells us that Jesus Christ was sent into the world when the fullness of time has come. This fullness comes when the time is ripe. But who determines that the time is ripe and full, is only the Lord. It is not of the man to decide the times and moments with God. This decision is only of the Heavenly Father.

*I mean that as long as the heir is not of age, he is no different from a slave, although he is the owner of everything, but he is under the supervision of guardians and administrators until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were not of age, were enslaved to the elemental powers of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God (Gal 4,1-7).*

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favour of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved. In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favour that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth. In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ. In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first instalment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory (Eph 1,3-14).*

God establishes the maturity of the time of death on the cross of Jesus. Every other time is determined by this one moment. This also applies to the life of every man. The culminant moment is always what determines every other time. This science does not belong to man but to God, who alone knows the times and seasons for every person that comes into this world. But we are all obliged to live well both the moments that precede and those that follow is the fullness of our time. It is in this attention that everything is done and lived. Our responsibility is great. Spoiling the before prevents that God can fulfil his plan of love on us.

*After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfilment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.*

What time is fulfilled for Jesus? The time to stay in the old things, the old religion, the old love, the old truth, the old justice, the old holiness and the "old" God, is fulfilled. The time to go into the purest truth of God, man, things and the same eternity is fulfilled. This is the true conversion: leaving the old religious system to enter the new path, new life, new truths that come to us in fullness from Jesus Christ and that are in Him and are lived for Him. The requested conversion is the passage from Moses to Christ and from every other religious form, even good, to Christ. Christ is the end of the conversion and it is realized in Him, with Him, through Him. Where Christ is ignored, there is no conversion.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, help us in the true conversion.

### What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?

### Heb 2,5-12; Ps 8,2a.5-9; Mk 1,21b-28.

**10 JANUARY**

Jesus does not cast out devils because he is God and Son of God, he drives them away because he is a real man of God. The truth of Christ's humanity does not come from the assumption made by the Eternal Word made flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, but by the participation of his human will, handed over entirely to the Holy Spirit, so that he filled it of himself and of all his authority of wisdom, strength, love, science and fear of the Lord. The humanity of Christ is the instrument through which the Eternal Word operates and acts and we know from the Gospels that Jesus grew in wisdom, age and grace; that is, he grew in the Holy Spirit. Nothing of his body, his soul and his spirit was subtracted from the Spirit of the Lord, but all and entirely was handed over, entrusted and offered to him.

There is not a moment in which Christ lived without the Spirit of God and a time from when he started being filled with Him. Since the first moment of His conception He was full of grace and Holy Spirit. What the Gospel affirms of his mother, more so it is true for him. What is said of John the Baptist that was filled with the Holy Ghost, from his mother's womb, much more, infinitely more applies to Christ the Lord. Of Jesus, we must affirm that the Spirit of God grew in him with infinite perfection, harmony and truth. This growth reached the summit of perfection and growth at the time of his death. It is according to this absolute perfection that He pours him on the world from his pierced side.

Jesus is faced with an unclean spirit. This knows that Jesus is his destruction. He came to the earth to give every man who believes in Him his power of Holy Spirit, rather his same Holy Spirit, so that not only does he see his snares, but he can also overcome them. The unclean spirit knows that before the Spirit of the Lord, his wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord his tricks of deception, lie, falsehood, his spiritual illusion games do not hold up. He can even dress up as an Angel of light. The light of the Holy Spirit is greater than his and darkness is bared even if it were to be presented with a light greater than the one of the sun.

One of our fatal mistakes - and it is the mistake of all those who are not in the Holy Spirit - is that of seeing the spirit only in the body of the man, not knowing that this is also his powerful deception. He wants to be seen in the body, he makes himself be seen in the body so that nobody sees him in the heart, mind, soul, thoughts, desires and decisions. Today, in our time, is there only one decision that is not according to the darkness of Satan? Is there a thought that is not according to the falsity of the Evil One? Is there only one instrument he has not taken possession of? Is there anything of which he has not the government? Yet, in these things no one sees him. Even the Christian is his faithful collaborator and he does not even notice it.

*Then they came to Capernaum, and on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are - the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him." His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.*

Who wants to know Satan and remove him from his heart, from his soul, from his thoughts, from his life must, like Jesus the Lord, grow every day in grace and in wisdom, understanding like Wisdom the real growth in the Spirit of the Lord. The Christian must not allow that any space of the heart, the mind, the soul is ruled by the unclean spirit. If this happens, little by little, his conquest of every other part becomes inevitable. Christ must be all in Christ and in his Spirit.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us of Christ and his Spirit.

**JANUARY 2017**

## SECOND DECADE OF JANUARY

### For this purpose have I come

### Heb 2,14-18; Ps 104,1-9; Mk 1,29-39.

### 11 JANUARY

Jesus in no thought, word, work, at any time of his life is from his will. He is always from the will of his Father. He is not even from the Holy Scripture read and interpreted by him according to the holiness of his heart and his mind, but he is always from the purest understanding that moment by moment the Spirit of the Lord offers him. Jesus is wholly, always, completely from the Spirit of God. If he is in Capernaum he is not through his will and not even if he withdraws in prayer is he through His will. If he goes into the desert to conquer Satan it is not by his will and not even if he heals it is from his heart. The Gospel of Luke presents us the program of Jesus at the beginning. But who every day reminds this program and who interprets it for him is always and only the Holy Spirit.

*Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all. He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" (Lk 4,14-21).*

 We read this program of Jesus and interpret it almost always in a physical sense. The Spirit of the Lord instead reads and interprets it in a spiritual sense. There is a huge difference between our reading and interpretation and the one given by the Spirit of God. Peter sees Jesus as one who must make room in people's hearts, healing and healing all. The Holy Spirit wants him to make space proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, freeing every person from blindness of faith and religion, healing the wounds of the soul and spirit, freeing every man from the power of Satan’s falsehood and deception. Jesus' mission is that of proclaiming the year of the great mercy of God. The Lord Almighty offers his reconciliation in Him.

*On leaving the synagogue he entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.*

Miracles are not the end of Jesus’ mission, but only a tool so that the world believes in his truth. He is from God and he attests it by acting with the same divine omnipotence as the Father. Having manifested his origin from the Father, his Word suffices every man to have life. Faith will operate the miracle. The true Father gives all to his true children. He denies them nothing. That is why Jesus might always be devoted to the announcement of the Kingdom, to the preaching of the Gospel and to carry out the work of creation of the true faith in his Father. It is of no use healing a body, if then the soul remains in the bondage of evil, sin and darkness. Giving some relief in time is of no help, if then the body and soul end up into the hell of fire. To live the mission well a faith daily updated on the Holy Spirit is necessary. A will completely conformed to the will of the Father moment by moment is necessary. The Father has established what the Son must do and what He, the Father, must do. The Son must bring every man back into his house. The Father will be the one to provide for everything.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, clothe us with a most pure faith.

### See that you tell no one anything

### Heb 3,7-14; Ps 94,6-11; Mk 1,40-45.

**12 JANUARY**

Jesus is a true man. As a true man He is also obliged to live the law of charity, just as He Himself has taught it to all his disciples. The law of his charity is sublime, absolutely perfect. The rules of Paul given to the Christians of Corinth and Rome so that they could live well the law of love, mercy, compassion and confession are to be interpreted according to this Law.

*"But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit (is) that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful. "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you" (Lk 6,27-38).*

*Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things (1Cor 13,4-7). Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honour. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute (you), bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all. Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave room for the wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." Rather, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head." Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good (Rm 12,9-21).*

A leper asks Jesus for the charity of a healing. For love he heals and cleanses him of his leprosy and asks for the charity no to say it to anyone. He asks for silence. The leper asks for charity, but he does not give it. Jesus asks him this charity because He must respect the divine charity assigned him by his Father. The leper for *"human love"*, in his own *"way"*, out of love for Christ divulges the miracle. He does it to for *"charity."* He is healed of leprosy, but the path to get to the *"divine charity"* and its respect is long. The risk that the Christian lets himself be taken by *"human charity"* is great. The danger that is run is very serious: "divine charity" is not lived. The man is left in eternal death.

*A leper came to him (and kneeling down) begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. Then he said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.*

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, teach us *"divine"* charity.

### Child, your sins are forgiven

### Heb 4,1-5.11; Ps 77,3-4bc.6-8; Mk 2,1-12.

**13 JANUARY**

It is proper of the prophet of the living God preaching the forgiveness and remission of sins from the Lord. It is the cry of love that the Lord makes be heard through their voices.

*Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good. Make justice your aim: redress the wronged, hear the orphan's plea, defend the widow. Come now, let us set things right, says the Lord: Though your sins be like scarlet, they may become white as snow; Though they be crimson red, they may become white as wool. If you are willing, and obey, you shall eat the good things of the land; But if you refuse and resist, the sword shall consume you: for the mouth of the Lord has spoken! (Is 1,16-20).*

*But if the wicked man turns away from all the sins he committed, if he keeps all my statutes and does what is right and just, he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of the crimes he committed shall be remembered against him; he shall live because of the virtue he has practiced. Do I indeed derive any pleasure from the death of the wicked? says the Lord God. Do I not rather rejoice when he turns from his evil way that he may live? And if the virtuous man turns from the path of virtue to do evil, the same kind of abominable things that the wicked man does, can he do this and still live? None of his virtuous deeds shall be remembered, because he has broken faith and committed sin; because of this, he shall die. You say, "The Lord’s way is not fair!" Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair?*

*When a virtuous man turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die. But if a wicked man, turning from the wickedness he has committed, does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life; since he has turned away from all the sins which he committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. And yet the house of Israel says, "The Lord’s way is not fair!" Is it my way that is not fair, house of Israel, or rather, is it not that your ways are not fair? Therefore I will judge you, house of Israel, each one according to his ways, says the Lord God. Turn and be converted from all your crimes, that they may be no cause of guilt for you. Cast away from you all the crimes you have committed, and make for yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, says the Lord God. Return and live! (Ez 18,21-32).*

During Jesus' times merciful, pitying love, full of mercy, compassion, forgiveness, did not reign in the heart of the scribes, especially if these belonged to the Pharisees. The accusation addressed to Jesus of having usurped the place of God is not in defence of God, but to defend their thoughts according to which the sinner remained forever a sinner, against any will manifested by the Lord that cried for forgiveness. Jesus does not defend his actions by resorting to the prophets. He knows that they do not believe. He justifies his forgiveness by manifesting himself as a true prophet of the Lord, healing the sick.

*When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them. They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" - he said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."*

Sublime wisdom of Jesus. In the Holy Spirit He always knows how to respond. Sometimes appealing to revelation and theology serves no purpose. Only those who are in the Holy Spirit - and Jesus is full of Him – know with what word to defend their mission.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, fill us with Holy Spirit.

### Saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors

### Heb 4,12-16; Ps 18,8-10.15; Mk 2,13-17.

**14 JANUARY**

St. Paul teaches that science inflates, while charity builds up. This is a general principle. He decided not to take any action that could somehow cause harm to the faith of the little ones.

*Now in regard to meat sacrificed to idols: we realize that "all of us have knowledge"; knowledge inflates with pride, but love builds up. If anyone supposes he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if one loves God, one is known by him. So about the eating of meat sacrificed to idols: we know that "there is no idol in the world," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there are so-called gods in heaven and on earth (there are, to be sure, many "gods" and many "lords"), yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom all things are and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things are and through whom we exist.*

*But not all have this knowledge. There are some who have been so used to idolatry up until now that, when they eat meat sacrificed to idols, their conscience, which is weak, is defiled. Now food will not bring us closer to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, nor are we better off if we do. But make sure that this liberty of yours in no way becomes a stumbling block to the weak. If someone sees you, with your knowledge, reclining at table in the temple of an idol, may not his conscience too, weak as it is, be "built up" to eat the meat sacrificed to idols? Thus through your knowledge, the weak person is brought to destruction, the brother for whom Christ died. When you sin in this way against your brothers and wound their consciences, weak as they are, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I may not cause my brother to sin (1Cor 8,1-13).*

But when must you to live according to science and when according to charity? When is charity omission concerning science? Neither Paul nor Peter, nor James, nor John, nor any other Hagiographer and theologian, might ever tell a heart when to act according to science or pure truth and when on the contrary it must act according to charity. Who can teach us how to act, from time to time, whether according to science or in truth, is the Spirit of the Lord. If we grow in the Spirit of God, He will be the one from time to time to suggest how to act, what to say, what to do and how to respond. If the Spirit of God is not in us, we will act according to science, when you have to live according to charity, or we will act according to charity when in fact you have to operate in the pure truth of our mission. Jesus knows that by acting in a certain way, the world is shocked to the point of desiring and planning his death. But might he in the name of charity avoid to live the charity of the science, of the manifestation of God, of the true God that has nothing to do with the God announced by the scribes and Pharisees?

*Once again he went out along the sea. All the crowd came to him and he taught them. As he passed by, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus, sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners sat with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many who followed him. Some scribes who were Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors and said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus heard this and said to them (that), "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."*

What to say, how to say it, what not to say, how not to say it, what to do, how to do it, what not to do, how not to do it, it is never by an acquired science. This science does not exist in the Holy Scripture. It not found in theology books. It is not a science that comes from the earth or from what Heaven has already handed over to the earth. It is a science that comes perpetually from above, it comes down from God, through His Holy Spirit, from time to time, word by word, action by action and decision by decision. Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, is never in error of living a thing instead of another, because the Spirit of God always suggests his heart what to say, how to say it, what to do and how to do it. He and the Holy Spirit live this sublime communion: the Spirit speaks and Jesus listens.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us the Spirit listeners.

### Now I have seen and testified

### Is 49,3.5-6; Ps 39,2.4.7-10; 1 Cor 1,1-3; Jn 1,29-34.

### 15 JANUARY – II SUNDAY O.T.

Faith is not a rational acquisition, a result of mental logic. One thinks, reflects, argues and comes to faith. This is not faith. Faith is a response of wisdom, intelligence to a word that is heard and this comes down from above; it comes from God. Saint John makes all the senses intervene, including touch in the process of true faith.

*What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life - for the life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us - what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this so that our joy may be complete. Now this is the message that we have heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say, "We have fellowship with him," while we continue to walk in darkness, we lie and do not act in truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin (1Jn 1,1-7).*

St. Peter also founds the process of the faith on a "sensible" manifestation of the Lord. He saw and listened on the Mount. The source of his faith is on the Mount.

*We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that unique declaration came to him from the majestic glory, "This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain. Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Know this first of all, that there is no prophecy of scripture that is a matter of personal interpretation, for no prophecy ever came through human will; but rather human beings moved by the holy Spirit spoke under the influence of God (2Pt 1,16-21).*

John the Baptist does not base his testimony on Jesus Christ on a logical process of his mind. He bases it solely on the word heard and the vision that has been announced him. The Messiah is the one on whom you will see the Holy Spirit come down and rest. He sees the Spirit of God coming down and resting on Christ Jesus. He listens, sees and testifies. Nothing comes from his heart. Nothing from his prophecy. Everything comes from God. After all John and both Peter and John the Baptist say essentially the same and only truth: the foundation of faith remains forever the Heavenly Father. It is in his heart the principle of true faith. To his heart one must always reach.

*The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."*

Today we have very serious problems of pure faith. There is a risk that the most pure faith in God, in Christ and in the Holy Spirit is transformed into a bad, very bad indeed anthropology, a man going to man as men, without any principle of transcendence. It is faith that creates true hope and true charity. It is faith that founds the true anthropology. But faith has its foundation in the Word of Jesus, which must always be accredited by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of the Lord draws in the heart of the Father what is required to found the faith of every single person, not once in a lifetime, but day by day He is the one that will lead us from faith to faith.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, immerse us in the Spirit of God.

### No one pours new wine into old wineskins

### Heb 5,1-10; Ps 109,1-4; Mk 2,18-22.

**16 JANUARY**

The Lord begins the new creation of humanity. He forms the New Eve with infinitely greater and more sublime manners than the old Eve. He fills her with grace. He makes her his home, his heaven on earth. The Eternal Son of the Father becomes flesh, becomes real man in her. God, in the Person of his Only Son, comes into our midst. What does he come to do? Perhaps to re-establish the ancient rules of religion? But these had already been distorted and recomposed by his prophets. Just read Isaiah. Fasting is amended.

*Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voice like a trumpet blast; Tell my people their wickedness, and the house of Jacob their sins. They seek me day after day, and desire to know my ways, Like a nation that has done what is just and not abandoned the law of their God; They ask me to declare what is due them, pleased to gain access to God. "Why do we fast, and you do not see it? afflict ourselves, and you take no note of it?" Lo, on your fast day you carry out your own pursuits, and drive all your labourers. Yes, your fast ends in quarrelling and fighting, striking with wicked claw. Would that today you might fast so as to make your voice heard on high! Is this the manner of fasting I wish, of keeping a day of penance: That a man bow his head like a reed, and lie in sackcloth and ashes? Do you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; Setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; Clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own.*

*Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed; Your vindication shall go before you, and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help, and he will say: Here I am! If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech; If you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; Then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday; Then the Lord will guide you always and give you plenty even on the parched land. He will renew your strength, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring whose water never fails. The ancient ruins shall be rebuilt for your sake, and the foundations from ages past you shall raise up; "Repairer of the breach," they shall call you, "Restorer of ruined homesteads." If you hold back your foot on the Sabbath from following your own pursuits on my holy day; If you call the Sabbath a delight, and the Lord’s holy day honourable; If you honour it by not following your ways, seeking your own interests, or speaking with malice - Then you shall delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will nourish you with the heritage of Jacob, your father, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken (Is 58,1-14).*

 To give a new structure to the religion of yesterday, for smerigliarla somewhat and give it back its ancient *"shine"*, suffices one man of intellectual honesty that knows how to separate what comes from God and what comes from man. A prophet is already too much. If the prophet comes it is because the Lord has in mind to create an entirely new religion, with a new Law, a new Heart, new Structures, a new Covenant, a new Love and a new Holiness. Then, if the Only Son of the Father comes down in the flesh, then it is a sign that the novelty will be the creation of a new totally different religion than the old one.

*The disciples of John and of the Pharisees were accustomed to fast. People came to him and objected, "Why do the disciples of John and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast. But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunken cloth on an old cloak. If he does, its fullness pulls away, the new from the old, and the tear gets worse. Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins are ruined. Rather, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins."*

It is the mistake of yesterday, today and always: thinking the today on the model and the structure of yesterday. When the Holy Spirit breaks into history with the power of his light, he comes always to destroy the old skins and create new ones, he comes to declare the past forms of holiness old and to generate new ones. He comes to remove from the mind the thoughts of yesterday because today the Gospel needs a more real thought about Christ.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints clothe us with Holy Spirit.

### The Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath

### Heb 6,10-20; Ps 110,1-2.4-5.9.10c; Mk 2,23-28.

**17 JANUARY**

Man was created by God in his image and likeness. He must be perfectly in the image of God not only in being but also in working. What did the Lord do? How did He act? In six days he created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them and on the seventh day he rested. He stopped working. Why did has stop working? So that everything that is outside of God manifests its beauty and efficiency in its being finite. Creation is not infinite. God cannot make an infinite thing outside of Him. He expresses his infinite essence ceasing all work.

*Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds." And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God also said: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food." And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed - the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation (Gen 1,24-2,3).*

 The man who is the image of God, as God, has to show his superiority in relation to every other created being. He must not consume his superiority in the things of the earth. It is right that he imitates God and on the seventh day he rests from all work.

*"Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day. Six days you may labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord has blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy (Ex 20,8-11).*

But man is also in the image of God in love, in mercy and in good. Does God rest on Sabbath from loving man? Not at all. He loves him for all seven days of the week. Can a man stop loving another man? Never. He must love him for all the time of his life, without any interruption. In love there is no rest, just as for the Pharisees there was no rest before an ox that had to be pulled out of the well on a Sabbath. Love is eternal as God is eternal. Never must one rest from love, never from mercy, never from pity and never from consolation.

*As he was passing through a field of grain on the Sabbath, his disciples began to make a path while picking the heads of grain. At this the Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions were hungry? How he went into the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of offering that only the priests could lawfully eat, and shared it with his companions?" Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. That is why the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."*

Jesus wants to never start from the law to understand the law, but always from the heart of the Father, from his truth, from his divine essence, from his contemplation. The more one penetrates into his heart and the more he understand his law, also the law of forgiveness and mercy. If God is not in the heart, not even his law will there be.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us heart in the heart of God.

### They watched him closely to see if he would cure him on the Sabbath

### Heb 7,1-3.15-17; Ps 109,1-4; Mk 3,1-6.

**18 JANUARY**

In the Ancient Scripture there are moments that justify the non-observance of the Sabbath day and no one thinks that there has been a violation of the Law of the Lord.

*Many who sought to live according to righteousness and religious custom went out into the desert to settle there, they and their sons, their wives and their cattle, because misfortunes pressed so hard on them. It was reported to the officers and soldiers of the king who were in the City of David, in Jerusalem, that certain men who had flouted the king's order had gone out to the hiding places in the desert. Many hurried out after them, and having caught up with them, camped opposite and prepared to attack them on the Sabbath. "Enough of this!" the pursuers said to them. "Come out and obey the king's command, and your lives will be spared."But they replied, "We will not come out, nor will we obey the king's command to profane the Sabbath." Then the enemy attacked them at once; but they did not retaliate; they neither threw stones, nor blocked up their own hiding places. They said, "Let us all die without reproach; heaven and earth are our witnesses that you destroy us unjustly." So the officers and soldiers attacked them on the Sabbath, and they died with their wives, their children and their cattle, to the number of a thousand persons. When Mattathias and his friends heard of it, they mourned deeply for them. "If we all do as our kinsmen have done," they said to one another, "and do not fight against the Gentiles for our lives and our traditions, they will soon destroy us from the earth." On that day they came to this decision: "Let us fight against anyone who attacks us on the Sabbath, so that we may not all die as our kinsmen died in the hiding places" (1Mac 2,29-41).*

What drives Mattathias to take such a revolutionary decision for the people of the Lord? Love for his people. Fighting to defend the covenant people is not a sin, rather it is a duty of mercy, piety and compassion. The Sabbath commandment aims at curing the right rapport, the right relationship of the man with the earth, with things. It hardly enters into man's relationship with man, when it comes to relationships of mercy, piety, compassion and help for life. When you are in the heart of God, always the commandments are read according to the eternal wisdom of God. But when one is not in God's heart, they are read from the foolishness and ignorance of the man. The Pharisees do not love either man or God. They live in a prison of human traditions and do not want that they are in some way affected. Theirs is not a religion. It is real slavery. It is idolatry. Everything is idolatry when the real love for the man is missing. Jesus is in the heart of the Father. He knows what is pleasing to his Father and knows how to love. He is always illuminated by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

*Again he entered the synagogue. There was a man there who had a withered hand. They watched him closely to see if he would cure him on the Sabbath so that they might accuse him. He said to the man with the withered hand, "Come up here before us." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?" But they remained silent. Looking around at them with anger and grieved at their hardness of heart, he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately took counsel with the Herodians against him to put him to death.*

Jesus knows the malice of the Pharisees. He knows their wickedness. Before operating the miracle Jesus puts all consciences before their personal responsibility. For this reason he raises the question: *"Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save a life or to kill it?".* To what Jesus asks there cannot be but one answer. On the Sabbath day you cannot do evil. You have to do only good. You cannot kill. You can only resurrect a life. Here is the wisdom of Jesus: now who wants to accuse him, might not accuse him of having done evil, but he must accuse him of having done good. He saved a life. He did not kill it with his guilty omission, or for a bad and wicked interpretation of the Law of the Lord. The always new intelligence drawn in the Holy Spirit knows how to save Christ Jesus from every omission, omission not only in doing good, but also and above all in teaching the true good to men. Now the consciences know that to love is to save, it is to do good. Whoever wishes to accuse him might do it only for this: for having revealed to men the pure law of love.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints give us the intelligence of love.

### Were pressing upon him to touch him

### Heb 7,25-8,6; Ps 39,7-10.17; Mk 3,7-12.

### 19 JANUARY

In Ancient Scripture there is a multitude of miracles wrought by contact: thing-thing, man-thing, man-man. Moses sweetens the bitter, undrinkable water (Exodus 15.22 to 26). Elijah resurrected the son of the widow of Zarephath by a human-human contact, lying down on top of him and praying (1Kings 17.17 to 24). The first miracle through human contact of things with things, with the water of the day came through the work of Elisha. It's a miracle that deserves our attention. Naaman had refused to obey.

*When Elisha, the man of God, heard that the king of Israel had torn his garments, he sent word to the king: "Why have you torn your garments? Let him come to me and find out that there is a prophet in Israel." Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. The prophet sent him the message: "Go and wash seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will heal, and you will be clean." But Naaman went away angry, saying, "I thought that he would surely come out and stand there to invoke the Lord his God, and would move his hand over the spot, and thus cure the leprosy. Are not the rivers of Damascus, the Abana and the Pharpar, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be cleansed?" With this, he turned about in anger and left. But his servants came up and reasoned with him. "My father," they said, "if the prophet had told you to do something extraordinary, would you not have done it? All the more now, since he said to you, 'Wash and be clean,' should you do as he said." So Naaman went down and plunged into the Jordan seven times at the word of the man of God. His flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean (2Kings 5,8-14).*

 Among the forms of Ancient Scripture - thing-thing, man-thing, man-man - in the Gospels there are no miracles that happened through contact thing-thing. Jesus never intervened about things with things. He used things, especially saliva and mud to heal from blindness. Instead many of his miracles occurred by contact. His body was full of omnipotence. It was enough to touch him with faith to be healed. Sometimes it was he himself who put forth his hand, touched the leper and this healed. The mere word was enough to Jesus. However, this did not prevent him from using even the contact.

What does Jesus want to reveal us through this form, according to which many miracles have taken place? When a body is filled with the Holy Spirit and divine holiness, it also takes part of his omnipotence. A virtue of God possessed in a full way carries with it all other virtues. The miracle that takes place for the sole contact with the body of Christ testifies and reveals that all God dwells in him and is manifested with all his virtues: holiness, omnipotence, charity, intelligence, wisdom, mercy and love. Jesus is the true presence of God in our land. His body attests and reveals it.

*Jesus withdrew toward the sea with his disciples. A large number of people (followed) from Galilee and from Judea. Hearing what he was doing, a large number of people came to him also from Jerusalem, from Idumea, from beyond the Jordan, and from the neighbourhood of Tyre and Sidon. He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him. He had cured many and, as a result, those who had diseases were pressing upon him to touch him. And whenever unclean spirits saw him they would fall down before him and shout, "You are the Son of God." He warned them sternly not to make him known.*

A miracle that we find in the Acts of the Apostles is by shadow contact of the person-sick. Thus the word of Jesus is fulfilled: *"You will do greater works than those made by me."* Jesus could have healed with his shadow, but he did not do it. If the Holy Spirit did not allow this mode, the reasons are in His wisdom.

*Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's portico. None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them. Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured (At 5,12-16).*

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, fill us with true holiness.

### And Judas Iscariot who betrayed him

### Heb 8,6-13; Ps 84,8.10-14; Mk 3,13-19.

**20 JANUARY**

Today the Lord chooses Judas to make of him one of his true apostles, an administrator of his ministries, a minister of Christ, entirely consecrated to the Gospel of Salvation. Why does God chose him despite knowing that he would have been His Son traitor? He chooses him because the Lord does not look at the future of a man, he always looks his present. He chooses him because he wants to show all his love. Just as in times past he had chosen Saul as his king and had revealed him all his piety.

*Then, from a flask he had with him, Samuel poured oil on Saul's head; he also kissed him, saying: "The Lord anoints you commander over his heritage. You are to govern the Lord’s people Israel, and to save them from the grasp of their enemies round about. "This will be the sign for you that the Lord has anointed you commander over his heritage: When you leave me today, you will meet two men near Rachel's tomb at Zelzah in the territory of Benjamin, who will say to you, 'The asses you went to look for have been found. Your father is no longer worried about the asses, but is anxious about you and says, What shall I do about my son?' Farther on, when you arrive at the terebinth of Tabor, you will be met by three men going up to God at Bethel; one will be bringing three kids, another three loaves of bread, and the third a skin of wine. They will greet you and offer you two wave offerings of bread, which you will take from them. After that you will come to Gibeath-elohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines. As you enter that city, you will meet a band of prophets, in a prophetic state, coming down from the high place preceded by lyres, tambourines, flutes and harps. The spirit of the Lord will rush upon you, and you will join them in their prophetic state and will be changed into another man. When you see these signs fulfilled, do whatever you judge feasible, because God is with you (1Sam 10,1-7).*

Saul repeatedly rebelled against the Lord and the Lord decided to remove him. It is a dramatic moment of the first king’s life. Samuel announces him the decision of the Lord.

*Samuel said to Saul: "Stop! Let me tell you what the Lord said to me last night." "Speak!" he replied. Samuel then said: "Though little in your own esteem, are you not leader of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king of Israel and sent you on a mission, saying, 'Go and put the sinful Amalekites under a ban of destruction. Fight against them until you have exterminated them.' Why then have you disobeyed the Lord? You have pounced on the spoil, thus displeasing the Lord." Saul answered Samuel: "I did indeed obey the Lord and fulfill the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought back Agag, and I have destroyed Amalek under the ban. But from the spoil the men took sheep and oxen, the best of what had been banned, to sacrifice to the Lord their God in Gilgal." But Samuel said: "Does the Lord so delight in holocausts and sacrifices as in obedience to the command of the Lord? Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission than the fat of rams. For a sin like divination is rebellion, and presumption is the crime of idolatry. Because you have rejected the command of the Lord, he, too, has rejected you as ruler" (1Sam 15,16-23).*

It is an eternal truth. God chooses because he elected the person as his instrument. It is up to the person to persevere, to ensure that each day the Lord chooses him. God's choice must be moment by moment and that is why the person must grow in obedience.

*He went up the mountain and summoned those whom he wanted and they came to him. He appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) that they might be with him and he might send them forth to preach and to have authority to drive out demons: (he appointed the twelve:) Simon, whom he named Peter; James, son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James, whom he named Boanerges, that is, sons of thunder; Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus; Thaddeus, Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.*

We know that Judas did not grow in the love of Christ the Lord. He did not mature in listening to his Word. He lived with Christ, but did not listen to Christ. He was in pursuit of his thoughts. Walking behind his own thoughts they eventually take over and lead to the death of the spirit and soul. Judah was lost for eternity because of his non-spiritual following of Jesus the Lord.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us worthy of being chosen.

**JANUARY 2017**

## THIRD DECADE OF JANUARY

### For they said, "He is out of his mind"

### Heb 9,2-3.11-14; Ps 46,2-3.6-9; Mk 3,20-21.

**21 JANUARY**

The life of the men of God is not at all easy. David had to pretend to be mad in order to escape certain death. He was then in the land of the Philistines.

*That same day David took to flight from Saul, going to Achish, king of Gath. But the servants of Achish said, "Is this not David, the king of the land? During their dances do they not sing, 'Saul has slain his thousands, but David his ten thousands'?" David took note of these remarks and became very much afraid of Achish, king of Gath. So, as they watched, he feigned insanity and acted like a madman in their hands, drumming on the doors of the gate and drooling onto his beard. Finally Achish said to his servants: "You see the man is mad. Why did you bring him to me? Do I not have enough madmen, that you bring in this one to carry on in my presence? Should this fellow come into my house?" (1Sam 21,11-16).*

When he danced nearly naked before the ark of his God, his wife considered him a nobody, a madman. She retained his discreditable dance, rather dishonourable for a king. Never should have so high a person fallen so low.

*When it was reported to King David that the Lord had blessed the family of Obed-edom and all that belonged to him, David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom into the City of David amid festivities. As soon as the bearers of the ark of the Lord had advanced six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. Then David, girt with a linen apron, came dancing before the Lord with abandon, as he and all the Israelites were bringing up the ark of the Lord with shouts of joy and to the sound of the horn. As the ark of the Lord was entering the City of David, Saul's daughter Michal looked down through the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart. The ark of the Lord was brought in and set in its place within the tent David had pitched for it. Then David offered holocausts and peace offerings before the Lord. When he finished making these offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts. He then distributed among all the people, to each man and each woman in the entire multitude of Israel, a loaf of bread, a cut of roast meat, and a raisin cake. With this, all the people left for their homes. When David returned to bless his own family, Saul's daughter Michal came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has honoured himself today, exposing himself to the view of the slave girls of his followers, as a commoner might do!" But David replied to Michal: "I was dancing before the Lord. As the Lord lives, who preferred me to your father and his whole family when he appointed me commander of the Lord’s people, Israel, not only will I make merry before the Lord, but I will demean myself even more. I will be lowly in your esteem, but in the esteem of the slave girls you spoke of I will be honoured." And so Saul's daughter Michal was childless to the day of her death (2Sam 6,12-23).*

Elisha is considered like a madman by some people. We do know that he was a great man of God. He is a great sign and wonder operator. It is as if nothing was too much for him. He acted with great lightness. It sufficed a word from him.

*When Jehu rejoined his master's servants, they asked him, "Is all well? Why did that madman come to you?" You know that kind of man and his talk, he replied. But they said, "Not at all! Come, tell us." So he told them what the young man had said to him, and finally, "Thus says the Lord: 'I anoint you king over Israel.'" At once each took his garment, spread it under Jehu on the bare steps, blew the trumpet, and cried out, "Jehu is king!" (2Kings 9,11-13).*

Jesus also suffers the same fate of the prophets. He is considered a fool, he is judged as a person beside himself. But who says this, are just his family. Jesus knows that he is alone. Only the Father, the Holy Spirit and His Mother are with him and none other.

*He came home. Again (the) crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat. When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."*

The loneliness of the true prophets testifies and reveals that the world is in falsehood, without the true God. Truth and truth get married. Falsehood and untruth marry in wickedness against the true prophet. Jesus is most pure truth. He is the only existing truth on earth.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us most pure truth of Jesus.

### The kingdom of heaven is at hand

### Is 8,23b-9,3; Ps 26,1.4.13-14; 1 Cor 1,10-13.17; Mt 4,12-23.

### 22 JANUARY – III SUNDAY O.T.

Jesus does not come to *"restore"* the Old Covenant. It would have been sufficient a touch of morality according to the Law of the Father and everything would have remained as before: old rituals, old sacrifices, old temple, old structures, old priesthood, old Scripture, old Law and old God. He is not even one that comes to add something new. This is not his mission. He does not come to add. He comes to give life to the New Covenant, New Rituals. New Priesthood, New God, New Word, New Truth, New Law and New Kingdom. With him one leaves a kingdom and enters another, leaves a religion and enters another.

The conversion that Jesus asks each man, to Jews and Gentiles, is the same for both. The latter and the former must leave their old world and enter the new. In this sense, conversion is the complete change of being and belonging. One becomes what he is not: He belongs to the New Kingdom. All ancient kingdoms in which people lived are left and the New one is entered. Without the exit from the old and the entry into the new of Jesus Christ there is no conversion. While once the conversion was always to the Law of Sinai, that is, to the truth of the past, with Christ the conversion is to the truth that He came to bring onto our earth. One must be converted to his truth and his grace. In other words he must be converted to Him, because He is the Kingdom of God.

As you can see this is a very delicate step. It is a real spiritual death. St. Paul tells us that he considers all that world from which he was torn by the powerful hand of the Lord, junk. Before the sublimity of Jesus that world does not even deserve to be remembered. Yet it is right to be mentioned because it is thanks to that world that he the new can be established. Jesus did not only rain from Heaven. He has also sprouted from that world. Now it is he who must save that world pouring it all in Him, not by acts of force, but calling him to conversion, that is, to go on to Him, to be poured in Him, to be one body with Him.

*When he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen." From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

*As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.*

Examples of conversion are Andrew, Simon, James and John. They live in a world. Jesus passes by. He does not give them some rules so that they can draw better. Neither does he show them any moral rule to practice justice toward men. He calls them to follow him, to go after him. Now they are fishermen in a lake. He will make them fish in the vast sea of ​​the world. They are now intent on fishing for fish. Tomorrow he will make them fishers of men. The craft is the same: fishermen. He changes the place of fishing (the whole world), changes the fishing object (men). The past of these men no longer exists. There are no more in their life boats, nets, water to be sailed, oars to be held. It is an entirely new mission the one that Jesus will give them. Only their body is brought between the past and the future. The soul will be different, just as the spirit, the mind, the heart, feelings and the will, will be different.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, give us the true conversion.

**For they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."**

### Heb 9,15.24-28; Ps 97,1-6; Mk 3,22-30.

**23 JANUARY**

It is a serious omission to ignore certain truths as it is a serious omission not to teach them. Let us read the temptations of Jesus. Let us reflect and let us highlight the truth that underlies them.

*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread." He said in reply, "It is written: 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city, and made him stand on the parapet of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you and 'with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.'" Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me." At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" Then the devil left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him (Mt 4,1-11).*

What is the principle these temptations are based on? On the principle that Jesus feels in an instant the falsehood that Satan uses in order to deceive him. Now let us ask: why does Jesus know the falsity of Satan? Because he is immersed in the full light of the truth and will of the Father in the Holy Spirit. He illuminates the falsehood of the devil in all its manifestations, even the invisible ones for each created mind. Why do not we even see the temptation? Why do we confuse the thought of man with the will of God? Because we are not immersed in the light of the Lord.

The Pharisees do not know Satan. They live in his kingdom of darkness, hatred, resentment, lust, attachment to things of the earth and greedy for money. They are eager for worldly, ephemeral glory. Being they lowered into the abyss of darkness, they can never know God and not knowing God, they can never know the tricks and deceptions of Satan. They do not know him and it is attested by the fact that they are his instruments for the destruction of Christ and they believe they work for their God. This is the worst spiritual state in which they are in. They are in the service of Satan, fight against the truth, destroy salvation, want the death of Christ and crave his disappearance. As *"Satan possessed"* in the mind and heart they only know how to sin against the Holy Spirit.

*The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "By the prince of demons he drives out demons." Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables, "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand; that is the end of him. But no one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder his house. Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin." For they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."*

Who wants to know Satan must know Christ Jesus. Jesus is the source of all true spiritual knowledge. But also who wants to know God, must know Christ the Lord. Who does not know Christ, knows nothing of Heaven, nothing of earth, nothing of hell and of those who inhabit it. Since today many have stopped to know Christ the Lord, not even God and not even the devil are known anymore. But today even man is not known by man in his ontological and spiritual truth, both concerning time and eternity. It is necessary to start from Christ the Lord. One grows in his knowledge and grows in all other knowledge. One lives in the falsity of Him and everything is wrapped in a lie. Even the Church and her ministers can be known only by starting from the purest science of Jesus Christ. One is devoid of the science of Christ, he is necessarily also without the knowledge of the Church's truth and all reality that is lived in her.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, give us the true knowledge of Jesus.

### Who are my mother and (my) brothers?

### Heb 10,1-10; Ps 39,2-3.7-8.10-11; Mk 3,31-35.

### 24 JANUARY

The Virgin Mary is out. However, certainly, she is not the one who sends for Jesus Christ. From the Gospel of Luke we know the answer given to her by her Son in the temple of Jerusalem. The Mother of God knows that the Son must do the will of the Father and she respects him.

*Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced (in) wisdom and age and favour before God and man (Lk 2,41-52).*

The Virgin Mary knows that Jesus must not be searched. For Jesus the rules given by him apply to the supreme so that they are observed by all those who are called to follow him and who of their free will decide to go after him, to place themselves at the service of the Kingdom.

*As they were proceeding on their journey someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." And to another he said, "Follow me." But he replied, "(Lord,) let me go first and bury my father." But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." And another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home." (To him) Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God" (Lk 9,57-62).*

The relatives of Jesus know nothing of the mystery of Jesus and discern nothing. To them looking for him, disturbing him, stopping him from doing the will of the Father and tempting him is unimportant. The Gospel of John tells us that they did not believe in Jesus.

*But the Jewish feast of Tabernacles was near. So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. No one works in secret if he wants to be known publicly. If you do these things, manifest yourself to the world." For his brothers did not believe in him. So Jesus said to them, "My time is not yet here, but the time is always right for you. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me, because I testify to it that its works are evil. You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, because my time has not yet been fulfilled." After he had said this, he stayed on in Galilee (Jn 7,2-9).*

Jesus takes this moment to affirm the truth of the true kinship. For Him there is no kinship according to the flesh. There exists only the one according to the spirit. This relationship is based on listening to his Word. His Word is listened, it is obeyed and we are brothers and sisters and the mother of Jesus. His Word is not listened to, we are like strangers.

*His mother and his brothers arrived. Standing outside they sent word to him and called him. A crowd seated around him told him, "Your mother and your brothers (and your sisters) are outside asking for you." But he said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and (my) brothers?" And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. (For) whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."*

This extraneousness will also be in eternity. Who will be known before the Father as his friend and his family? Who has confessed him before men. Those who before men have not known or were ashamed of Him, He also will be ashamed of them in the eternal kingdom. This rule applies for time and for eternity.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us listeners of the Word.

### They went forth and preached everywhere

### At 22,3-16; or: At 9,1-22; Ps 116,1-2; Mk 16,15-18.

### 25 JANUARY

The Apostles live of listening, just as Christ Jesus lives of listening. As the Lord Jesus lives in an eternal listening to Father in the Holy Spirit, to fulfil his every word, so the apostles have to live in a constant, uninterrupted listening of Christ, to realize his Word. As Christ Jesus has never stopped and will never stop listening to the Father, so the disciples must never stop listening to Christ. One listens to Christ, gives the Word of Christ, lives the Word of Christ and the mission of Christ is carried out. Once interrupted listening to Christ, there is no mission of salvation anymore. Acts of the Apostles show us that it is Christ who speaks to his Church and Christ must be listened to. Even Apocalypse reveals us this truth: the Angel of the Church is invited to listen to what the Spirit says to him. From this listening life is born in the Church.

*The next day, while they were on their way and nearing the city, Peter went up to the roof terrace to pray at about noontime. He was hungry and wished to eat, and while they were making preparations he fell into a trance. He saw heaven opened and something resembling a large sheet coming down, lowered to the ground by its four corners. In it were all the earth's four-legged animals and reptiles and the birds of the sky. A voice said to him, "Get up, Peter. Slaughter and eat." But Peter said, "Certainly not, sir. For never have I eaten anything profane and unclean." The voice spoke to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you are not to call profane." This happened three times, and then the object was taken up into the sky. While Peter was in doubt about the meaning of the vision he had seen, the men sent by Cornelius asked for Simon's house and arrived at the entrance. They called out inquiring whether Simon, who is called Peter, was staying there. As Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said (to him), "There are three men here looking for you. So get up, go downstairs, and accompany them without hesitation, because I have sent them." Then Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your being here?" They answered, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, respected by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to summon you to his house and to hear what you have to say." So he invited them in and showed them hospitality (At 10,9-23).*

*"To the angel of the church in Laodicea, write this: " 'The Amen, the faithful and true witness, the source of God's creation, says this: "I know your works; I know that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, 'I am rich and affluent and have no need of anything,' and yet do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich, and white garments to put on so that your shameful nakedness may not be exposed, and buy ointment to smear on your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and chastise. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. " '"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, (then) I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me. I will give the victor the right to sit with me on my throne, as I myself first won the victory and sit with my Father on his throne. " '"Whoever has ears ought to hear what the Spirit says to the churches"'" (Rev 3,14-22).*

The Apostles always have to live in this listening to Christ the Lord. They must always let themselves be evangelized by him. Only if they are evangelized without interruption they might evangelize. Their truth does not come from Scripture, but from Christ the Lord.

*He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents (with their hands), and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.)*

Christ Jesus is not replaceable with Holy Scripture or with the great theologians of the past or present. Christ Jesus is the living Word the apostle must always listen to.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, evangelize our Church.

### Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves

### 2 Tm 1,1-8; or: Tt 1,1-5; Ps 95,1-3.7-8.10; Lk 10,1-9.

### 26 JANUARY

Man without God is hungry of evil, thirsty of injustice, a slave of wickedness and a prisoner of nastiness; he does not and cannot tolerate that someone comes to remove him from his hellish condition. This man, as a wolf in the evening on the prowl, does not love Christ. He comes to disturb him. He does not even loves his disciples. They, too, come to disturb him, to ruin him, to deprive him of his kingdom, his bread and his water. The prophet Zephaniah sees these wolves of the evening in the heads and leaders of his people. They are the ones who are hungry of evil and thirsty of death. They are the ones who want to eliminate Christ Jesus. All idolaters who crave to wallow in their idolatry are wolves.

*Woe to the rebellious and impure city, to the oppressing city! She did not listen to the voice, she did not accept the correction. She has not trusted in the Lord, she drew not near to her God. Her princes in her midst are roaring lions, her judges are evening wolves, who have not eaten in the morning. Her prophets are light and treacherous persons. Her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they violate the law. In the midst of her the Lord is right, will not do iniquity; every morning gives his judgment, as the light that never fails, but the unjust knows no shame.*

The prophet Micah shows a picture of man without God in bleak. If man is not a worshiper of the true God he cannot be trusted. He lacks in the truth of the good.

*Alas! I am as when the fruit is gathered, as when the vines have been gleaned; There is no cluster to eat, no early fig that I crave. The faithful are gone from the earth, among men the upright are no more! They all lie in wait to shed blood, each one ensnares the other. Their hands succeed at evil; the prince makes demands, The judge is had for a price, The great man speaks as he pleases, The best of them is like a brier, the most upright like a thorn hedge. The day announced by your watchmen! your punishment has come; now is the time of your confusion. Put no trust in a friend, have no confidence in a companion; Against her who lies in your bosom guard the portals of your mouth. For the son dishonours his father, the daughter rises up against her mother, The daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and a man's enemies are those of his household (Mi 7,1-6).*

In this world without God, Jesus sends his disciples so that they bring Him, the one and only Mediator between God and men, the same way that the Father sent Him to manifest through him all his mercy, his charity and his love. What was the end of Jesus on our land? Death by crucifixion? What will the end of many disciples of Jesus be? Martyrdom, the gift of their lives to the truth, the delivery of their blood to the justice of the Father. If this is the end of the disciples, why must they be as wise as serpents? They will have to be careful, wise, smart, because it is not the world that determines when it is time of the end, but the Heavenly Father. For every disciple of Jesus there is a mission to be fulfilled. They might die only after having carried out what they were ordered. Dying before due to foolishness and ignorance, does not make them martyrs, but in defaulting, omitting. They have not fulfilled the mission.

*After this the Lord appointed seventy (-two) others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the labourers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the labourer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.'*

Jesus cannot die when man wants it. He must die when he carried out every word of Scripture. He must die like the true Paschal Lamb. The Passover Lamb is killed the day before. He is very prudent. He does not reveal Judas the place of the celebration of the Last Supper. The Eucharist and priesthood have not yet been instituted.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us be as prudent as Jesus.

### Without parables he did not speak to them

### Heb 10,32-39; Ps 36,3-6.23-24.39-40; Mk 4,26-34.

### 27 JANUARY

The Parable in Ancient Scripture is a prodigious fact of God that never runs out of its understanding. The more you meditate it and the more the amazing powers of salvation and redemption, love and mercy, justice and peace of our God appear in it. All the extraordinary greatness of the Lord is revealed in one event. A perfect example of this contemplation is the Book of Wisdom. It gives the "Parable" of the night of liberation a cosmic significance. It conducts the mind to the unthinkable and the unimaginable. It is the creation that favours liberation.

*But the wicked, merciless wrath assailed until the end. For he knew beforehand what they were yet to do: That though they themselves had agreed to the departure and had anxiously sent them on their way, they would regret it and pursue them. For while they were still engaged in funeral rites and were mourning at the burials of the dead, They adopted another senseless plan; and those whom they had sent away with entreaty, they pursued as fugitives. For a compulsion suited to this ending drew them on, and made them forgetful of what had befallen them, That they might fill out the torments of their punishment, and your people might experience a glorious journey while those others met an extraordinary death. For all creation, in its several kinds, was being made over anew, serving its natural laws, that your children might be preserved unharmed. The cloud overshadowed their camp; and out of what had before been water, dry land was seen emerging: Out of the Red Sea an unimpeded road, and a grassy plain out of the mighty flood. Over this crossed the whole nation sheltered by your hand, after they beheld stupendous wonders. For they ranged about like horses, and bounded about like lambs, praising you, O Lord! their deliverer. For they were still mindful of what had happened in their sojourn: how instead of the young of animals the land brought forth gnats, and instead of fishes the river swarmed with countless frogs. And later they saw also a new kind of bird when, prompted by desire, they asked for pleasant foods; For to appease them quail came to them from the sea.*

*And the punishments came upon the sinners only after forewarnings from the violence of the thunderbolts. For they justly suffered for their own misdeeds, since indeed they treated their guests with the more grievous hatred. For those others did not receive unfamiliar visitors, but these were enslaving beneficent guests. And not that only; but what punishment was to be theirs since they received strangers unwillingly! Yet these, after welcoming them with festivities, oppressed with awful toils those who now shared with them the same rights. And they were struck with blindness, as those others had been at the portals of the just - When, surrounded by yawning darkness, each sought the entrance of his own gate. For the elements, in variable harmony among themselves, like strings of the harp, produce new melody, while the flow of music steadily persists. And this can be perceived exactly from a review of what took place. For land creatures were changed into water creatures, and those that swam went over on to the land. Fire in water maintained its own strength, and water forgot its quenching nature; Flames, by contrast, neither consumed the flesh of the perishable animals that went about in them, nor melted the ice like, quick-melting kind of ambrosial food. For every way, O Lord! you magnified and glorified your people; unfailing, you stood by them in every time and circumstance (Wis 19,1-22).*

Have we understood the meaning of the *"parables"* of Jesus? They do not tell the past. They show that ever new future that the apostles of Jesus must build on our earth through the sowing of the Word.

*He said, “This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come." He said, "To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.*

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, give us the truth of the Parables.

### They took him with them in the boat just as he was

### Heb 11,1-2.8-19; Ps Lk 1,68-75; Mk 4,35-41.

### 28 JANUARY

All the difficulty encountered by the Angels in making Lot get out of Sodom is told in the Holy Scripture. He was in danger of being swept away by the fire with his own family.

*Then the angels said to Lot: "Who else belongs to you here? Your sons (sons-in-law) and your daughters and all who belong to you in the city - take them away from it! We are about to destroy this place, for the outcry reaching the Lord against those in the city is so great that he has sent us to destroy it." So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had contracted marriage with his daughters. "Get up and leave this place," he told them; "the Lord is about to destroy the city." But his sons-in-law thought he was joking. As dawn was breaking, the angels urged Lot on, saying, "On your way! Take with you your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city." When he hesitated, the men, by the Lord’s mercy, seized his hand and the hands of his wife and his two daughters and led them to safety outside the city.*

*As soon as they had been brought outside, he was told: "Flee for your life! Don't look back or stop anywhere on the Plain. Get off to the hills at once, or you will be swept away." "Oh, no, my lord!" replied Lot. "You have already thought enough of your servant to do me the great kindness of intervening to save my life. But I cannot flee to the hills to keep the disaster from overtaking me, and so I shall die. Look, this town ahead is near enough to escape to. It's only a small place. Let me flee there - it's a small place, isn't it? - that my life may be saved." "Well, then," he replied, "I will also grant you the favour you now ask. I will not overthrow the town you speak of. Hurry, escape there! I cannot do anything until you arrive there." That is why the town is called Zoar. The sun was just rising over the earth as Lot arrived in Zoar; at the same time the Lord rained down sulphurous fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah (from the Lord out of heaven). He overthrew those cities and the whole Plain, together with the inhabitants of the cities and the produce of the soil. But Lot's wife looked back, and she was turned into a pillar of salt (Gen 19,12-26).*

 Jesus reveals us through his life - *they took him in the boat with them as he was* - that when it is time to move from the earth to eternity, from finite to timeless time, there is no way to be able to prepare, nor is there a way you can linger as Lot did with the Angels. The time comes, we leave, just as we are. One is in the grace of God, he reaches eternity in God's grace. One is an idolater, he gets there as an idolater. One is evil, wicked and bad, he enters the other world as a wicked, evil and bad person. Just as we are, so we leave and so we arrive. But then comes the judgment and the Lord will deliver his judgment looking at our life as it is. As it is, so it remains forever. Knowing this, everyone has to commit all his energy to prepare an excellent eternity. Going into the other world as wicked and evil means being excluded from Paradise forever. The wicked and evil will end up in eternal darkness. Then why not be prepared? We do not prepare because like Lot's sons-in-law we think that Jesus jokes with us. He speaks to us of hell, but only as a scarecrow in a cucumber field, the Holy Scripture says. Eternity will reveal to us that every Word of Jesus is true.

*On that day, as evening drew on, he said to them, "Let us cross to the other side." Leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?" They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"*

We can be like Lot's sons-in-law and dwell in the everlasting flames of the fire that never goes out, or we can believe in Christ and begin a substantial, radical change in our lives. Everything depends on our faith. It is the truth. The earth must be left just as we are. We will take nothing with us of what is material. We will bring our soul that can be either light or darkness, cloaked in virtue, or smeared with every vice. Just as we are we will be presented before God for judgment.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us ready for eternity.

### Your reward will be great in heaven

### Soph 2,3;3,12-13; Ps 145,6b-10; 1 Cor 1,26-31; Mt 5,1-12a.

### 29 JANUARY – IV SUNDAY O.T.

Jesus came to offer every man an exchange: we give Him in and throughout time the body, soul and spirit and He will eternally give us his very glory, will transform us into spirit and light as He will be transformed into spirit and light. The exchange that the Father offered Him, He offers it to us. The Father asked him to become a man and to give him all his humanity, for as long as he would have remained on earth and also after in order to make his *"sacrament"* of salvation for all humanity. Jesus asks the same thing to all of his disciples: the gift of their body, their soul, their spirit to make in time and eternity the continuation and perpetuation of what the Father has made of him: the sacrament of his true salvation and true redemption.

Who wants to know how the body, soul and spirit will be donated to Jesus, he must be daily immersed in the contemplation of his Master. He must always observe and contemplate Him; meditate, reflect and think on Him. He cannot do this mind and heart activity, trusting in his science, even if it is theologically perfect. The true connoisseur of Christ Jesus is only one: the Holy Spirit. The Christian must ask the Spirit of the Lord, with an uninterrupted prayer that he is his "divine Theologian" and every day talks to him of Christ, enlightens him on his mystery, introduces him into the depth of his incarnation, his mission, his death, his glorious resurrection and ascension into heaven. That is how St. Paul prayed for the Christians.

*Therefore, I, too, hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus and of your love for all the holy ones, do not cease giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of (your) hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way (Eph 1,15-23).*

The Beatitudes are the life of Christ Jesus transformed into *"Word."* We can understand the *"Word"* when we will understand his life and for that we need the constant help of the Holy Spirit. However, the Spirit does not speak in the din, the noise, the distraction and the squandering of our time. He speaks and teaches in silence. He teaches on the mountain, retreating each with God.

*When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because* *of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

Moses gave the Law on the Mount, from near God. Jesus gave the New Law on the mountain, from near God. On the mountain, from near God revealed his glory and the truth of his mission. On the mountain near God, he lived all the Law giving it every accomplishment. On the mountain he gave his disciples the mission of evangelization. Everything from God, near God, in God, with Him, through Him. But if we do not enter into the perfect knowledge of Christ, the Beatitudes will be transformed into an unnecessary moral code. It is made a noble morality and not rather the perpetual contemplation of Christ in order to be like Him in everything.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, give us to contemplate Christ.

### Send us into the swine. Let us enter them

### Heb 11,32-40; Ps 30,20-24; Mk 5,1-20.

### 30 JANUARY

What happens to the land of the Gerasenes must help every man to understand the mystery of man. For this we must ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand the mystery of Jesus Christ and the Heavenly Father. To save the man the Father puts into the hands of evil his Son and evil crucifies him on Golgotha. For the salvation of the man Jesus offers himself in sacrifice of love for the redemption of the creature made by God in his image. Here is the explanation of what is happening in the country of the Gerasenes. If God, the Creator and Lord, for the salvation of man delivers his Eternal Son, made man to death, will there be anything of earth and heaven that he might spare? What are two thousand pigs before the salvation of a man? Less than a speck of soil dust. Man is before all things and all things are in his service, in the service of his life for time and for eternity.

We are stating it repeatedly. The religion of Jesus is not a *"modernization"* of ancient morality with the addition of some code of specification or embellishment. The religion of Christ is a total change of the vision of the whole mystery of God and man. First, with Moses, everything was watched from Mount Sinai, from the majesty and the glory of God that manifested himself among lightning, thunder and deafening sounds. Now, with Christ, everything has to be looked at from Mount Golgotha. Here there is not the Lord that shows his glory. There is the crucified, humiliated, delivered to death God, pierced for love of man. If we look at the man from the Crucified we will understand and know his eternal value. If the look from the Crucifix escapes us, then a dog, a cat and another animal are worth more than any man. Who does not look at the Crucified One will always sacrifice the man to animals and things. Things and animals deserve the sacrifice of the man.

*They came to the other side of the sea, to the territory of the Gerasenes. When he got out of the boat, at once a man from the tombs who had an unclean spirit met him. The man had been dwelling among the tombs, and no one could restrain him any longer, even with a chain. In fact, he had frequently been bound with shackles and chains, but the chains had been pulled apart by him and the shackles smashed, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the hillsides he was always crying out and bruising himself with stones. Catching sight of Jesus from a distance, he ran up and prostrated himself before him, crying out in a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me!" (He had been saying to him, "Unclean spirit, come out of the man!") He asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "Legion is my name. There are many of us." And he pleaded earnestly with him not to drive them away from that territory. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside. And they pleaded with him, "Send us into the swine. Let us enter them." And he let them, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine. The herd of about two thousand rushed down a steep bank into the sea, where they were drowned.*

*The swineherds ran away and reported the incident in the town and throughout the countryside. And people came out to see what had happened. As they approached Jesus, they caught sight of the man who had been possessed by Legion, sitting there clothed and in his right mind. And they were seized with fear. Those who witnessed the incident explained to them what had happened to the possessed man and to the swine. Then they began to beg him to leave their district. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed pleaded to remain with him. But he would not permit him but told him instead, "Go home to your family and announce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you." Then the man went off and began to proclaim in the Decapolis what Jesus had done for him; and all were amazed.*

Since Jesus comes to give man a new look, to teach him how everything must be viewed from his Cross, the man asks him to leave his territory. Jesus did not come to impose his vision. He has indicated that world how much a man is worth for Him: more than two thousand pigs. He can even go; however, the problem to be solved remains. Who is more important: a man or a pig, a thousand pigs? Who is worth the sacrifice of the other: the pig for the man or the man for the pig? When man will have solved this problem, he will know who he is, otherwise he will always be sacrificed to the pig.

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, give us the truth of Christ Jesus.

### Why trouble the teacher any longer?

### Heb 12,1-4; Ps 21,26-28.30-32; Mk 5,21-43.

**31 JANUARY**

Holy Scripture reveals to us that there are two beliefs that govern the life of a man to the fullness of truth and justice. The first faith is listening to God who speaks and obedience to His Word. The Lord speaks, the man listens and obeys. It is true faith. Never can we speak of faith, when there is no obedience to the Word heard or its realization in history. Life on our earth is born of that faith of pure listening. Noah listens to the Lord and humanity is saved. Abraham hears the Lord and for his obedience, because He has obeyed, blessings will cover the nations. The second belief is the one manifested by man in the truest essence of God. How might is the Lord Almighty? How much is he able to operate? God teaches his people to always believe in his creative and saving omnipotence. Nothing is impossible to Him. Indeed it is He who reveals, manifests Himself and is announced as the Almighty. This revelation begins already from the first book of Scripture, from Genesis.

*When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said: "I am God the Almighty. Walk in my presence and be blameless. May God Almighty bless you and make you fertile, multiply you that you may become an assembly of peoples. God also said to him: "I am God Almighty; be fruitful and multiply. A nation, indeed an assembly of nations, shall stem from you, and kings shall issue from your loins. May God Almighty dispose the man to be merciful toward you, so that he may let your other brother go, as well as Benjamin. As for me, if I am to suffer bereavement, I shall suffer it."  Jacob then said to Joseph: "God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessing me, The God of your father, who helps you, God Almighty, who blesses you, With the blessings of the heavens above, the blessings of the abyss that crouches below, The blessings of breasts and womb (Gen 17,1; 28,3; 35,11; 43,14; 48,3; 49, 25).*

The bleeding, or haemorrhage woman, believes in the omnipotence of Jesus. It suffices that she touches even his cloak and she will heal. Purest faith in the essence and truth of Jesus. Jairus before the announcement of death, must change his faith in Christ. From the faith that He can help in sickness, to the faith that He can deliver from death. Who helps the man in this passage is Jesus Lord.

*When Jesus had crossed again (in the boat) to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea. One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward. Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, "My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live." He went off with him, and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him. There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured." Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who has touched my clothes?" But his disciples said to him, "You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, 'Who touched me?'" And he looked around to see who had done it. The woman, realizing what had happened to her, approached in fear and trembling. She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction."*

*While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official's house arrived and said, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?" Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid; just have faith." He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. So he went in and said to them, "Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep." And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out. He took along the child's father and mother and those who were with him and entered the room where the child was. He took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. (At that) they were utterly astounded. He gave strict orders that no one should know this and said that she should be given something to eat.*

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, give us a mature and full faith.