**JULY 2018**

## FIRST DECADE OF JULY

# DO NOT BE AFRAID; JUST HAVE FAITH

# Wis 1,13-15; 2,23-24; Ps 29; 2 Cor 8,7.9.13-15; Mk 5,21-43

### 1 JULY

Today the Gospel puts our heart before three ways of believing in the omnipotence of Lord Jesus. A father asks Jesus to go to his house to give healing to his dying daughter. This man believes that Jesus is able to heal the body from diseases. He believes and asks. The Lord hears the cry of this afflicted father and devoid of all human hope and gets on his way with him. On the other hand, a woman afflicted by an incurable disease lives a second way. She believes that Christ should not even be asked. All you need is a physical contact, even with your cloak and she certainly would have been healed. Where no doctor succeeded, with Jesus everything would have been solved in an instant. So she believes. That's how it is. She touches his cloak and her illness disappears. Jesus asks the woman to make the miracle public. Hers is a faith that cannot remain hidden. The world must know what Jesus is capable of doing with his body. Tomorrow millions and millions of people will not only touch the real, true and substantial body of Lord Jesus. They will also feed on it, because Jesus will give it as his nourishment. Now if only by touching the hem of the mantle the woman is healed, will there perhaps be an impossible miracle for the one who eats it with the same faith? We should all reflect when we approach the Eucharist. The body of Christ is the true omnipotence of the transformation of our whole life. But it must be taken with true faith.

*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 haemorrhages 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.*

While Jesus is on his way to the house of Jairus, his daughter dies. Is there still space for Christ Jesus or does his omnipotence stop before death? For some people the Master is no longer needed. In front of a cold corpse he must also put himself aside. Jesus knows himself. He knows who He is and reassures Jairus telling him not to fear and to have only faith. When someone is told to have faith, we must be sure of the truth of our every word. The other is asked to found his life on the word we tell him. This is the third mode of true faith.

Mother of Jesus, Angels and Saints ensure that our word is always worthy of true faith.

# TEACHER, I WILL FOLLOW YOU WHEREVER YOU GO

# Am 2,6-10; Ps 49; Mt 8,18-22

### 2 JULY

A man manifests to Jesus the desire to follow him: *"Master, I will follow you wherever you go"*. Evidently he does not know where Jesus is headed: to Mount Golgotha ​​to be Crucified. This is the landing of his pilgrimage to our land. The Master answers him that the birds of the sky have their nests, the foxes their holes, but the Son of man has no place to lay his head. Whoever wants to follow Jesus must take his walking stick because with him we know where we start from, but we do not know where we are going, because He is moved at all times by the Holy Spirit. What Jesus said to Nicodemus about the Holy Spirit is valid for him before than anybody else.

*"Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" (Jn 3,5-8).*

With Jesus we go far beyond the very profession of love made by Ruth towards her mother-in-law.

*Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's house! May the Lord be kind to you as you were to the departed and to me! May the Lord grant each of you a husband and a home in which you will find rest." She kissed them good-bye, but they wept with loud sobs, and told her they would return with her to her people. "Go back, my daughters!" said Naomi. "Why should you come with me? Have I other sons in my womb who may become your husbands? Go back, my daughters! Go, for I am too old to marry again. And even if I could offer any hopes, or if tonight I had a husband or had borne sons, would you then wait and deprive yourselves of husbands until those sons grew up? No, my daughters! my lot is too bitter for you, because the Lord has extended his hand against me." Again they sobbed aloud and wept; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-bye, but Ruth stayed with her. "See now!" she said, "your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her god. Go back after your sister-in-law!" But Ruth said, "Do not ask me to abandon or forsake you! for wherever you go I will go, wherever you lodge I will lodge, your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Wherever you die I will die, and there be buried. May the Lord do so and so to me, and more besides, if aught but death separates me from you!"* *(Rut 1,8-17).*

Her mother-in-law is returning to Bethlehem, to the house she had left. Jesus is also returning to the eternal house He left to come to the earth for our redemption, but He will have to go through the stairs of the cross. If this man wants to follow Jesus, he must forget his mind, heart, desires, body, will, aspirations, vices and every comfort of this world and set out behind Christ. The life of Jesus must be his life, without any difference. He must be delivered to the will of God.

*When Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side. A scribe approached and said to him, "Teacher, 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." Another of (his) disciples said to him, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father." But Jesus answered him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead."*

One of the disciples asks Jesus for permission to go first to bury his father. First he fulfils the obligations of the human tradition. Then he will be ready to follow Jesus. The answer is immediate: *"Follow me and let the dead bury their dead"*. The following of Jesus declares null every tradition and custom of the earth. Between Jesus and the disciple there must be no other thing except following him and walking behind the Master. When the sequel hinders even a tiny thought, it must be abandoned, left. If one thought intervenes between the disciple and the Master, the following is not perfect. If then thoughts are added to thoughts, it leads to the end and dies.

Faithful Virgin, Angels and Saints make us true disciples of Jesus according to the divine will.

# DO NOT BE UNBELIEVING, BUT BELIEVE

# Et 2.19-22; Ps 116; Jn 20,24-29

### 3 JULY

St. Paul, a great teacher in things concerning God, reveals to us that faith is born of preaching. But it is up to the preacher of the faith to make himself credible in every word. How mght this happen? Filling his heart with the Holy Spirit and always drawing his word of faith from the heart of the Spirit of the Lord. When the Word is the bearer of the Spirit of the Lord, it penetrates the heart and enlightens it, convincing it of the truth of what has been heard. Disciple, Word and Holy Spirit must be one just as they are one thing in Christ the Lord.

*But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring (the) good news!" But not everyone has heeded the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what was heard from us?" Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ (Rm 10,14-17). For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes. Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself (1Cor 11,23-29). Now I am reminding you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you indeed received and in which you also stand. Through it you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures; that he appeared to Kephas, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me. For I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective. Indeed, I have toiled harder than all of them; not I, however, but the grace of God (that is) with me. Therefore, whether it be I or they, so we preach and so you believed (1Cor 15,1-11).*

Jesus answers the request of Thomas. But he asks him not to be incredulous, but a believer. From this moment man is constituted the source and spring of the faith of man, the brother principle of the faith of the brother, the friend of the friend and the disciple of the disciple. This faith always obliges everyone. Who is the source of faith for others, must pay every attention so that the truth he announces is pure and without any contamination. Everyone is responsible for every impurity placed in the Word of faith.

*Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."*

If man is the source of faith for man, every disciple of Jesus every day is obliged to verify the purity of his source. The water must be very pure.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, ensure that the water of the Christian faith is always true.

# SEND US INTO THE HERD OF SWINE

# Am 5,14-15.21-24; Ps 49; Mt 8,28-34

### 4 JULY

Jesus knows that by allowing the impure spirits to enter into the pigs, he would have been turned away from the territory and his mission in that region would have found obstacles from the inhabitants of the place. Why then does he let a bunch of pigs to be drowned in the lake? The reason is to be found in his person. He is the Eternal God, the Only Son of the Father, comes to our earth and for the salvation of man let himself be nailed by Satan and his satellites on the cross. He gives his body to the Father, making it a holocaust of redemption and eternal salvation for humanity. Now, if before the salvation of a man, God himself annihilates himself, annuls himself, can there exist on earth anything that can be spared? The whole universe is not worth a soul. If on the one hand we have a man to redeem and on the other all the material reality to be saved, man has absolute priority. The man is saved, everything is saved. Man is lost, everything is lost. Every man must apply this law of redemption both for himself and for every other person. It is a universal law. Jesus puts it as the law of his sequel. The salvation of the soul is worth the loss of the personal body.

*Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to another. Amen, I say to you, you will not finish the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, for the slave that he become like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household! "Therefore do not be afraid of them. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father (Mt 10,21-33). Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? (Mt 16,24-26).*

Now everyone knows that the salvation of a man is worth the gift of his own life, it is worth his martyrdom, consequently it is also valid the end of a mission in a particular place. For similar choices it is necessary to have the heart of the Father and the eyes of the Holy Spirit.

*When he came to the other side, to the territory of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs who were coming from the tombs met him. They were so savage that no one could travel by that road. They cried out, "What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the appointed time?" Some distance away a herd of many swine was feeding. The demons pleaded with him, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go then!" They came out and entered the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea where they drowned. The swineherds ran away, and when they came to the town they reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. Thereupon the whole town came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him they begged him to leave their district.*

The teaching of Jesus is a stern warning to the man who sacrifices man, preferring to him things or even animals. Man comes from the heart of the Father and is worth as much as Christ Jesus Crucified. His value is eternal. Creation is not worth a man.

Wise Virgin, Angels and Saints, teach every man the truth about man.

# WHY DO YOU HARBOUR EVIL THOUGHTS?

# Am 7,10-17; Ps 18; Mt 9,1-8

### 5 JULY

Sometimes, reading the Gospel, one gets the impression that the scribes never read the Old Scriptures. But even in our day, hearing many ministers of the Word speak, many professors and teachers of it, it seems that they have never read the Gospel. If a non-Christian, a pagan, takes up the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and reads it, he would immediately notice the abysmal difference between what it says both in the letter and in the spirit, from what ministers, professors and doctors in charge of its teaching, say. Where does the cause of such an abysmal distance between the revealed Word and the announced Word reside? Between the truth descended from heaven and the falsehood that comes from the mouths of men? The reasons for the transformation of truth into falsity are all to be found in the heart of man. When the heart is bad or of stone or evil, since the mouth always draws the word from it, what is inside comes out.

Jesus says it clearly: "Why do you think evil things in your heart?" The apostle James reveals to us that the mouth is connected, well connected with the Gehenna of fire. When the heart is bad, the tongue draws the words from hell and pours them to the earth. Pure heart, pure word. Evil, bad heart, words of hell.

*Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you realize that we will be judged more strictly, for we all fall short in many respects. If anyone does not fall short in speech, he is a perfect man, able to bridle his whole body also. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we also guide their whole bodies. It is the same with ships: even though they are so large and driven by fierce winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot's inclination wishes. In the same way the tongue is a small member and yet has great pretensions. Consider how small a fire can set a huge forest ablaze. The tongue is also a fire. It exists among our members as a world of malice, defiling the whole body and setting the entire course of our lives on fire, itself set on fire by Gehenna. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. This need not be so, my brothers. Does a spring gush forth from the same opening both pure and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, produce olives, or a grapevine figs? Neither can salt water yield fresh (Jm 3,1-12).*

Who wants to have pure eyes to see everything according to the heart of God, must have a pure heart, without sin. Whoever wishes to always say a word of pure truth, the same that is in the thoughts of the Lord, must dwell in the Word, lending it perfect obedience. Impure eyes and unclean word reveal that we are not in God. If we are not in him, we cannot even see and speak from his light.

*He entered a boat, made the crossing, and came into his own town. And there people brought to him a paralytic lying on a stretcher. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Courage, child, your sins are forgiven." At that, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." Jesus knew what they were thinking, and said, "Why do you harbour evil thoughts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"  - he then said to the paralytic, "Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He rose and went home. When the crowds saw this they were struck with awe and glorified God who had given such authority to human beings.*

History always reveals the thoughts of the heart. If Jesus can heal a man, it is a sign that He comes from God. If He comes from God, every Word of his comes from God. It is God's the word that forgives sin and is from God the word that gives perfect healing. The visible miracle makes the invisible miracle true. Impure heart, always unclean mind!

Most Pure Virgin, Angels and Saints, purify our hearts of evilness and wickedness.

# SITTING AT THE CUSTOMS POST

# Am 8,4-6.9-12; Ps 118; Mt 9,9-13

### 6 JULY

Jesus was not sent to a region of Saints to choose among them people to send them to preach the Gospel in the land of pagan and sinful people. He is sent in the midst of a people with unclean lips and heart and it is from this people that he will have to choose the men that tomorrow will continue his mission of salvation and redemption. Levi is not in the temple like Isaiah. He is at the tax desk. He exercises the profession of tax collector on behalf of the pagans. He is a public sinner. It is as if he were exercising the ministry of sin. For everyone he is a man with an impure heart.

*In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne, with the train of his garment filling the temple. Seraphim were stationed above; each of them had six wings: with two they veiled their faces, with two they veiled their feet, and with two they hovered aloft. "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts!" they cried one to the other. "All the earth is filled with his glory!" At the sound of that cry, the frame of the door shook and the house was filled with smoke. Then I said, "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, holding an ember which he had taken with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with it. "See," he said, "now that this has touched your lips, your wickedness is removed, your sin purged." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said; "send me!" (Is 6,1-8).*

Levi does not see the Lord sitting on a very high throne. But he listens to the voice of the Holy Spirit, that through the Word of Jesus, more than burning coal, enters his heart and in a single moment purifies, renews, regenerates and illuminates it. Isaiah offers himself. Levi is moved, attracted, dragged away from the tax stand by the Holy Spirit and led to Lord Jesus. We can say that at the tax desk the same prodigy occurred that took place in Elisabeth's heart just as she heard Maria's greeting.

*During those days Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled" (Lc 1,39-45).*

But the Pharisee understands nothing of the works of the Spirit of the Lord. He speaks from his bad and evil heart, closed in his *"holiness"* of sin that makes him unable to perceive the things of the Spirit God. The other sinners instead see the prodigies of the Spirit and believe that they can be performed by Jesus even in them and they approach him with great joy. There can also be salvation for them as for Levi.

*As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man named Matthew 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 came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."*

Before the encounter with the Holy Spirit occurs, the heart is always of stone. After the Spirit of the Lord is met, it becomes of flesh. In it, the Spirit can write the will of God. Levi leaves the tax desk and follows Jesus, because by now he knows what God has written in his heart. This divine rule applies to every disciple of Jesus. Whoever wants hearts to change must be filled with the Holy Spirit, like Jesus.

Most Pure Virgin, Angels and Saints ensure that our word is filled with the Holy Spirit.

# THEN THEY WILL FAST

# Am 9,11-15; Ps 84; Mt 9,14-17

### 7 JULY

The Spirit of the Lord knows what is in every heart and responds according to the heart of the other. His every answer is drawn in his most pure wisdom and knowledge. Jesus is full of the Holy Spirit. From his wisdom he takes every Word. He gives his disciples this same rule. It will be the Spirit of God to put the right Word on their lips, especially when they will find themselves in the courts. For this reason they will not have to worry.

*I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others the Son of Man will acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God. "Everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but the one who blasphemes against the holy Spirit will not be forgiven. When they take you before synagogues and before rulers and authorities, do not worry about how or what your defence will be or about what you are to say. For the holy Spirit will teach you at that moment what you should say" (Lk 12,8-12). Paul was aware that some were Sadducees and some Pharisees, so he called out before the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, the son of Pharisees; (I) am on trial for hope in the resurrection of the dead." When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and Sadducees, and the group became divided. For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection or angels or spirits, while the Pharisees acknowledge all three. A great uproar occurred, and some scribes belonging to the Pharisee party stood up and sharply argued, "We find nothing wrong with this man. Suppose a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" The dispute was so serious that the commander, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, ordered his troops to go down and rescue him from their midst and take him into the compound. The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage. For just as you have borne witness to my cause in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness in Rome" (At 23,6-11).*

Nehemiah does not know what to answer to the king. First he prays. Then he answers. This man is certain that the Lord will put the right word on his mouth for his king.

*In the month Nisan of the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when the wine was in my charge, I took some and offered it to the king. As I had never before been sad in his presence, the king asked me, "Why do you look sad? If you are not sick, you must be sad at heart." Though I was seized with great fear, I answered the king: "May the king live forever! How could I not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been eaten out by fire?" The king asked me, "What is it, then, that you wish?" I prayed to the God of heaven and then answered the king: "If it please the king, and if your servant is deserving of your favour, send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors' graves, to rebuild it" (Ne 2,1-5).*

Esther must speak to the king. She asks for the right word to say. But this is not enough for her. The Lord must move the heart of the king to believe in her words.

*Remember, Lord, be manifest in the day of our affliction and give me courage, O king of the gods and ruler of all power. Put a well-measured word in my mouth in front of the lion and turn his heart to hatred against him who fights us, for his extermination and those who agree with him. As for us, save us with your hand and come to my aid, because I am alone and I have no other than you, Lord! (Esth 4,17r-17t).*

In the Holy Spirit, Jesus knows what word to say. Today we do not say a word of light. Only one word is needed to bring peace to the hearts. This word is also rich with light. Jesus reveals himself as the true spouse of the disciples, just as God is the spouse of his people.

*Then the disciples of John approached him and said, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast (much), but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one patches an old cloak with a piece of unshrunken cloth, for its fullness pulls away from the cloak and the tear gets worse. People do not put new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. Rather, they pour new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved."*

Wise Virgin, Angels and Saints ensure that the Christian always speaks from the Holy Spirit.

# WHERE DID THIS MAN GET ALL THIS?

# Ez 2,2-5; Ps 122; 2Cor 12,7-10; Mk 6,1-6

### 8 JULY

The people that do not know the Holy Scriptures are condemned to eternal blindness. The principle and the foundation for understanding what is happening before their eyes is lacking. The Lord takes Cyrus, a pagan, and constitutes him an instrument of his salvation. The God of Abraham is not the God that created, but the God that creates today.

*Thus says the Lord to his anointed, Cyrus, whose right hand I grasp, Subduing nations before him, and making kings run in his service, Opening doors before him and leaving the gates unbarred: I will go before you and level the mountains; Bronze doors I will shatter, and iron bars I will snap. I will give you treasures out of the darkness, and riches that have been hidden away, That you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name. For the sake of Jacob, my servant, of Israel my chosen one, I have called you by your name, giving you a title, though you knew me not. I am the Lord and there is no other, there is no God besides me. It is I who arm you, though you know me not, so that toward the rising and the setting of the sun men may know that there is none besides me. I am the Lord, there is no other; I form the light, and create the darkness, I make well-being and create woe; I, the Lord, do all these things. Let justice descend, O heavens, like dew from above, like gentle rain let the skies drop it down. Let the earth open and salvation bud forth; let justice also spring up! I, the Lord, have created this. Woe to him who contends with his Maker; a potsherd among potsherds of the earth! Dare the clay say to its modeller, "What are you doing?" or, "What you are making has no hands"? Woe to him who asks a father, "What are you begetting?" or a woman, "What are you giving birth to?" Thus says the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, his maker: You question me about my children, or prescribe the work of my hands for me! It was I who made the earth and created mankind upon it; It was my hands that stretched out the heavens; I gave the order to all their host. It was I who stirred up one for the triumph of justice; all his ways I make level. He shall rebuild my city and let my exiles go free Without price or ransom, says the Lord of hosts.*

*Thus says the Lord: The earnings of Egypt, the gain of Ethiopia, and the Sabeans, tall of stature, Shall come over to you and belong to you; they shall follow you, coming in chains. Before you they shall fall prostrate, saying in prayer: "With you only is God, and nowhere else; the gods are nought. Truly with you God is hidden, the God of Israel, the saviour! Those are put to shame and disgrace who vent their anger against him; Those go in disgrace who carve images. Israel, you are saved by the Lord, saved forever! You shall never be put to shame or disgrace in future ages." For thus says the Lord, The creator of the heavens, who is God, The designer and maker of the earth who established it, Not creating it to be a waste, but designing it to be lived in: I am the Lord, and there is no other. I have not spoken from hiding nor from some dark place of the earth, And I have not said to the descendants of Jacob, "Look for me in an empty waste." I, the Lord, promise justice, I foretell what is right. Come and assemble, gather together, you fugitives from among the gentiles! They are without knowledge who bear wooden idols and pray to gods that cannot save. Come here and declare in counsel together: Who announced this from the beginning and foretold it from of old? Was it not I, the Lord, besides whom there is no other God? There is no just and saving God but me. Turn to me and be safe, all you ends of the earth, for I am God; there is no other! By myself I swear, uttering my just decree and my unalterable word: To me every knee shall bend; by me every tongue shall swear, Saying, "Only in the Lord are just deeds and power. Before him in shame shall come all who vent their anger against him. In the Lord shall be the vindication and the glory of all the descendants of Israel" (Is 45.1-25).*

Jesus is God Himself in his person and eternal divine nature. He is the Son to whom the Father has placed all things in his hands. He is the Son made flesh wrapped with Holy Spirit. Here is the origin of his wisdom and also of all the miracles He accomplishes.

*He departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith. He went around to the villages in the vicinity teaching.*

The people of Nazareth see the flesh, but not the person to whom the flesh belongs. They see the poverty of human origins, they do not see the power of divine origins.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, give us the perfect knowledge of the Holy Scriptures.

# THE GIRL IS NOT DEAD

# Hos 2,16.17b-18.21-22; Ps 144; Mt 9,18-26

### 9 JULY

Every prophecy uttered by God in the Old Testament finds in Christ perfect and complete fulfilment. Jesus is the one who opens our sepulchres. He opens the sepulchre of sin in which the heart is held prisoner in order to give it full freedom. He also opens the sepulchre of death to restore life to our body which is in the dissolution and disintegration of dust. A sign of this universal openness are the hearts that are converted, but also the body in which life returns to life through the omnipotence of Jesus.

*The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he led me out in the spirit of the Lord and set me in the centre of the plain, which was now filled with bones. He made me walk among them in every direction so that I saw how many they were on the surface of the plain. How dry they were! He asked me: Son of man, can these bones come to life? "Lord God," I answered, "you alone know that." Then he said to me: Prophesy over these bones, and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! Thus says the Lord God to these bones: See! I will bring spirit into you, that you may come to life. I will put sinews upon you, make flesh grow over you, cover you with skin, and put spirit in you so that you may come to life and know that I am the Lord. I prophesied as I had been told, and even as I was prophesying I heard a noise; it was a rattling as the bones came together, bone joining bone. I saw the sinews and the flesh come upon them, and the skin cover them, but there was no spirit in them. Then he said to me: Prophesy to the spirit, prophesy, son of man, and say to the spirit: Thus says the Lord God: From the four winds come, O spirit, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life. I prophesied as he told me, and the spirit came into them; they came alive and stood upright, a vast army.*

*Then he said to me: Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They have been saying, "Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are cut off." Therefore, prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord (Ez 37,1-14).*

Jesus came to open every sepulchre that holds man prisoner: sepulchre of the body, of the heart, of the soul, of the spirit, of the will and of the desires. Only Christ the Lord can open our sepulchres. Only He possesses the key and the omnipotence, the light and the grace to do it. All the others can beautify the tombs, but not free from them. This difference must necessarily be made, especially today, a time when it is no longer possible to separate Jesus that opens the sepulchres from the many that only know how to embellish them.

*While he was saying these things to them, an official came forward, knelt down before him, and said, "My daughter has just died. But come, lay your hand on her, and she will live." Jesus rose and followed him, and so did his disciples. A woman suffering haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the tassel on his cloak. She said to herself, "If only I can touch his cloak, I shall be cured." Jesus turned around and saw her, and said, "Courage, daughter! Your faith has saved you." And from that hour the woman was cured. When Jesus arrived at the official's house and saw the flute players and the crowd who were making a commotion, he said, "Go away! The girl is not dead but sleeping." And they ridiculed him. When the crowd was put out, he came and took her by the hand, and the little girl arose. And news of this spread throughout all that land.*

Jesus knows that the girl died for the people, that knows only to lead to burial. But for him she is alive, because He is the only one that makes one return to life from burial and death. People mock Jesus because they do not know his truth. Even today, Jesus is mocked. However, the responsibility is all of his disciples who do not show all the power of his light, of his love and of his truth as the Liberator of man from every sepulchre in which he was locked up or buried. If the Christian does not show the beauty of Jesus, it is a sign that he too has become detached from his Lord. He lives an opaque existence.

Mother of the Lord, Angels and Saints ensure that the Christian is light and truth of Christ Jesus.

# HIS HEART WAS MOVED WITH PITY FOR THEM

# Hos 8,4-7.11-13; Ps 113; Mt 9,32-38

### 10 JULY

God is the compassionate, the merciful and the forgiving. What does this divine and eternal essence of our God consist in? In his will, governed by his eternal love, to lead every man from disobedience and sin to obedience and grace. We can compare the mercy of our God to the uninterrupted work of the peasant who knows how to make a garden full of thorns into a garden where he cultivates his good seeds. The Book of Wisdom reads history and sees the merciful action of God in it.

*For with you great strength abides always; who can resist the might of your arm? Indeed, before you the whole universe is as a grain from a balance, or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth. But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook the sins of men that they may repent. For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for what you hated, you would not have fashioned. And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? But you spare all things, because they are yours, O Lord and lover of souls, for your imperishable spirit is in all things! Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little, warn them, and remind them of the sins they are committing, that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, O Lord! For truly, the ancient inhabitants of your holy land, whom you hated for deeds most odious -  Works of witchcraft and impious sacrifices; a cannibal feast of human flesh and of blood, from the midst of. . . -  These merciless murderers of children, and parents who took with their own hands defenceless lives, You willed to destroy by the hands of our fathers, that the land that is dearest of all to you might receive a worthy colony of God's children. But even these, as they were men, you spared, and sent wasps as forerunners of your army that they might exterminate them by degrees.*

*Not that you were without power to have the wicked vanquished in battle by the just, or wiped out at once by terrible beasts or by one decisive word; But condemning them bit by bit, you gave them space for repentance. You were not unaware that their race was wicked and their malice ingrained, And that their dispositions would never change; for they were a race accursed from the beginning. Neither out of fear for anyone did you grant amnesty for their sins. For who can say to you, "What have you done?" or who can oppose your decree? Or when peoples perish, who can challenge you, their maker; or who can come into your presence as vindicator of unjust men? For neither is there any god besides you who have the care of all, that you need show you have not unjustly condemned; Nor can any king or prince confront you on behalf of those you have punished. But as you are just, you govern all things justly; you regard it as unworthy of your power to punish one who has incurred no blame. For your might is the source of justice; your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all. For you show your might when the perfection of your power is disbelieved; and in those who know you, you rebuke temerity. But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and with much lenience you govern us; for power, whenever you will, attends you. And you taught your people, by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind; And you gave your sons good ground for hope that you would permit repentance for their sins. For these were enemies of your servants, doomed to death; yet, while you punished them with such solicitude and pleading, granting time and opportunity to abandon wickedness, With what exactitude you judged your sons, to whose fathers you gave the sworn covenants of goodly promises! (Wis 11,21-12,21).*

Jesus is the visible manifestation of the mercy and compassion of the Father. He sees the crowd, feels compassion and talks to the heart of every man. He creates hope in them, lights them with true light and shows them the beauty of his Father.

*As they were going out, a demoniac who could not speak was brought to him, and when the demon was driven out the mute person spoke. The crowds were amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He drives out demons by the prince of demons." Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the labourers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest."*

Mother of Mercy, Angels and Saints, make the Christian true mercy of Christ Jesus.

**JULY 2018**

## SECOND DECADE OF JULY

# YOU WHO HAVE FOLLOWED ME

# Pr 2,1-9; Ps 33; Mt 19,27-29

### 11 JULY

Who follows a person with fidelity, justice and perfect love, will have as a reward all the benefits and his glory. In following Jesus, one becomes one with him on earth and in eternal skies. Christ is the eternal life of the Father. The disciples are the eternal life of Christ. Jesus is full of the Holy Spirit, the disciples will also be full of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the persecuted, they too will be persecuted. Jesus rises to the highest glory of heaven, even the disciples will ascend into the highest glory of heaven. Divine and eternal goods will be proportionate to the extent of fidelity of discipleship. This is how the Apostle John sees those who followed Jesus up to the gift of blood.

*After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb." All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed: "Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honour, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen."*

*Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, "Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you are the one who knows." He said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. "For this reason they stand before God's throne and worship him day and night in his temple. The one who sits on the throne will shelter them. They will not hunger or thirst anymore, nor will the sun or any heat strike them. For the Lamb who is in the centre of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to springs of life-giving water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Rev 7,9-17).*

Even St. Paul reveals the same truth. He followed Jesus the Lord. He was faithful to the mandate received. Now Jesus, by justice, must raise him up into the glory of heaven.

*I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfil your ministry. For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance (2Tm 4,1-8).*

Today this very high truth is as if it had been swept away from the minds of Christians by a hurricane. You want the glory of heaven, but not the following. We wait for the fruits, but without having planted the tree. You want to gather without having sown. Today the lie of men preaches eternal glory without sequel.

*Then Peter said to him in reply, "We have given up everything and followed you. What will there be for us?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you that you who have followed me, in the new age, when the Son of Man is seated on his throne of glory, will yourselves sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands for the sake of my name will receive a hundred times more, and will inherit eternal life.*

Jesus was annihilated to follow the Father. He received a name above every other name. Peter for Christ let himself be crucified. He will be with him in his kingdom. It is an eternal law.

Immaculate Virgin, Angels and Saints, free the mind from all falsehood and lie.

# SHAKE THE DUST FROM YOUR FEET

# Hos 11,1-4.8c-9; Ps 79; Mt 10,7-15

### 12 JULY

The Apostles of Jesus and the ministers of the Gospel are responsible before God for eternity for every infidelity concerning the mission received. They are asked to announce to every man the Word of salvation just as it was delivered to them. Tomorrow they will have to give an account to God of every fault toward the mission. For each of their defects in the received mandate they will be submitted to trial. Why will they have to shake the dust off their sandals, in case they are not accepted or rejected? Shaking the dust is an attestation that the responsibility is now all of those who have not wanted the Word. Tomorrow, on the day of judgment, no one might accuse them of not having carried out the mission received with complete fidelity. In the Acts of the Apostles Saint Paul attests his innocence to those who are lost. The same Acts end with this statement of non-responsibility before the Jews.

*On the following Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said. Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, 'I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth.'" The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. The Jews, however, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. The disciples were filled with joy and the holy Spirit (At 13,44-52). So they arranged a day with him and came to his lodgings in great numbers. From early morning until evening, he expounded his position to them, bearing witness to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus from the law of Moses and the prophets. Some were convinced by what he had said, while others did not believe. Without reaching any agreement among themselves they began to leave; then Paul made one final statement. "Well did the holy Spirit speak to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah, saying: 'Go to this people and say: You shall indeed hear but not understand. You shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people; they will not hear with their ears; they have closed their eyes, so they may not see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and be converted, and I heal them.' Let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen" (At 28,23-28).*

Today a terrible lie is going through the minds of Jesus' disciples. They have decided not to proclaim the Gospel any more, to devote themselves to other more profitable works in terms of earthly consideration and glory. But they will not be judged by men tomorrow, but by Christ Crucified, by the Faithful to the Father until death.

*As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give. Do not take gold or silver or copper for your belts; no sack for the journey, or a second tunic, or sandals, or walking stick. The labourer deserves his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, look for a worthy person in it, and stay there until you leave. As you enter a house, wish it peace. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; if not, let your peace return to you. Whoever will not receive you or listen to your words - go outside that house or town and shake the dust from your feet. Amen, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.*

The Christian does not depend on the will of the world, but only on the will of Christ Crucified. He sent him. He will have to account to Him for every lost soul. Not even those who propose surrender to the world will are the ones to judge, but only the Crucifix.

Most obedient Virgin, Angels and Saints help us to believe in our responsibility.

# WHOEVER ENDURES TO THE END

# Hos 14, 2-10; Ps 50; Mt 10,16-23

### 13 JULY

We know that Moses did not enter the Promised Land for a single doubt in faith. So also Aronne. They too died in the desert. Their journey was interrupted.

*As the community had no water, they held a council against Moses and Aaron. The people contended with Moses, exclaiming, "Would that we too had perished with our kinsmen in the Lord’s presence! Why have you brought the Lord’s community into this desert where we and our livestock are dying? Why did you lead us out of Egypt, only to bring us to this wretched place which has neither grain nor figs nor vines nor pomegranates? Here there is not even water to drink!" But Moses and Aaron went away from the assembly to the entrance of the meeting tent, where they fell prostrate. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to them, and the Lord said to Moses, "Take the staff and assemble the community, you and your brother Aaron, and in their presence order the rock to yield its waters. From the rock you shall bring forth water for the community and their livestock to drink." So Moses took the staff from its place before the Lord, as he was ordered. He and Aaron assembled the community in front of the rock, where he said to them, "Listen to me, you rebels! Are we to bring water for you out of this rock?" Then, raising his hand, Moses struck the rock twice with his staff, and water gushed out in abundance for the community and their livestock to drink. But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you were not faithful to me in showing forth my sanctity before the Israelites, you shall not lead this community into the land I will give them." These are the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites contended against the Lord, and where he revealed his sanctity among them(Num 20,2-13).*

St. Paul reads the history of the fathers and warns the disciples of Jesus. If their perseverance is not to the end, there will be no eternal glory for them.

*I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and all of them were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was the Christ. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the desert. These things happened as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil things, as they did. And do not become idolaters, as some of them did, as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel." Let us not indulge in immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell within a single day. Let us not test Christ as some of them did, and suffered death by serpents. Do not grumble as some of them did, and suffered death by the destroyer. These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall. No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it (1Cor 10,1-13).*

Jesus is with a divine clarity. Whoever wants to reach eternal glory must persevere till the end, passing even through the gift of his own bloodshed on his faith. Even this truth today has been cancelled. It's as if Jesus had never spoken.

*"Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves. But beware of people, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to another. Amen, I say to you, you will not finish the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.*

Faithful Virgin, Angels and Saints, make us persevering and faithful to the Word until the end.

# PROCLAIM ON THE HOUSETOPS

# Is 6,1-8; Ps 92; Mt 10,24-33

### 14 JULY

Jesus came to kindle the very pure light of the Father's truth on earth. He is the bright light of the Father. His disciple was lit by him as the true light of God. The light is turned on to be placed on high. It must illuminate the whole house of the world. It is useless to turn the light on if it is then placed under a bushel.

*"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father (Mt 5,13-16).*

Saint Paul sees the disciples of Jesus, like the sun and like the stars. He asks them to shine with all the truth that is in the Word of Jesus. The whole world must see their light.

*So then, my beloved, obedient as you have always been, not only when I am present but all the more now when I am absent, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For God is the one who, for his good purpose, works in you both to desire and to work. Do everything without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the word of life, so that my boast for the day of Christ may be that I did not run in vain or labour in vain. But, even if I am poured out as a libation upon the sacrificial service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with all of you. In the same way you also should rejoice and share your joy with me (Phil 2,12-18).*

Besides being light, Jesus asks them to be his Word, his voice, his thought and his truth. But not the word, voice, thought and truth hidden in the heart. They must cry out from the terraces what they have heard from him for all the days of their life.

*No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master. It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, for the slave that he become like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of his household! "Therefore do not be afraid of them. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.*

The evangelizing mission serves this purpose: to make the Word by listened by every man.

*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 (Mk 16,15-20).*

Let suppose illogically that the Christian does not say the Word because the world does not want it, the other commandment remains, that of being light and not depending on the world.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, put a little light into the minds of Jesus' disciples.

# BEGAN TO SEND THEM OUT TWO BY TWO

# Am 7,12-15; Ps 84; Eph 1,3-14; Mk 6,7-13

### 15 JULY

According to the Ancient Scripture every testimony was valid if made by two concordant witnesses. The Apostles and the missionaries of the Gospel are true witnesses of Christ Jesus.

*The testimony of two or three witnesses is required for putting a person to death; no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness. At the execution, the witnesses are to be the first to raise their hands against him; afterward all the people are to join in. Thus shall you purge the evil from your midst (Dt 17,6-7).* *"One witness alone shall not take the stand against a man in regard to any crime or any offense of which he may be guilty; a judicial fact shall be established only on the testimony of two or three witnesses (Dt 19,15).*

In the Book of Qoelet it is announced that when people are by two, they support each other.

*Two are better than one: they get a good wage for their labour. If the one falls, the other will lift up his companion. Woe to the solitary man! For if he should fall, he has no one to lift him up. So also, if two sleep together, they keep each other warm. How can one alone keep warm? Where a lone man may be overcome, two together can resist. A three-ply cord is not easily broken (Eccl 4,9-12).*

God gave Moses his brother Aaron as a help and support in the mission.

*Moses, however, said to the Lord, "If you please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past, nor recently, nor now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and tongue." The Lord said to him, "Who gives one man speech and makes another deaf and dumb? Or who gives sight to one and makes another blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Go, then! It is I who will assist you in speaking and will teach you what you are to say." Yet he insisted, "If you please, Lord, send someone else!" Then the Lord Lord became angry with Moses and said, "Have you not your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know that he is an eloquent speaker. Besides, he is now on his way to meet you. When he sees you, his heart will be glad. You are to speak to him, then, and put the words in his mouth. I will assist both you and him in speaking and will teach the two of you what you are to do. He shall speak to the people for you: he shall be your spokesman, and you shall be as God to him. Take this staff in your hand; with it you are to perform the signs" (Ex 4,10-17).*

The Holy Spirit wanted that the mission to the pagans was carried out by Paul and Barnabas.

*Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Symeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who was a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, completing their fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them and sent them off (At 13,1-3).*

Jesus was not sent alone. The Father wrapped him with his Holy Spirit. But he never did his ministry alone. He was always accompanied by his disciples.

*He summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick - no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave from there. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them." So they went off and preached repentance. They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.*

Jesus wants his Mother to be with John and John with his Mother.

*Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home (Jn 19,25-27).*

Two-by-two spiritually, disciple and Holy Spirit, disciple and Mother of Jesus. But also physically two by two: apostle with apostle and Christian with Christian.

Mother of Jesus, Angels and Saints ensure that the disciples of Jesus live in perfect communion.

# WHOEVER LOVES FATHER OR MOTHER MORE THAN ME

# Is 1,1 0-17; Ps 49; Mt 10,34-11,1

### 16 JULY

By now, between the Gospel and the word or thought of the overwhelming majority of Christians we must affirm that the difference is so abysmal that there is no longer any point of contact. It seems to be in front of two parallel lines. There is no chance that they can meet. Neither the Gospel with the thought of Christians, nor Christians with the thought of the Gospel. It is even as if there was an occult, mysterious, arcane rule which, playing on words, is all aimed at giving meaning according to man to every Word that has come out of the mouth of Christ the Lord. All ancient biblical language can be translated into a new, modern and current language. But the condition must be one, only one: the truth of yesterday will have to be the truth of today and so the Christ of yesterday must be the Christ of today. Truth might and must grow, because it is proper to the truth to grow. But what until yesterday was sound doctrine and defined faith of the Church must never be replaced by falsehood, lie, deception and negation of. It is up to those who are ministers of the Word to ensure that this does not happen. The responsibility lies with every minister. If a minister betrays the Gospel, the other must multiply his commitment so that it is preserved and professed in its truth. Instead, one gets the impression that everyone competes at disfiguring, transforming, altering and giving it totally different meanings. In doing so, it is the disintegration of truth.

Today we are talking about a strict law and morality. Morality is just morality. The Law is Law and that's it. Do not kill is do not kill. Do not adulterate is do not adulterate. So do not mention the name of God in vain is do not mention the name of God in vain. There are no grounds for killing, for adulterating, for naming the name of God in vain. There is no reason to transgress the Law of the Lord. Jesus tells us today that He asks for fidelity to his Word and to his person up to the gift of blood. He says that love for Him must overcome every other love for any other person on earth. He says that He did not come to create a fictitious peace. He came to separate. His Word separates those who welcome it from those who reject it. Those who take the path of good and those who take the path of evil cannot walk in the same direction. There is no communion of life between those who think according to Christ and those who think according to the world.

*"Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword. For I have come to set a man 'against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's enemies will be those of his household.' "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is righteous will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple - amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward."*

It is evident that Jesus does not demand that one reaches these heights of obedience to his Word in a day. The ancient masters of asceticism proposed a journey of three stages. The first was that of overcoming mortal sin. Thus one enters the permanent state of sanctifying grace. Then we start the second stage that must lead us to the elimination of every venial sin, even of unwanted thoughts. The third stage is the journey of perfect conformation to Christ the Lord in his offering to the Father of his whole life. Today the aim to be reached has been removed from modern asceticism. There is the legalization of the cohabitation of sin and grace. A morality that does not aim at full conformation with Christ is not a true morality.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that the Christian and the Gospel are one.

# THEY WOULD HAVE REPENTED

# Is 7,1-9; Ps 47; Mt 11,20-24

### 17 JULY

It is enough to read the Prophets to know the Lord's judgment on these two cities: Tire and Sidon. Here's how the prophet Ezekiel describes the ruin of Tire by telling in detail its catastrophe. From queen of the seas and indestructible city, it is now a desert.

*Thus says the Lord God: Tyre, you said, "I am a ship, perfect in beauty." In the midst of the sea your builders placed you, perfected your beauty. With cypress from Senir they built for you all of your decks; Cedar from Lebanon they took to make you a mast; From the highest oaks of Bashan they made your oars; Your bridge they made of cypress wood from the coasts of Kittim. Fine embroidered linen from Egypt became your sail (to serve you as a banner). Purple and scarlet from the coasts of Elishah covered your cabin. Citizens of Sidon and Arvad served as your oarsmen; Skilled men of Zemer were in you to be your mariners; The elders and experts of Gebal were in you to caulk your seams. Every ship and sailor on the sea came to you to carry trade. Persia and Lud and Put were in your army as warriors; shield and helmet they hung upon you, increasing your splendour. The men of Arvad were all about your walls, and the Gamadites were in your towers; they hung their bucklers all around on your walls, and made perfect your* beauty.

*Ships of Tarshish journeyed for you in your merchandising. You were full and heavily laden in the heart of the sea. Through the deep waters your oarsmen brought you home, But the east wind smashed you in the heart of the sea. Your wealth, your goods, your wares, your sailors, and your crew, (the caulkers of your seams, those who traded for your goods, all your warriors who were in you, and all the great crowd within you) Sank into the heart of the sea on the day of your shipwreck. Hearing the shouts of your mariners, the shores begin to quake. Down from their ships come all who ply the oar; The sailors, all the mariners of the sea, stand on the shore, Making their voice heard on your behalf, shouting bitter cries, Strewing dust on their heads, rolling in the ashes. For you they shave their heads and put on sackcloth, For you they weep in anguish, with bitter lament. In their mourning they utter a lament over you; thus they wail over you: Who was ever destroyed like Tyre in the midst of the sea? With your goods which you drew from the seas you filled many peoples; With your great wealth and merchandise you enriched the kings of the earth. Now you are wrecked in the sea, in the watery depths; Your wares and all your crew have gone down with you. All who dwell on the coastlands are aghast over you, Their kings are terrified, their faces convulsed. The traders among the peoples now hiss at you; You have become a horror, and you shall be no more (Ez 27,3-11.25-36).*

The principle on which the eternal judgment of the Lord is founded is in relation to the graces, gifts, charismas and donation of divine goods. Jesus did not just preach the Word, He performed many miracles. He has attested that he is truly from the Father. But Corazìn and Bethsaida did not get converted. In Tire and Sidon the Lord did not even send a prophet just as he did for Nineveh. The more God's gifts are and the more the judgment will be heavy. A country with a parish priest will be treated harder than one without a parish priest. This is also true of a city with a bishop or even with the Pope. The bigger the graces, the harder the judgment will be. The higher the ministry, the more rigorous the judgment is.

*Then he began to reproach the towns where most of his mighty deeds had been done, since they had not repented. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And as for you, Capernaum: 'Will you be exalted to heaven? You will go down to the netherworld.' For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."*

A parish priest is the greatest gift that God can give to souls. He is a source of grace and truth. Not drawing from this source the light, truth and grace that help us for a true conversion and sanctification is a matter of judgment. The responsibility is great.

Wise Virgin, Angels and Saints help us not to waste any grace of the Lord.

# NO ONE KNOWS THE FATHER EXCEPT THE SON

# Is 10,5-7.13-16; Ps 93; Mt 11,25-27

### 18 JULY

The mediation of Jesus is universal and plenary. It is in creation, revelation, redemption, justification, salvation, truth, grace, life, way, consolation, comfort, hope, prayer, fulfilment, resurrection and eternal life. Mind you. That of Christ the Lord is not only the mediation for him, but also the mediation in him and with him. Today it is the mediation in his Body, for his Body and with his Body. If one of these mediations is excluded, there is no true mediation of Christ the Lord. The mediation in his Body, for his Body and with his Body, becomes the mediation with the Church, for the Church and in the Church. Mediation is also made for the Christian, in the Christian and with the Christian, who however lives with the Church, in the Church and for the Church.

*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. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him (Jn 1,1-5.16-18).* *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" (Jn 1,48-51).* *First of all, then, I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. This is good and pleasing to God our saviour, who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself as ransom for all. This was the testimony at the proper time. For this I was appointed preacher and apostle (I am speaking the truth, I am not lying), teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth (1Tm 2,1-7).*

*Now he has obtained so much more excellent a ministry as he is mediator of a better covenant, enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, no place would have been sought for a second one (Heb 8,6-7).* *But when Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation, he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God. For this reason he is mediator of a new covenant: since a death has taken place for deliverance from transgressions under the first covenant, those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance (Heb 9,11-15). No, you have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and countless angels in festal gathering, and the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven, and God the judge of all, and the spirits of the just made perfect, and Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and the sprinkled blood that speaks more eloquently than that of Abel (Heb 12,18-24).*

Today, the Christian can also assert that all are mediators between God and humanity. The Holy Spirit will never say this, he will never be able to say it. God from eternity has established only Christ Jesus as his one and only mediator of every relationship between him and humanity.

*At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.*

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us of living and true faith in Christ the only Mediator of God.

# TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU

# Is 26,7-9.12.16-19; Ps 101; Mt 11,28-30

### 19 JULY

The Holy Scripture attests to us the truth and the beauty of the Word of the Lord together with joy, life, happiness, good fruits that perfect obedience to it produces.

*How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!**But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.**He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.**Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish (Ps 1,1-6). The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.**The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.**The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.**They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.**Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.**Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.**Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me; Then I will be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer (Ps 19 (18) 8-15).*

The pious, just man, that wants to be true and pure in his every thought, decision, behaviour and work, asks the Lord to teach him, enlighten him and give him all the wisdom because he wants to do everything from the Law of the Lord understood according to truth.

*How blessed are those whose way is blameless,* *Who walk in the law of the Lord.**How blessed are those who observe His testimonies,* *Who seek Him with all their heart.**They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways.**You have ordained Your precepts,* *That we should keep them diligently.**Oh that my ways may be established* *To keep Your statutes!**Then I shall not be ashamed* *When I look upon all Your commandments.**I shall give thanks to You with uprightness of heart,* *When I learn Your righteous judgments.**I shall keep Your statutes;* *Do not forsake me utterly!* *How can a young man keep his way pure?* *By keeping it according to Your word.**With all my heart I have sought You;* *Do not let me wander from Your commandments.**Your word I have treasured in my heart,* *That I may not sin against you.**Blessed are You, O Lord;* *Teach me Your statutes.**With my lips I have told of* *All the ordinances of Your mouth.**I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies,* *As much as in all riches.**I will meditate on Your precepts And regard Your ways.**I shall delight in Your statutes;* *I shall not forget Your word.* *Deal bountifully with Your servant,* *That I may live and keep Your word.**Open my eyes, that I may behold* *Wonderful things from Your law.**I am a stranger in the earth;* *Do not hide Your commandments from me.**My soul is crushed with longing After Your ordinances at all times.**You rebuke the arrogant, the cursed,* *Who wander from Your commandments.**Take away reproach and contempt from me,* *For I observe Your testimonies.**Even though princes sit and talk against me,* *Your servant meditates on Your statutes.**Your testimonies also are my delight;* *They are my counsellors (Ps 119 (118) 1-21).*

Jesus reassures every one of his disciples. His yoke is sweet, his weight light. It can be taken and brought. The Gospel comes from the heart of Christ, He first weighed it, then he also lived it as the Crucifix, then he gave it as the one and only Law of life.

*"Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."*

An essential truth, never to be forgotten, reveals to us that Jesus did not only give the Gospel. He also gave the Holy Spirit as our Master from whom to learn how one lives it according to wisdom, intelligence and divine knowledge. He also filled us with grace to be transformed from men according to nature into spiritual beings. The spiritual man can live all the law of the Lord. His body knows how to carry every weight.

Mother of the Lord, Angels and Saints, obtain for us the grace to love the Gospel of Jesus.

# THE SON OF MAN IS LORD OF THE SABBATH

# Is 38,1-6.21 -22.7-8; C Is 38,10-12.16; Mt 12,1-8

### 20 JULY

The Law has come out of the heart of the Lord. According to his heart, it must be understood and lived. But man has a heart of stone. Never will he be able to know with it the Law according to the heart of the Father. He will not even be able to observe it, because the heart of stone is attracted by sin and by transgression. Concupiscence and pride are strong in it.

*Do not love the world or the things of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, sensual lust, enticement for the eyes, and a pretentious life, is not from the Father but is from the world. Yet the world and its enticement are passing away. But whoever does the will of God remains forever (1Jn 2,15-17).*

St. Paul reveals to us that man left to his nature is unable to understand the things of God. He must become a man according to the Spirit. Then he will understand and observe. Becoming persons according to the Spirit is the path of a whole life.

*Yet we do speak a wisdom to those who are mature, but not a wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age who are passing away. Rather, we speak God's wisdom, mysterious, hidden, which God predetermined before the ages for our glory, and which none of the rulers of this age knew; for if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him," this God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God. Among human beings, who knows what pertains to a person except the spirit of the person that is within? Similarly, no one knows what pertains to God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the things freely given us by God. And we speak about them not with words taught by human wisdom, but with words taught by the Spirit, describing spiritual realities in spiritual terms. Now the natural person does not accept what pertains to the Spirit of God, for to him it is foolishness, and he cannot understand it, because it is judged spiritually. The spiritual person, however, can judge everything but is not subject to judgment by anyone. For "who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to counsel him?" But we have the mind of Christ (1Cor 2,6-16).*

Jesus, besides being true God, is also a true man. As a true man, he grows in wisdom and grace, wrapped entirely by the Holy Spirit. He is a true man according to the Holy Spirit. He can know the law according to the heart of the Father. This is why he is the Lord of the Sabbath, that is, he can say what can and cannot be done on it. Being a man full of the Holy Spirit, he is also full of the wisdom and intelligence of the Spirit of God and knows that some truths can be announced neither to Scribes and nor to Pharisees. However, having to justify his disciples, accused of having transgressed the Sabbath, he reminds them that even David due to hunger transgressed the law of the Lord, but no one has accused him of sin. On the contrary, it was the priest himself who offered him the sacred bread. On the Sabbath, even the priests work in the temple and do not break the law.

*At that time Jesus was going through a field of grain on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat them. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, "See, your disciples are doing what is unlawful to do on the Sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry, how he went into the house of God and ate the bread of offering, which neither he nor his companions but only the priests could lawfully eat? Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests serving in the temple violate the Sabbath and are innocent? I say to you, something greater than the temple is here. If you knew what this meant, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."*

The Law which is from the heart of the father must always be taught according to the heart of the Father.

Immaculate Virgin, Angels and Saints, keep us in the truth of the Gospel.

**JULY 2018**

## THIRD DECADE OF JULY

# I SHALL PLACE MY SPIRIT UPON HIM

# Mic 2,1-5; Ps 9; Mt 12,14-21

### 21 JULY

Jesus, the Eternal Only Son of God, his Word, becomes flesh so that he shows us all the splendour of the light of the Father from the flesh. Whoever has to pour all the light of the Father into the flesh of Christ the Lord is the Holy Spirit. This is why the Messiah must be wholly full, overflowing with Him. Isaiah prophesies that the Spirit of God will rest upon Him, on the Sprout emerging from the root of Jesse. No part of his humanity will remain without it. It will be grasped entirely and filled with the powerful light of God.

*But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, But he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips (Is 11,1-5).*

It is the Spirit of the Lord with whom Christ Jesus was consecrated, that moment by moment moves him and drives him according to the will of the Father, telling him what to do and how to do it. The mission of Jesus has only one aim: bringing man back to his true humanity. Putting his Father back in every man's heart as his only Lord. Recomposing the image and the likeness shattered by sin. Giving man his truth of God and there is never the truth on man until he is governed by sin and lives as a slave to it. Deliverance from sin is the primary end of the mission of Christ Jesus.

*The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the broken hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, To announce a year of favour from the Lord (Is 61,1-3).*

Jesus always acts from the Holy Spirit according to the purest will of the Father. This is the light that He has come to show on our earth. In every moment, He attests that we can live as true children of God, walking in his light, from light to light. In the light of the Father Jesus sees every man in need of everything. He sees him wounded, with open and bleeding sores. He stops and cares for him with all the love of his heart.

*But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him to put him to death. When Jesus realized this, he withdrew from that place. Many (people) followed him, and he cured them all, but he warned them not to make him known. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom I delight; I shall place my spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, a smouldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope."*

To carry out the mission of salvation from the heart of the Father and not from his heart, Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit from the first moment of his messianic consecration.

*I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." 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" (Mt 3,11-17).*

Mother of Jesus, Angels and Saints, make sure that everything is done in us in the light of the Spirit.

# HIS HEART WAS MOVED WITH PITY FOR THEM

# Jer 23,1-6; Ps 22; Eph 2,13-18; Mk 6,30-34

### 22 JULY

When a man understands what God's compassion is, he radically changes his whole life. He will have only one thought: what to do for the salvation of any man. This thought was of Christ Jesus and that is what led him up to the cross.

*For not without means was your almighty hand, that had fashioned the universe from formless matter, to send upon them a drove of bears or fierce lions, Or new-created, wrathful, unknown beasts to breathe forth fiery breath, Or pour out roaring smoke, or flash terrible sparks from their eyes. Not only could these attack and completely destroy them; even their frightful appearance itself could slay. Even without these, they could have been killed at a single blast, pursued by retribution and winnowed out by your mighty spirit; But you have disposed all things by measure and number and weight. For with you great strength abides always; who can resist the might of your arm? Indeed, before you the whole universe is as a grain from a balance, or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth. But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook the sins of men that they may repent. For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for what you hated, you would not have fashioned. And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? But you spare all things, because they are yours, O Lord and lover of souls (Wis 11,17-26).*

The Letter to the Hebrew speaks of right compassion. What is the right compassion? It is that confession that never surrenders and always finds a reason to justify the other before God so that mercy, pity and forgiveness be used for him. Jesus lived with right compassion even on the cross. He excused those who had hung him on the wood.

*Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour upon himself but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest, but rather the one who said to him: "You are my son; this day I have begotten you"; just as he says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." In the days when he was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, declared by God high priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Heb 5,1-10).*

Before Jesus there is a great crowd. Can He abandon it to itself? Can he dedicate himself exclusively to the care of his disciples? Being Him the man of right and perfect compassion, he must take care of it. He is its Shepherd and the Shepherd must never abandon the sheep. They must be assisted, treated, felpe and supported.

*The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.*

When the Christian understands what the right compassion of Lord Jesus is, he too will change his way of thinking, relating and living. He will be moved by a single desire: listening to the Holy Spirit who will indicate to him from moment to moment what the most holy mode and way for him to love according to the heart of Christ Jesus are.

Mother of mercy, Angels and Saints, teach us to live with right compassion.

# REMAIN IN ME, AS I REMAIN IN YOU

# Gal 2,19-20; Ps 33; Jn 15,1-8

### 23 JULY

Remaining is a verb very dear to the Apostle John. The truth hidden in it is simple to highlight. The disciple of Jesus must make his home the heart of Christ, without ever leaving it. He will do this if the Word of Christ becomes his habitual home. He lives in the heart of Christ the Lord, who resides in his Word.

*Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples (Jn 8, 31). And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always (Jn 14, 16). Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me (Jn 15, 4). I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing (Jn 15, 5). Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned (Jn 15, 6). If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you (Jn 15, 7). As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love (Jn 15, 9).*

*If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love (Jn 15, 10). Let what you heard from the beginning remain in you. If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, then you will remain in the Son and in the Father (1Jn 2, 24). As for you, the anointing that you received from him remains in you, so that you do not need anyone to teach you. But his anointing teaches you about everything and is true and not false; just as it taught you, remain in him (1Jn 2, 27). And now, children, remain in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not be put to shame by him at his coming (1Jn 2, 28). No one who remains in him sins; no one who sins has seen him or known him (1Jn 3, 6). We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death (1Jn 3, 14). No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us (1Jn 4, 12). This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit (1Jn 4, 13). Anyone who is so "progressive" as not to remain in the teaching of the Christ does not have God; whoever remains in the teaching has the Father and the Son (2Jn 1, 9).*

If the disciple of Jesus wants to bear fruit, he must remain in Christ Jesus more than the plant in the earth. He must remain in the same way that a branch remains attached to the vine. The branch does not possess life in itself. Not possessing it, it might never produce fruit. It possesses life by continually drawing it from the vine. Christ Jesus is the *"branch"* of the Father. He remains in the heart of the Father, draws all life from the Father through the work of the Holy Spirit and produces much fruit. The disciple is a *"branch"* of Christ; he draws all life from Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit and produces much fruit. If he separates from the true vine, the vital food fails. Not only does he produce no fruit; he dries up and he is good only to be thrown into the fire. The branch that remains in Him lives and produces.

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.*

Today the world of disciples is seen as a dry branch. Instead of returning to itself, like the younger Son who was grazing the pigs, and deciding to be grafted again into Christ Jesus, wonder of wonders, he established that it is impossible to produce fruit and that for this reason the evangelizing mission must be abandoned. It is the kingdom of darkness!

Wise Virgin, Angels and Saints, help us to live of true faith in Christ Jesus.

# HE IS MY BROTHER AND SISTER AND MOTHER

# Mic 7,14-15.18-20; Ps 84; Mt 12,46-50

### 24 JULY

Every moment of his life and every event that happened around his person, Jesus always brings it back to his eternal truth, from which he reads and explains everything. Nothing He reads from the earth and nothing does he explain using the thought of the heart of man. He knows that the heart of man speaks from its sin, from its falseness and from its interests.

*Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes.**For it flatters him in his own eyes Concerning the discovery of his iniquity and the hatred of it.**The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise and to do good.**He plans wickedness upon his bed;
He sets himself on a path that is not good; He does not despise evil.**Your loving kindness, O Lord, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness reaches to the skies.**Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
Your judgments are like a great deep. O Lord, You preserve man and beast.**How precious is Your loving-kindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.**They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; And You give them to drink of the river of Your delights.**For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light. O continue Your loving kindness to those who know You,
And Your righteousness to the upright in heart.**Let not the foot of pride come upon me, And let not the hand of the wicked drive me away.**There the doers of iniquity have fallen; They have been thrust down and cannot rise (Ps 36 (35) 1-13).*

A relationship between a man and a man is true if lived in the Word of the Lord. Never might who does not keep the Commandments have a true relationship with their brothers. It will always be an unjust relationship, because lived in the transgression of the Law of the Lord. It does not matter which commandment is transgressed. Sin is always committed against God and against humanity. Every violation of the Commandments offends humanity. The rights of a man are hurt, but in that man all humanity is injured. Thus it is also said of a Word of the Gospel not observed. We lack true love for the whole human family. Creation also suffers for a Word of Christ the Lord not lived in fullness of love, light and most pure obedience.

Who is it that observes the Word of God or who does the will of the Father of Christ Jesus? He who does not distract Jesus from his ministry and from his mission. He who helps him in the preaching of the Gospel. whoever supports him in his missionary work. Jesus must be, he must be only from the divine will, ready for its every command. He must be more ready than the seven Angels of heaven who stand before the door of their Lord, to respond without any interval or delay to every call made to them: *"I am Raffaele, one of the seven angels who are always ready to enter the presence of the glory of the Lord"* (Tb 12.15). Jesus can only take care of the things of God.

*While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers appeared outside, wishing to speak with him. (Someone told him, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, asking to speak with you.") But he said in reply to the one who told him, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother, and sister, and mother."*

Whoever wants to be a brother, sister and mother of Jesus, not only must allow him to always obey the Father, he must also help every other so that God may be given immediate and prompt obedience. But above all, everyone must also put himself in a position to listen only to what the Father wants. When we move the axis from the heart of God to our heart, then we are no longer brothers or sisters, or mother of Jesus. When we approach the thought of the world and walk according to its oracles and its prophecies and sentences of sin certainly we are not in kinship with our Lord Jesus Christ. Then, when it is Jesus himself who is put at the edge, exiled, denied, betrayed and banished from our life as disciples, because his truth is denied, then it is the sign that we are spiritually dead. Our sentences are sinful.

True Mother of God, Angels and Saints, always make us obedient to the will of the Father.

# TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY

# 2 Cor 4,7-15; Ps 125; Mt 20,20-28

### 25 JULY

I do not believe that there exists a more complete and perfect passage, to give full light to the passage of the Gospel offered to our meditation today, of the Song of the Suffering Servant of Isaiah. Jesus wants his disciples to live his same service, but it is often ignored that He serves by expiating, He gives himself from the cross, as a Crucifix. He is the martyr of love.

*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. Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins,*

*Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; But the Lord laid upon him the guilt of us all. Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth. Oppressed and condemned, he was taken away, and who would have thought any more of his destiny? When he was cut off from the land of the living, and smitten for the sin of his people, A grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers, Though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood. (But the Lord was pleased to crush him in infirmity.) If he gives his life as an offering for sin, he shall see his descendants in a long life, and the will of the Lord shall be accomplished through him. Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days; Through his suffering, my servant shall justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. Therefore I will give him his portion among the great, and he shall divide the spoils with the mighty, Because he surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; And he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses (Is 52,13-53,12).*

Jesus does not know other services. They do not belong to him. They do not exist in his kingdom. If they do not exist, he might not even assign them to his disciples. However, they will be introduced in his kingdom but by doing so a kingdom according to the world, not according to God will be made.

*Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee approached him with her sons and did him homage, wishing to ask him for something. He said to her, "What do you wish?" She answered him, "Command that these two sons of mine sit, one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom." Jesus said in reply, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?" They said to him, "We can." He replied, "My cup you will indeed drink, but to sit at my right and at my left (, this) is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." When the ten heard this, they became indignant at the two brothers. But Jesus summoned them and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Every disciple of Jesus must avoid two temptations: avoiding to live as the kingdom of the world in the kingdom of God. Attention must be total. Avoiding to grant that others can do it. Jesus immediately rejects the request of James and John and corrects the thinking of his other disciples. Who is the kingdom of God must serve as the true kingdom of God as Jesus the Lord. He must be a collaborator of the kingdom of this world neither with words nor with works. These two temptations are lethal.

Faithful Virgin, Angels and Saints, help us to serve as Christ Jesus as true kingdom of God.

# BUT TO THEM IT HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED

# Jer 2,1 - 3.7- 8.12-13; Ps 35; Mt 13,10-17

### 26 JULY

Thinking according to the Gospel is penetrating the mystery of the heart of God and of man. What by God is given to man - everything is given by God - is his most pure grace. It is a gift of his mercy. Creation itself is the work of the eternal love of the Lord. Nothing exists except by God and nothing is given except through most pure charity. The vocation to the kingdom is also a fruit of the Father's benevolence and mercy.

*Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. "Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks (Lk 12,32-36).*

The will of God is of universal salvation. The rules for the gift of God to reach the heart of man are established by him, the Lord and not by the creature. God has established in his eternal benevolence that there is neither gift in creation, nor in redemption, nor in justification and sanctification and nor in eternal life, except through Christ, in Christ and with Christ. This law is eternal. It is before creation and it is also after the end of time. God gives himself only in his Son.

*At that time Jesus said in reply, "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light" (Mt 11,25-30).*

If the Son is not received, God does not give his gifts, because they have been placed by him in his Gift. Everything is in the Son and everything comes for the Son and with the Son. The Son is refused, one is excluded from every other gift. We know that the Father always invites every man to welcome Christ and never will He stop inviting. But there is a moment in which the limits of evil are overcome with sin against the Holy Spirit and God might do nothing any more.

*The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because 'they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.' Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: 'You shall indeed hear but not understand you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and be converted, and I heal them.' "But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.*

Saint Paul reminds the Philippians that suffering for the Gospel is also a gift from the Father.

*Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear news of you, that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind struggling together for the faith of the gospel, not intimidated in any way by your opponents. This is proof to them of destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For to you has been granted, for the sake of Christ, not only to believe in him but also to suffer for him. Yours is the same struggle as you saw in me and now hear about me (Phil 1,27-30).*

Most Pure Virgin, Angels and Saints, make us disciples of Jesus with a pure, true and just faith.

# HEAR THEN THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

# Jer 3,14-17; C Jer 31,10-13; Mt 13,18-23

### 27 JULY

When the Lord created man on earth, he also told him to live as a man. He is in the image and likeness of his God and his life is from his will. There is no determinism of man. Instead there is a life that must be lived with wisdom and intelligence to welcome the good and reject evil. Good and evil that are not defined by man, but indicated with unequivocal words by his Lord, Creator and God. If man is deprived of this responsibility, he is no longer a man. Today society is all committed to building non-men. Many theologians are by now also engineers specialized in the design and construction of the non-man. He is a non-man who deprives himself of his responsibility. He is the builder of non-men who cancels their responsibility.

*The Lord from the earth created man, and in his own image he made him. Limited days of life he gives him and makes him return to earth again. He endows man with a strength of his own, and with power over all things else on earth. He puts the fear of him in all flesh, and gives him rule over beasts and birds. He forms men's tongues and eyes and ears, and imparts to them an understanding heart. With wisdom and knowledge he fills them; good and evil he shows them. He looks with favour upon their hearts, and shows them his glorious works, That they may describe the wonders of his deeds and praise his holy name. He has set before them knowledge, a law of life as their inheritance; An everlasting covenant he has made with them, his commandments he has revealed to them. His majestic glory their eyes beheld, his glorious voice their ears heard. He says to them, "Avoid all evil"; each of them he gives precepts about his fellow men. Their ways are ever known to him, they cannot be hidden from his eyes. Over every nation he places a ruler, but the Lord’s own portion is Israel. All their actions are clear as the sun to him, his eyes are ever upon their ways. Their wickedness cannot be hidden from him; all of their sins are before the Lord. A man's goodness God cherishes like a signet ring, a man's virtue, like the apple of his eye. Later he will rise up and repay them, and requite each one of them as they deserve. But to the penitent he provides a way back, he encourages those who are losing hope! Return to the Lord and give up sin, pray to him and make your offenses few. Turn again to the Most High and away from sin, hate intensely what he loathes; Who in the nether world can glorify the Most High in place of the living who offer their praise? No more can the dead give praise than those who have never lived; they glorify the Lord who are alive and well. How great the mercy of the Lord, his forgiveness of those who return to him! The like cannot be found in men, for not immortal is any son of man. Is anything brighter than the sun? Yet it can be eclipsed. How obscure then the thoughts of flesh and blood! God watches over the hosts of highest heaven, while all men are dust and ashes (Cfr. Sir 17,1-32).*

The sower spreads his seed in every heart. It is the man's responsibility to welcome it and make it bear fruit. Whoever does not give the seed is responsible. Whoever does not lead it to fructification is responsible. Today it is this truth of man that has been annulled and cancelled.

*"Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."*

Today nothing is more urgent to the man than a healthy, true and correct anthropology. An impossible thing if he lacks in a healthy, true and correct Christology, theology and eschatology. Man is a man because he is responsible for his life and his eternal death.

Most pure Mother, Angels and Saints, help us to welcome the Word with a pure heart.

# WHILE EVERYONE WAS ASLEEP

# Jer 7,1-11; Ps 83; Mt 13,24-30

### 28 JULY

There is a supernatural sleep, a natural sleep and a sleep of sin. When God wants to work some prodigies of his love, he sends a supernatural sleep.

*So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken" (Gen 2,21-23). As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him. Then the Lord said to Abram: "Know for certain that your descendants shall be aliens in a land not their own, where they shall be enslaved and oppressed for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation they must serve, and in the end they will depart with great wealth. You, however, shall join your forefathers in peace; you shall be buried at a contented old age. In the fourth time-span the others shall come back here; the wickedness of the Amorites will not have reached its full measure until then" (Gen 15,12-16).*

*So David and Abishai went among Saul's soldiers by night and found Saul lying asleep within the barricade, with his spear thrust into the ground at his head and Abner and his men sleeping around him. Abishai whispered to David: "God has delivered your enemy into your grasp this day. Let me nail him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I will not need a second thrust!" But David said to Abishai, "Do not harm him, for who can lay hands on the Lord’s anointed and remain unpunished? As the Lord lives," David continued, "it must be the Lord himself who will strike him, whether the time comes for him to die, or he goes out and perishes in battle. But the Lord forbid that I touch his anointed! Now take the spear which is at his head and the water jug, and let us be on our way." So David took the spear and the water jug from their place at Saul's head, and they got away without anyone's seeing or knowing or awakening. All remained asleep, because the Lord had put them into a deep slumber (1Sam 26,7-12).*

Supernatural sleep is always for the greater good of men. The sleep of sin has as its fruit the destruction of the works of God. Against this sleep of sin, the prophet Isaiah has words of fire. For this sleep the people perish.

*All you wild beasts of the field, come and eat, all you beasts in the forest! My watchmen are blind, all of them unaware; They are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; Dreaming as they lie there, loving their sleep. They are relentless dogs, they know not when they have enough. These are the shepherds who know no discretion; Each of them goes his own way, every one of them to his own gain: "Come, I will fetch some wine; let us carouse with strong drink, And tomorrow will be like today, or even greater" (Is 56,9-12).*

Today this sleep of sin has taken possession of many Christians. While they sleep, dreaming of foolish and senseless theological disputes and plans for advanced pastoral care, the enemy comes and sows his weeds and these grow flourishing and strong.

*He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn."'"*

The enemy takes advantage of every moment of distraction and inattention to sow his bad seed. To the disciple of Jesus the obligation never to fall into the sleep of sin.

Faithful Virgin, Angels and Saints ensure that we never become silent dogs unable to bark.

# THIS IS TRULY THE PROPHET

# 2 Kings 4,42-44; Ps 144; Eph 4,1-6; Jn 6,1-15

### 29 JULY

The works show the truth of a man. The widow of Sarepta after having known Elijah as a true man of God, also confessed that the true Word of God was on his lips. If it is the true Word of God, it must be heard. A life can be built on it.

*Sometime later the son of the mistress of the house fell sick, and his sickness grew more severe until he stopped breathing. So she said to Elijah, "Why have you done this to me, O man of God? Have you come to me to call attention to my guilt and to kill my son?" "Give me your son," Elijah said to her. Taking him from her lap, he carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. He called out to the Lord: "O Lord, my God, will you afflict even the widow with whom I am staying by killing her son?" Then he stretched himself out upon the child three times and called out to the Lord: "O Lord, my God, let the life breath return to the body of this child." The Lord heard the prayer of Elijah; the life breath returned to the child's body and he revived. Taking the child, Elijah brought him down into the house from the upper room and gave him to his mother. "See!" Elijah said to her, "your son is alive." "Now indeed I know that you are a man of God," the woman replied to Elijah. "The word of the Lord comes truly from your mouth" (1Kings 17,17-24).*

Those who eat the bread multiplied by Christ Jesus, recognize that He is the prophet to come. However, they omit to make the profession of the widow of Sarepta. They do not ask Jesus to give them the Word of life. They decide what to do with him. They choose him as their king. With this decision it is Jesus the one that must listen to them and not just they the ones that must listen to Jesus. Then. when Jesus speaks to them and will say what the Father has established and decided, they abandon him, declaring his speech hard. They do not pass from history to faith. They want to stay in history, but they do not intend to listen to Jesus. They seeks material bread. They reject and do not receive the other bread, the one according to the faith. What happened yesterday, happens today and will always happen.

*After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (of Tiberias). A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little (bit)." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.*

What happened with Christ, also happens with his disciples. What Jesus Christ avoided happening, even his disciples are called to avoid it. Jesus did not let himself be spoken by the people. He must always let himself be spoken by his Father. Even the disciples must never let themselves be spoken by the world. Whoever has to speak to them is always Christ the Lord. The world wants the material fruits of Christ, it does not want either Christ or his spiritual fruits. That is how today the world is with the Church. It wants her material fruits, it wants neither the Church nor her spiritual fruits, of eternal life. Christ Jesus remained faithful to the Father by losing the world. Today the Church is risking losing Christ in order to gain the world. Christ Jesus is everything for the Church. If the Church loses Christ, she not only loses the world, she also loses herself.

Mother of Christ the Lord, Angels and Saints, keep the Christian in his purest truth.

# I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES

# Jer 13,1-11; C Dt 32,18-21; Mt 13,31-35

### 30 JULY

The parable is a story that needs to be explained in order to be understood. The images are a true vehicle of the truth that one wants to give them. Without the gift of truth, the parable remains silent. This is how God speaks to his people.

*Son of man, propose a riddle, and speak this proverb to the house of Israel: Thus speaks the Lord God: The great eagle, with great wings, with long pinions, with thick plumage, many-hued, came to Lebanon. He took the crest of the cedar, tearing off its topmost branch, And brought it to a land of tradesmen, set it in a city of merchants. Then he took some seed of the land, and planted it in a seedbed; A shoot by plentiful waters, like a willow he placed it, To sprout and grow up a vine, dense and low-lying, Its branches turned toward him, its roots lying under him. Thus it became a vine, produced branches and put forth shoots. But there was another great eagle, great of wing, rich in plumage; To him this vine bent its roots, sent out its branches, That he might water it more freely than the bed where it was planted. In a fertile field by plentiful waters it was planted, to grow branches, bear fruit, and become a majestic vine. Say: Thus says the Lord God: Can it prosper? Will he not rather tear it out by the roots and strip off its fruit, so that all its green growth will wither when he pulls it up by the roots? (No need of a mighty arm or many people to do this.) True, it is planted, but will it prosper? Will it not rather wither, when touched by the east wind, in the bed where it grew? Thus the word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, say now to the rebellious house: Do you not understand what this means? It is this: The king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and took away its king and princes with him to Babylon. Then he selected a man of the royal line with whom he made a covenant, binding him under oath, while removing the nobles of the land, so that the kingdom would remain a modest one, without aspirations, and would keep his covenant and obey him. But this man rebelled against him, sending envoys to Egypt to obtain horses and a great army. Can he prosper? Can he who does such things escape? Can he break a covenant and still go free? As I live, says the Lord God, in the home of the king who set him up to rule, whose oath he spurned, whose covenant with him he broke, there in Babylon I swear he shall die! When ramps are cast up and siege towers are built for the destruction of many lives, he shall not be saved in the conflict by Pharaoh with a great army and numerous troops. He spurned his oath, breaking his covenant. Though he gave his hand in pledge, he did all these things. He shall not escape! Therefore say: Thus says the Lord God: As I live, my oath which he spurned, my covenant which he broke, I swear to bring down upon his head. I will spread my net over him, and he shall be taken in my snare. I will bring him to Babylon and enter into judgment with him there over his breaking faith with me. All the crack troops among his forces shall fall by the sword, and the survivors shall be scattered in every direction. Thus you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken. Therefore say: Thus says the Lord God: I, too, will take from the crest of the cedar, from its topmost branches tear off a tender shoot, And plant it on a high and lofty mountain; on the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it. It shall put forth branches and bear fruit, and become a majestic cedar. Birds of every kind shall dwell beneath it, every winged thing in the shade of its boughs. And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the Lord, Bring low the high tree, lift high the lowly tree, Wither up the green tree, and make the withered tree bloom. As I, the Lord, have spoken, so will I do (Ez 17,1-24).*

Whoever has to give the truth to every parable of Jesus is the Holy Spirit. He must always enlighten the believing minds so that they understand with an always new and current light what is hidden in them. Without the light of the Spirit, everything remains dark and clouded.

*He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'" He spoke to them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened." All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfil what had been said through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation (of the world)."*

Wise Virgin, Angels and Saints make us wise and we will understand the parables of Jesus.

# THE WEEDS ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE EVIL ONE

# Jer 14,17-22; Ps 78; Mt 13,36-43

### 31 JULY

Today, having man abolished the distinction between good and evil, truth and falsehood, justice and injustice according to God, he also erased from the mind and heart the truth of judgment, of responsibility and of eternal death. The consequences of such a cancellation or abolition are the devastation of all the content of the revelation. That a *"pagan"* can live in the fog of indistinctness and confusion is also possible. He never knew the truth. He never met the true God. He was never enlightened with his powerful light. It becomes inconceivable and inadmissible, as well as unjustifiable that indistinctness, indifference and confusion are of the disciple of Jesus. The Christian is one who has believed and believes in the truth contained in every Word of Jesus the Lord. But above all he is the one who confesses that only Christ Jesus is the truth which is the source and spring of every other truth. If the Christian goes out of the truth of Christ the Lord, his corruption is very bad. He is tasteless salt, an extinguished light and a dead lamp. No Word of Jesus is said in vain. The whole Gospel is said for the disciples.

*"Either declare the tree good and its fruit is good, or declare the tree rotten and its fruit is rotten, for a tree is known by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you say good things when you are evil? For from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks. A good person brings forth good out of a store of goodness, but an evil person brings forth evil out of a store of evil. I tell you, on the day of judgment people will render an account for every careless word they speak. By your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." "When an unclean spirit goes out of a person it roams through arid regions searching for rest but finds none. Then it says, 'I will return to my home from which I came.' But upon returning, it finds it empty, swept clean, and put in order. Then it goes and brings back with itself seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they move in and dwell there; and the last condition of that person is worse than the first. Thus it will be with this evil generation" (Mt 12,33-37.43-45).*

When the Christian lives of "satanic" ingenuity, it is a sign that the Holy Spirit is not in his heart. The only divine light with which it is possible to perceive every falsehood that governs our earth is the Spirit of God. When a Christian no longer sees either evil or its sowers, then it is a clear sign that the Spirit of the Lord is not in his heart and does not enlighten his mind. Who is in the Holy Spirit also sees the miniscule details of falsehood and lie. He knows where the deception is hidden. Full of the Spirit of God, Jesus never let himself be deceived, he never fell into a single trap that was always armed on his path. The light of the Christian is the Spirit. One is deprived of the Spirit, he walks as a blind, thinks as a blind and decides to be blind.

*Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field." He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned (up) with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear.*

Today, right the Christian is the expert engineer that quite knows how to create indifference, indistinctness, confusion and mixture of all kinds. It is the Christian that, deprived of the Holy Spirit, lacks in his own truth. Not knowing his truth, never might he know the falsity or the truth of others. If a presbyter does not know who a presbyter is, might he know who a bishop is? If a Christian does not know who a Christian is, might he know who a non-Christian is? If a disciple of Jesus no longer believes in eternal perdition, might he ever operate the separation of good from evil on earth? Never. What use would it do?

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that the Christian returns to his truth soon.