**PASTORAL SERVICE**

**LITURGY**

**THE GOSPEL OF THE DAY**

**(FROM THE ROMAN LITURGY)**

**VOLUME 19**

**Catanzaro**

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 **PRESENTATION**

In the Book of Proverbs, Agur confesses that he is tired. He tries to learn the science of the saint, but it is as if it were always before him. In truth, the science of God is always before us. It is divine, infinite and eternal. It must be sought without interruption, without getting tired and always as if we were at the beginning. Being the science of the Most High always to be discovered, never must one think of having acquired it in full. This thought is the ruin of the lover of the wisdom of the Lord. Today, it is newer than yesterday and today it must be sought with more love than yesterday. Passion in the search for divine science and wisdom makes man a true man of God.

*The words of Agur, son of Jakeh the Massaite: The pronouncement of mortal man: "I am not God; I am not God, that I should prevail. Why, I am the most stupid of men, and have not even human intelligence; Neither have I learned wisdom, nor have I the knowledge of the Holy One.*

*Who has gone up to heaven and come down again -  who has cupped the wind in his hands? Who has bound up the waters in a cloak -  who has marked out all the ends of the earth? What is his name, what is his son's name, if you know it?" Every word of God is tested; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Add nothing to his words, lest he reprove you, and you be exposed as a deceiver.*

*Two things I ask of you, deny them not to me before I die: Put falsehood and lying far from me, give me neither poverty nor riches; (provide me only with the food I need;) Lest, being full, I deny you, saying, "Who is the Lord?" Or, being in want, I steal, and profane the name of my God.*

*Slander not a servant to his master, lest he curse you, and you have to pay the penalty. There is a group of people that curses its father, and blesses not its mother. There is a group that is pure in its own eyes, yet is not purged of its filth. There is a group - how haughty their eyes! how overbearing their glance! There is a group whose incisors are swords, whose teeth are knives, Devouring the needy from the earth, and the poor from among men.*

*The two daughters of the leech are, "Give, Give." Three things are never satisfied, four never say, "Enough!" The nether world, and the barren womb; the earth, that is never saturated with water, and fire, that never says, "Enough!"*

*The eye that mocks a father, or scorns an aged mother, Will be plucked out by the ravens in the valley; the young eagles will devour it.*

*Three things are too wonderful for me, yes, four I cannot understand: The way of an eagle in the air, the way of a serpent upon a rock, The way of a ship on the high seas, and the way of a man with a maiden.*

*Such is the way of an adulterous woman: she eats, wipes her mouth, and says, "I have done no wrong."*

*Under three things the earth trembles, yes, under four it cannot bear up: Under a slave when he becomes king, and a fool when he is glutted with food; Under an odious woman when she is wed, and a maidservant when she displaces her mistress.*

*Four things are among the smallest on the earth, and yet are exceedingly wise: Ants - a species not strong, yet they store up their food in the summer; Rock-badgers - a species not mighty, yet they make their home in the crags; Locusts - they have no king, yet they migrate all in array; Lizards - you can catch them with your hands, yet they find their way into king's palaces.*

*Three things are stately in their stride, yes, four are stately in their carriage: The lion, mightiest of beasts, who retreats before nothing; The strutting cock, and the he-goat, and the king at the head of his people.*

*If you have foolishly been proud or presumptuous - put your hand on your mouth; For the stirring of milk brings forth curds, and the stirring of anger brings forth blood (Pr 30,1-33).*

St. Paul exhorts Timothy to never tire of learning and never of teaching. When you get tired of learning, you get tired of teaching too. If every day heart and mind are not filled with an ever new light, teaching does not become repetitive of things learned yesterday. It turns into falsehood. Either the Holy Spirit always updates our heart on the divine will or it is the world that updates it on its falsehood.

This is the failure of our mission to every man. We update ourselves more on the things of the earth than on those of the spirit, more on the sciences of men than on the science of God. We neglect the update on holy things, the things of the world take the heart and the mission is lived from the needs of the world, but not from demands of the Lord God. What is the use of doing pastoral care according to the laws of the world?

*So you, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And what you heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will have the ability to teach others as well.*

*Bear your share of hardship along with me like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. To satisfy the one who recruited him, a soldier does not become entangled in the business affairs of life. Similarly, an athlete cannot receive the winner's crown except by competing according to the rules. The hardworking farmer ought to have the first share of the crop. Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.*

*Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal.*

*But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy:*

*If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.*

*Remind people of these things and charge them before God to stop disputing about words. This serves no useful purpose since it harms those who listen. Be eager to present yourself as acceptable to God, a workman who causes no disgrace, imparting the word of truth without deviation. Avoid profane, idle talk, for such people will become more and more godless, and their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have deviated from the truth by saying that (the) resurrection has already taken place and are upsetting the faith of some. Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands, bearing this inscription, "The Lord knows those who are his"; and, "Let everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord avoid evil." In a large household there are vessels not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for lofty and others for humble use. If anyone cleanses himself of these things, he will be a vessel for lofty use, dedicated, beneficial to the master of the house, ready for every good work.*

*So turn from youthful desires and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord with purity of heart. Avoid foolish and ignorant debates, for you know that they breed quarrels. A slave of the Lord should not quarrel, but should be gentle with everyone, able to teach, tolerant, correcting opponents with kindness. It may be that God will grant them repentance that leads to knowledge of the truth, and that they may return to their senses out of the devil's snare, where they are entrapped by him, for his will (2Tm 2,1-26).*

*But understand this: there will be terrifying times in the last days. People will be self-centred and lovers of money, proud, haughty, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, irreligious, callous, implacable, slanderous, licentious, brutal, hating what is good, traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, as they make a pretence of religion but deny its power. Reject them. For some of these slip into homes and make captives of women weighed down by sins, led by various desires, always trying to learn but never able to reach a knowledge of the truth. Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so they also oppose the truth - people of depraved mind, unqualified in the faith. But they will not make further progress, for their foolishness will be plain to all, as it was with those two.*

*You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, and sufferings, such as happened to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, persecutions that I endured. Yet from all these things the Lord delivered me. In fact, all who want to live religiously in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked people and charlatans will go from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived (2Tm 3,1-17).*

*I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who willjudge 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).*

Why do we have to immerse ourselves in the Gospel day by day? Because, being it the heart of Christ Jesus, manifested to us in words and deeds, no one might ever think of having reached the depths of it. The more we are immersed in it, the more we see the infinite abyss of his love, of his truth, of hope, of obedience, of faith, of compassion, of mercy and of justice. When the disciple of Jesus gets out of the heart of Christ, his heart does not remain stabilized in the heart of Christ the Lord, it is immediately surrounded and conquered by the world and we sink into the things of the earth.

What previously learned in that heart immediately gives way to the things of the world and one becomes a master of the things of the earth and no longer of the heart of Christ the Lord. A cloth is immersed in water. As long as the fabric remains in the water, it is impregnated with water. It is removed from the water. First it starts to drip, then the water starts to evaporate, until it dries completely. That is how our heart is. It is removed from the immersion in the heart of Christ the Lord, first it begins to lose drop after drop the science with which it was impregnated, then little by little science, in contact with the agents of the world, begins to evaporate, to the point that nothing remains of the wisdom with which the heart was impregnated as long as it remained in the heart of its Master and Lord.

Yesterday we immersed ourselves in the meditation of the Gospel. We impregnated ourselves with the science of the Most High. If today we do not immerse ourselves in the heart of the Gospel, which is the heart of Christ Jesus, yesterday's science is useless for us. It has already dried up. It has evaporated. Today, it is necessary to immerse the heart in the Word. If today the heart is not immersed in the Word, we do not speak from the Word of Jesus, but from the word of the world. The heart of Christ is not presented to the world, but the heart of the world is presented to the world. Everything that is done is vain. The updating of our heart on the heart of Christ Jesus is missing.

If the Christian wants to have the Word of Jesus on his lips, his heart must always live in the heart of Jesus. Since the mouth speaks from the abundance that is in its heart. The heart of Christ abounds in the heart, we speak from the abundance of the heart of Christ. There is the heart of the world, we will speak from the abundance of the heart of the world. In addition we know that there is an army of false prophets, false apostles, false ministers that always intervene to conquer our mind and our heart with false prophecy, deceit and falsehood. If the Christian is not firmly immersed in Christ, rather sealed in his heart, he will inevitably fall. The lie is so persuasive, so as to conquer the heart even of the most saints. The heart of Christ is the only safe and unconquerable bulwark.

*"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" (Mt 12,33-37).*

*"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them (Mt 5,13-20).*

*If only you would put up with a little foolishness from me! Please put up with me. For I am jealous of you with the jealousy of God, since I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts may be corrupted from a sincere (and pure) commitment to Christ. For if someone comes and preaches another Jesus than the one we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it well enough. For I think that I am not in any way inferior to these "superapostles." Even if I am untrained in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; in every way we have made this plain to you in all things. Did I make a mistake when I humbled myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge? I plundered other churches by accepting from them in order to minister to you. And when I was with you and in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from Macedonia supplied my needs. So I refrained and will refrain from burdening you in any way. By the truth of Christ in me, this boast of mine shall not be silenced in the regions of Achaia.*

*And why? Because I do not love you? God knows I do! And what I do I will continue to do, in order to end this pretext of those who seek a pretext for being regarded as we are in the mission of which they boast. For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, who masquerade as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan masquerades as an angel of light. So it is not strange that his ministers also masquerade as ministers of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. I repeat, no one should consider me foolish; but if you do, accept me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little. What I am saying I am not saying according to the Lord but as in foolishness, in this boastful state. Since many boast according to the flesh, I too will boast. For you gladly put up with fools, since you are wise yourselves. For you put up with it if someone enslaves you, or devours you, or gets the better of you, or puts on airs, or slaps you in the face. To my shame I say that we were too weak! (2Cor 11,1-21).*

It is sufficient to go down even one millimetre more than yesterday into the heart, so that today we can give the whole Gospel a new understanding. You can see it all with a more powerful, more real and more true light. May the Mother of God, Angels and Saints help us to go deeper into the heart of Christ the Lord. It is right that the Gospel is always preached in fullness of light, truth, wisdom and knowledge.

*Catanzaro 06 March 2019*

*Ash Wednesday*

**JUNE 2019**

## FIRST DECADE OF JUNE

## On that day you will ask in my name

## At 18,23-28; Ps 46; Jn 16,23b-28

### 1 JUNE

The first prayer raised to God in the name of the faith of somebody else is that of Abraham's servant. It is elevated to God in obedience and so that obedience reaches its end. Prayer, obedience and end must be one. One cannot pray in the name of Christ, without obedience to Christ, without reaching the end of Christ. Eliezer's purpose was that of finding a bride for his master's son. But our goal is also that of finding a bride to Christ Jesus, but also becoming a true bride of Christ ourselves. If prayer, obedience and end are not one, prayer is vain.

*Abraham had now reached a ripe old age, and the Lord had blessed him in every way. Abraham said to the senior servant of his household, who had charge of all his possessions: "Put your hand under my thigh, and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not procure a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites among whom I live, but that you will go to my own land and to my kindred to get a wife for my son Isaac." The servant asked him: "What if the woman is unwilling to follow me to this land? Should I then take your son back to the land from which you migrated?" "Never take my son back there for any reason," Abraham told him. "The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and the land of my kin, and who confirmed by oath the promise he then made to me, 'I will give this land to your descendants' - he will send his messenger before you, and you will obtain a wife for my son there. If the woman is unwilling to follow you, you will be released from this oath. But never take my son back there!" So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and swore to him in this undertaking.*

*The servant then took ten of his master's camels, and bearing all kinds of gifts from his master, he made his way to the city of Nahor in Aram Naharaim. Near evening, at the time when women go out to draw water, he made the camels kneel by the well outside the city. Then he prayed: "Lord, God of my master Abraham, let it turn out favourably for me today and thus deal graciously with my master Abraham. While I stand here at the spring and the daughters of the townsmen are coming out to draw water, if I say to a girl, 'Please lower your jug, that I may drink,' and she answers, 'Take a drink, and let me give water to your camels, too,' let her be the one whom you have decided upon for your servant Isaac. In this way I shall know that you have dealt graciously with my master" (Gen 24,1-16).*

*If only you would put up with a little foolishness from me! Please put up with me. For I am jealous of you with the jealousy of God, since I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts may be corrupted from a sincere (and pure) commitment to Christ (2Cor 11,1-3).*

The Christian must not only ask the Father in the name of Christ to be able to bring the whole world to Christ, but also that Jesus is believed in his truth as Redeemer, Saviour and only Mediator between God and every man. Then, here is the end of prayer in the name of Jesus: making the name of Lord Jesus credible in the world.

*On that day you will not question me about anything. Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you. Until now you have not asked anything in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. "I have told you this in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures but I will tell you clearly about the Father. On that day you will ask in my name, and I do not tell you that I will ask the Father for you. For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world.*

The end of prayer must never be forgotten by the disciple of Jesus. He must work, say and think everything so that through his life the greatest glory is given to Christ. What is the glory of Christ? His truth. The Christian works so that the truth of Christ the Lord is made by every man his truth. Praying in the name of Christ and being granted his prayer, he will testify to the whole world that Jesus is true in all his Word. Whoever wants can be converted to him to have eternal life.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that prayer, obedience and end are one.

## He parted from them and was taken up to heaven

## At 1,1-11; Ps 46; Eph 1,17-23 opp. Heb 9,24-28; 10,19-23; Lk 24,46-53

### 2 JUNE

In Scripture there are different ways of singing, narrating and celebrating the Ascension of Jesus to heaven, in his glorious, immortal, incorruptible and spiritual body. Saint Paul announces the Ascension of Christ the Lord as the true fruit of his humiliation and annihilation.

*Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father* *(Phil 2,6-11).*

The Apostle John sings the Ascension describing the glory of Lord Jesus. The Apocalypse is all a hymn to the Universal Lordship of the Immolated Lamb, the Crucifix that is the Eternal Living. The Father has delivered his whole kingdom to him.

*Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and when I turned, I saw seven gold lamp stands and in the midst of the lamp stands one like a son of man, wearing an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around his chest. The hair of his head was as white as white wool or as snow, and his eyes were like a fiery flame. His feet were like polished brass refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing water. In his right hand he held seven stars. A sharp two-edged sword came out of his mouth, and his face shone like the sun at its brightest. When I caught sight of him, I fell down at his feet as though dead. He touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the netherworld.*

In the Book of the Prophet Daniel it is narrated that one like a son of man is presented to the Old Man and he receives from him glory and the eternal kingdom. All are subjected to his Lordship and his dominion. The whole universe has been handed over to him.

*As I watched, Thrones were set up and the Ancient One took his throne. His clothing was snow bright, and the hair on his head as white as wool; His throne was flames of fire, with wheels of burning fire. A surging stream of fire flowed out from where he sat; Thousands upon thousands were ministering to him, and myriads upon myriads attended him. The court was convened, and the books were opened. As the visions during the night continued, I saw One like a son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven; When he reached the Ancient One and was presented before him, He received dominion, glory, and kingship; nations and peoples of every language serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed (Dn 7, 9-10.13-14).*

The Evangelist Luke marvellously combines mission and Ascension. Jesus ascends to Heaven after having opened the mind of his disciples to the intelligence of his mystery as it is contained in the Scriptures and having given them the mission of announcing the conversion and forgiveness of sins in his name. But the disciples must not leave immediately for the mission. They have to wait for the Father to fill them with his Holy Spirit.

*And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And (behold) I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Then he led them (out) as far as Bethany, raised his hands, and blessed them. As he blessed them he parted from them and was taken up to heaven. They did him homage and then returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple praising God.*

With the Ascension of Jesus, the visible mission of Christ Jesus ends and the visible mission of the Apostles begins. As the Father and the Spirit were with Jesus and guided him in his work, so now the Father, the Holy Spirit and Christ Jesus will be with the disciples for the mission entrusted to them. As Christ never separated himself from the Father and the Holy Spirit, so the disciples will never have to separate themselves from Christ.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that the disciple of Jesus is never separated from his Master.

## But take courage, I have conquered the world

## At 19,1-8; Ps 67; Jn 16,29-33

### 3 JUNE

The world, which is a symbol and figure of evil, can be overcome by the Christian. Jesus overcame it. How? By letting himself be guided by the Holy Spirit for an ever ready and immediate obedience to his Father. Even for Saint Paul the world will be overcome, if in every moment or event of life, we remain in the Word of Christ in the same way that Christ remained in the Word of the Father. Jesus obeyed until death by Cross. The disciple also obeys until death in every tribulation, suffering and trial. Who obeys overcomes the world. In sin one is a slave to it. Sin is defeat.

*We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ (Jesus) who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written: "For your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rm 8,28-39).*

The Apostle John announces to Christians that the world is conquered through faith. Faith is very pure obedience to every Word of Christ the Lord. You obey, you win. You disobey, you are defeated. Can we always obey? We can do it because Jesus could do it. If Christ, true man, has obeyed, we can also obey.

*Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the father loves (also) the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who (indeed) is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? And we have this confidence in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in regard to whatever we ask, we know that what we have asked him for is ours. We know that no one begotten by God sins; but the one begotten by God he protects, and the evil one cannot touch him. We know that we belong to God, and the whole world is under the power of the evil one. We also know that the Son of God has come and has given us discernment to know the one who is true. And we are in the one who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Children, be on your guard against idols (cf. 1Jn 5,1-21).*

Jesus is with the Father. The Father is with Jesus. Jesus is in the Father's will. The Father is in the will of Jesus. In obedience one is in a perfect communion of life. On Christ, by obedience, the whole power of the Father is poured out in the Holy Spirit and Satan cannot do anything against the Father and his Holy Spirit. If Jesus had gone out of obedience, He would also have been defeated by Satan. Instead, he planted himself in the heart of the Father and his will and Satan was unable to do anything. Obedience is an invincible force. Today this problem of victory no longer exists. The Christian has surrendered to the world in everything.

*His disciples said, "Now you are talking plainly, and not in any figure of speech. Now we realize that you know everything and that you do not need to have anyone question you. Because of this we believe that you came from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you believe now? Behold, the hour is coming and has arrived when each of you will be scattered to his own home and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.*

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, reawaken in Christians the true faith, necessary to win.

## Everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine

## At 20,17-27; Ps 67; Jn 17,1-11a

### 4 JUNE

The consequences of this affirmation of Jesus are eternal and universal. If everything is of the Son, even grace, truth, light, eternal life and heaven, belong to the Son. Can we affirm that we can go to the Father without the Son? If we believe that the Father gives everything and gives himself in the Son, with the Son and through the Son, we must also confess that without Christ the Father does not give and does not give himself. In an instant the whole religious world that we are struggling to build without Christ and without the Church, collapses.

*When Jesus had said this, he raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. "I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you.*

The truth of Christ only, universal and eternal mediator between the Father and the whole created universe, Mediator in creation, revelation, redemption, salvation, eternal life and justification is the essence of the New Testament. This truth is removed, there is no longer either New or Ancient Testaments. Everything becomes a body to which the heart has been removed.

*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).*

*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 1,16-18). 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 1,49-51). For the one whom God sent speaks the words of God. He does not ration his gift of the Spirit. The Father loves the Son and has given everything over to him. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him (Jn 3,14-36).*

*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, 2,5-7). I looked again and heard the voices of many angels who surrounded the throne and the living creatures and the elders. They were countless in number, and they cried out in a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing." Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the universe, cry out: "To the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour, glory and might, forever and ever" (Rev 5,11-13).*

It is urgent that to Scripture, faith, the Father and the Church their heart is given back, which is Christ Jesus. Without the heart Scripture, faith, Father and Church are transformed into rotting corpses. They lose their lives. Without Christ, Scripture, faith, Father and Church are lifeless. No salvation will ever come for them into the world. They lack in their heart.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, ensure that Christians reclaim their hearts: Christ.

## So I sent them into the world

## At 20,28-38; Ps 67; Jn 17,11b-19

### 5 JUNE

Jesus speaks with the present to the Father, as if he had already risen and ascended into heaven. He does not tell the truth he says to the Father alone, he also tells it to his Apostles. How did the Father send Christ Jesus into the world? He sent him full of the Holy Spirit to fulfil the mission of salvation and redemption of every man. How did Jesus complete his mission? In the Holy Spirit, obeying to the Father until death by the cross. The Son has said or done nothing by his will. He has said and done everything by the will of the Father. Thus the Father sent the Son. Thus the Son sent his Apostles. They have to fulfil his mission: proclaiming and doing all his will, in the Holy Spirit, without ever turning right or left. There is no autonomy in the mission, but only obedience. There are no initiatives, but listening.

*On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. (Jesus) said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (Gv 20,19-23). Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28,18-20).*

*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). Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And (behold) I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high" (Lk 24,45-49).*

If the Apostles owe very pure obedience to Christ, they have been sent by Christ, they have no relation with the Father. As the Son has surrendered himself to the Father making himself an instrument of his glory, so the Apostles must hand themselves over to Christ to be instruments of his glory. If the Apostles even exclude Christ from the mystery of true salvation, what glory do they give to Christ? Being Christ the glory of the Father, they do not even give glory to the Father. It is the total failure of the mission. But if the mission fails, even the Apostles have failed. It makes no sense to be called Apostles of Jesus.

*And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.*

From the truth of the Father is the truth of Christ. From the truth of Christ is the truth of the Apostle. If the Apostle deprives Christ of his truth, even the Apostle deprives himself of his truth. What truth might an Apostle without truth, give to the world? His mission is useless.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that the Apostle takes his truth back. He is from Christ.

## That the world may believe that you sent me

## At 22,30; 23,6-11; Ps 15; Jn 17,20-26

### 6 JUNE

Saint Paul never sees Christ separated from the Father. He never sees the disciple separated from Christ. He never sees a man saved by the Father except in Christ, through Christ and with Christ. This unity between Father, Christ and disciple is admirably sung in the Letter to the Ephesians. Everything is from the Father. But everything is for Christ. The Father does not act without Christ.

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

*Therefore, I, too, hearing of your faith in the Lord Jesus and of your love for all the holy ones, do not cease giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation resulting in knowledge of him. May the eyes of (your) hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way (Eph 1,3-23).*

The disciple of Jesus has a particular vocation to fulfil. He must arrange that the whole world believes that Christ the Lord has been sent by the Father. How will he fulfil his mission? Becoming one with Christ Jesus. In Christ he will also become one with the Father. If the disciple is in Christ, the Father might act with him, as he acted with Christ. In Christ, He might also make him a victim of expiation for the sins of the world. For his sacrifice the world will believe that truly Christ has been sent by the Father. Never might this faith be born in the world if the disciple does not become one with Christ the Lord.

*"I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."*

The mystery of the knowledge of the Father is accomplished in the disciple, if he is in Christ and lives for Christ and with Christ. If he separates himself from Christ, he does not know the Father, because the mystery of knowledge is interrupted and nobody might know the Father for him.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that the disciples live in Christ, with Christ and for Christ.

## Simon, son of John, do you love me?

## At 25,13b-21; Ps 102; Jn 21,15-19

### 7 JUNE

No one can live the mission of Christ if he does not love Christ. Christ loved his Father until the death by the Cross. He also loved his people who were in the world. He fulfilled his mission. Without this double love, there is no mission. The mission begins from the heart of the Father who loves man of eternal love and for his salvation consecrates his Son, rather he makes him a holocaust of redemption and salvation.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God (Jn 3,16-18). Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13,1.34-35).*

*As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. 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. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends (Jn 15,9-13).*

*And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them" (Jn 17,22-26).*

Love is a total gift. The Father loves the world. He wants its salvation. For it he offers his Son. Jesus loves the world. He wants its salvation. Offers himself. But he knows that his offer is fruitless without the offering of the Apostles. He asks them to make his same offer. As He did it out of love for the Father, so they will have to do it for His love. In his love they must love the Father and the world as the Father loves it. If they are not in his love, they might not love either the father or the world, because everything must be lived in him, with him and for him. Peter must love sheep and lambs as the Father loves them. He might love them only in his love. He will love them in his love, if he will love Jesus as Jesus loved and loves Peter. Peter loves Jesus, but he still feels the weight of his denial. To Jesus is enough the will to love and grow in this love. In love one walks, in love one progresses and in love one perfects himself.

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." (Jesus) said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."*

Now Jesus reassures all the other Apostles. He invite Peter to follow him on the cross. He gets up and follows Jesus. He walks behind his Master. The other Apostles now know that Jesus is with Peter and Peter with Jesus. They can be guided by him. He is in the love of Jesus.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that the world sees that Jesus is with us and we with him.

## Lord, what about him?

## At 28,16-20.30-31; Ps 10; Jn 21,20-25

### 8 JUNE

In the body of Christ the Lord, each member is clothed by the Holy Spirit with a special, particular and personal mission that is unique. Never will it be of others. Then, no one is given to know the mystery written by the Holy Spirit in others. Every day, day after day, he must ask the Spirit to enlighten him on the mission to be accomplished and on its concrete modalities. The body of Christ is in its entirety from the motion and gifts of grace of the Spirit of the Lord. Paul reveals this truth both in the First Letter to the Corinthians and in the Letter to the Ephesians. It is a mystery that surpasses every created mind.

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another mighty deeds; to another prophecy; to another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then, gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? (Cf. 1Cor 12,1-31).*

*And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming. Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love (Eph 4,11-16).*

After the call, Jesus gets up and Peter walks with the Master. He turns around and sees John that is following them and asks Jesus: "Lord, what will become of him?". The answer is immediate: "If I want him to stay until I come, what does it matter to you?" This sentence of Jesus is interpreted incorrectly and John himself takes care to bring it back to its truth. Jesus did not say that John would not have died. He asked Peter not to be interested in the mystery of the other. It is a mystery and it must remain so. Peter's life is also a mystery. From a fisherman to the head of the Church.

*Peter turned and saw the disciple following whom Jesus loved, the one who had also reclined upon his chest during the supper and had said, "Master, who is the one who will betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus said to him, "What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours? You follow me." So the word spread among the brothers that that disciple would not die. But Jesus had not told him that he would not die, just "What if I want him to remain until I come? (What concern is it of yours?)" It is this disciple who testifies to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.*

In every Christian community it is urgent that everyone learns to see the other with the eyes of the Holy Spirit. There is no growth in the Church if the other is not seen as a gift from God for us. Our wealth is from the richness of the other, a true gift of the Spirit for us. For this reason one must clothe himself both of pure faith but also of great humility. The Holy Spirit acts in a direct and indirect way. We often ignore the indirect way.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that every Christian sees the other as a gift of the Spirit.

## He will give you another Advocate

## At 2,1-11; Ps 103; Rm 8,8-17; Jn 14,15-16.23b-26

### 9 JUNE

Christ Jesus is full of the Holy Spirit. He placed himself on him in all his fullness. Every part of his body, his spirit and his soul was under his full rule. What Isaiah had prophesied, Jesus attests that it was punctually accomplished.

*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 (Is 11,1-5).* *He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing" (Lk 4,16-21).*

Not only was the Holy Spirit given by the Father to Christ Jesus, he is given by the Father to every man who wants to become the body of his Son, for Christ. The first work of the Holy Spirit is the formation of the body of Christ. One becomes the body of Christ, he grows as the body of Christ and is moved and guided by the Holy Spirit. For which mission? To form the body of Christ. The Spirit has been given to Christ to form the body of Christ, his Church. The Spirit is given to every other man to become the true body of Christ and to form the body of Christ, through the proclamation of the Gospel in view of conversion and baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. If this mission is not lived moment by moment, the whole work of the Holy Spirit is made vain. It is exposed to uselessness and futility. He is invoked for the things of the earth, while his mission is to transform flesh into spirit in the body of Christ.

From our body, in the body of Christ, growing as the body of Christ in holiness, the Spirit of the Lord becomes the Spirit of conviction and of attraction to Christ. It is not the Christian the one who convinces, touches the heart, converts and sanctifies. It is the Spirit of God that from his body, if he is the true body of Christ, enters the heart of the other and shows him the beauty of Christ and the need to be converted to him, to become his body to have eternal life. This is the miracle of Pentecost. Peter speaks and the Spirit of Peter attracts to Christ.

*Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, "What are we to do, my brothers?" Peter (said) to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call." He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day (At 2,37-41).*

Today, the body of Christ Jesus is undergoing one of the most devastating bleeding. Many members of his body are already in necrosis. They are not in death. They are rotting. Having detached themselves from the Gospel of Christ, they detached themselves from the body of Christ, they lost their supernatural principle of life which is the Holy Spirit. They are rotting.

*"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always Jesus answered and said to him, "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me.*

It is not our prayer that sends the Holy Spirit upon us. It is the prayer of Christ Jesus. However, it is conditioned to the perennial observance of his commandments.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that we observe the commandments and Jesus will pray for us.

## And from that hour the disciple took her into his home

## Gn 3,9-15.20 or.: At 1,1 2-14; Ps 86; Jn 19,25-34

### 10 JUNE

In the Gospel according to John, in the narration of the marriage of Cana it is revealed what the Mother of Jesus does when she is in the life of the Church. She always watches over so that the love of the Father may never be lacking in her, but rather people grow in it until reaching the peak of perfection. When the love of the Father does not reign in the Church, He might do nothing for the salvation of the world. Faith in Christ Jesus is not born. For the constant, solicitous, attentive and vigilant presence by the Mother of Jesus everything is renewed and the wineskin of the Church will always give the world good wine, the new wine that flows from the heart of Lord Jesus. The new wine is the Holy Spirit. It is He who must renew everything.

*On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." (And) Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him (Jn 2,1-11).*

In the passage of the Gospel offered to our meditation and welcome in its purest and most holy truth, not only is the Mother given as a gift, but also the wine that for her maternal care must always be poured into the heart of every disciple of Jesus. However, there is a condition to be observed. The Church must take Mary not with her, but as her true Mother. In the Church every disciple must also take her as his true Mother. The text of the Vulgate and the Greek text affirm this with divine clarity. John took her as his own Mother (et ex illa hora accepit eam discipulus in sua. kaˆ ¢p' ™ke…nhj tÁj éraj œlaben Ð maqht¾j aÙt¾n e„j t¦ ‡dia). Cana Wedding and Delivery are one mystery. Mary belongs to the Church as her true 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. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit. Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, for the Sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.*

The Church does not love the Virgin Mary and does not worship her with a very special veneration called hyperdulia, above the veneration of every other male or female saint, just because she is Mother of God, Mother of Christ the Lord. She loves and venerates her, honours and listens to her as her true Mother. As children listen to the Father, so they must listen to the Mother. At the Wedding at Cana, the servants listen to Mary and listen to Christ. Mary invites to listen to Christ. She lives to teach every disciple the listening of Christ, as every earthly mother lives to teach her son how to listen to his Lord, Creator, Saviour and Redeemer. Where Maria is absent, weddings remain without ever good wine.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that the Church listens to the Word of Jesus Crucified.

**JUNE 2019**

 ***SECOND DECADE OF JUNE***

## The labourer deserves his keep

## At 11,21b-26; 13,1-3; Ps 97; Mt 10,7-13

### 11 JUNE

Every Word of the Gospel adds to the other Words of the Gospel the truth that gives them entire fullness. Jesus says to look for the kingdom of God and its justice. The rest will be given in excess. When one is in the Gospel, the blessing of the Lord is superabundant.

*"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat (or drink), or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil (Mt 6,25-34).*

Jesus says that those who leave everything to follow him and consecrate their life to the mission receive a hundred times as much and in addition eternal life will be given to them in heaven.

*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. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first (Mt 19,27-30).*

St. Paul reveals that he did not want to be of any weight to anyone. He preached the Gospel freely to everyone. The Lord has always assisted, helped and supported him.

*Whoever serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating its produce? Or who shepherds a flock without using some of the milk from the flock? Am I saying this on human authority, or does not the law also speak of these things? It is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is God concerned about oxen, or is he not really speaking for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the ploughman should plough in hope, and the thresher in hope of receiving a share. If we have sown spiritual seed for you, is it a great thing that we reap a material harvest from you? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we still more? Yet we have not used this right. On the contrary, we endure everything so as not to place an obstacle to the gospel of Christ. Do you not know that those who perform the temple services eat (what) belongs to the temple, and those who minister at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord ordered that those who preach the gospel should live by the gospel (Cf. 1Cor 9,1-27).*

Jesus sends his Apostles on a mission, commanding them not to bring anything, but only the clothes they wear. His Father will provide them with everything.

*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.*

If the Father nourishes and dresses those who seek the kingdom of God and its justice, might he abandon to themselves those who consecrate their whole life to the Gospel for its diffusion? He will give them everything not for charity, but for justice. They work for his Son, his Kingdom and He gives them what and more than is necessary.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that we believe in the perfect justice of our God.

## Until heaven and earth pass away

## 2 Cor 3,4-11; Ps 98; Mt 5,17-19

### 12 JUNE

The evil of our day is the loss of all faith in the Word of the Lord. It is by now everyone's conviction that the Word of God is only said, but not kept by Him in all that it says. Is not it observed? No harm, no eternal perdition. No sin. At the end of our life we ​​will go to his Paradise all without distinction. Yet Jesus does not speak this way. Instead He warns us. One does not enter his heaven as a wicked person.

*Then he said to me, "Do not seal up the prophetic words of this book, for the appointed time*[*7*](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/__P135.HTM#$57W)*is near. Let the wicked still act wickedly, and the filthy still be filthy. The righteous must still do right, and the holy still be holy." "Behold, I am coming soon. I bring with me the recompense I will give to each according to his deeds. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are they who wash their robes so as to have the right to the tree of life and enter the city through its gates. Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the unchaste, the murderers, the idol-worshipers, and all who love and practice deceit. "I, Jesus, sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let the hearer say, "Come." Let the one who thirsts come forward, and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water. I warn everyone who hears the prophetic words in this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words in this prophetic book, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city described in this book. The one who gives this testimony says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all (Rev 22,10-21).*

The Letter to the Hebrews urges us to pay close attention. The Word of the Lord must be heard. It always does what it says. Not the least will ever fall into emptiness. All will be accomplished according to the truth placed in them. So it recites, so it will happen. Always.

*Therefore, as the holy Spirit says: "Oh, that today you would hear his voice, 'Harden not your hearts as at the rebellion in the day of testing in the desert, where your ancestors tested and tried me and saw my works for forty years. Because of this I was provoked with that generation and I said, "They have always been of erring heart, and they do not know my ways." As I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter into my rest."'" Take care, brothers, that none of you may have an evil and unfaithful heart, so as to forsake the living God. Encourage yourselves daily while it is still "today," so that none of you may grow hardened by the deceit of sin. We have become partners of Christ if only we hold the beginning of the reality firm until the end, for it is said: "Oh, that today you would hear his voice: 'Harden not your hearts as at the rebellion.'" Who were those who rebelled when they heard? Was it not all those who came out of Egypt under Moses? With whom was he "provoked for forty years"? Was it not those who had sinned, whose corpses fell in the desert? And to whom did he "swear that they should not enter into his rest," if not to those who were disobedient? And we see that they could not enter for lack of faith (Heb 3,7-19).*

Not only will the Word of Jesus be fulfilled entirely, even the Word of the Father will be fulfilled entirely. Every Word that the New Testament has not abolished - almost all the ritual prescriptions have been abolished - will be fulfilled; moral prescriptions are valid forever. They never pass.

*"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

It is urgent to resume faith in the fulfilment of the Word. It is the only way of salvation.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that we believe in the fulfilment of every Word of God.

## Whoever is angry with his brother

## 2 Cor 3,15- 4,1.3-6; Ps 84; Mt 5,20-26

### 13 JUNE

In the Old Testament, it is said that while David was cursed, he did not get angry, he did not answer with evil, he kept silent and put up with everything in silence. He lived very meekly. He offered that insult to the Lord as a discount for his sins.

*As David was approaching Bahurim, a man named Shimei, the son of Gera of the same clan as Saul's family, was coming out of the place, cursing as he came. He threw stones at David and at all the king's officers, even though all the soldiers, including the royal guard, were on David's right and on his left. Shimei was saying as he cursed: "Away, away, you murderous and wicked man! The Lord has requited you for all the bloodshed in the family of Saul, in whose stead you became king, and the Lord has given over the kingdom to your son Absalom. And now you suffer ruin because you are a murderer." Abishai, son of Zeruiah, said to the king: "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over, please, and lop off his head." But the king replied: "What business is it of mine or of yours, sons of Zeruiah, that he curses? Suppose the Lord has told him to curse David; who then will dare to say, 'Why are you doing this?'" Then the king said to Abishai and to all his servants: "If my own son, who came forth from my loins, is seeking my life, how much more might this Benjaminite do so! Let him alone and let him curse, for the Lord has told him to. Perhaps the Lord will look upon my affliction and make it up to me with benefits for the curses he is uttering this day." David and his men continued on the road, while Shimei kept abreast of them on the hillside, all the while cursing and throwing stones and dirt as he went. The king and all the soldiers with him arrived at the Jordan tired out, and stopped there for a rest (2Sam 16,5-14).*

In the New Testament we know that Jesus, under any kind of insult, including the scourging, did not even say a word. He was silent. He was not angry. While he was crucified, before offering his sacrifice to the Father, he reconciled himself with all his executioners, excusing them and asking for forgiveness from the Father for them. Gospel said and Gospel lived.

*When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. [Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."] They divided his garments by casting lots. The people stood by and watched; the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Messiah of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews." Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Lk 23,33-43).*

We understand the teaching of Jesus if we know the essence or foundation that is the very truth of the Christian. Every disciple of Jesus, as part of his body, is called to offer his life for the redemption and salvation of the world. He can do this in the greatest purity of the heart, mind, thoughts, desires and will. If the other is to be saved from my suffering, can I be angry if I get insulted? If I get angry, not only do I put myself out of the mission, I contradict Christ in meekness.

*I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven. "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, 'Raqa,' will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, 'You fool,' will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court with him. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.*

Jesus wants every one of his disciples to always see himself from the body of Christ with the eyes of the Holy Spirit. He in Christ is constituted as a man of reconciliation, peace, forgiveness, goodness and mercy. To give these goods he is called to deprive himself of his own body.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that every Christian reveals Christ Jesus with his life.

## If your right eye causes you to sin

## 2 Cor 4,7-15; Ps 11 5; Mt 5,27-32

### 14 JUNE

From an impure look, bad desire, trouble arise that can involve even a whole people, if who desires is a high-ranking person. Joseph was thrown into Pharaoh's prisons because he had not corresponded to the impure desires of Potiphar's wife. For an immodest look, David committed adultery and murder and because of this sin an internal war with many deaths broke out in his reign.

*After a time, his master's wife began to look fondly at him and said, "Lie with me." But he refused. "As long as I am here," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house, but has entrusted to me all he owns. He wields no more authority in this house than I do, and he has withheld from me nothing but yourself, since you are his wife. How, then, could I commit so great a wrong and thus stand condemned before God?" Although she tried to entice him day after day, he would not agree to lie beside her, or even stay near her. One such day, when Joseph came into the house to do his work, and none of the household servants were then in the house, she laid hold of him by his cloak, saying, "Lie with me!" But leaving the cloak in her hand, he got away from her and ran outside. When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand as he fled outside, she screamed for her household servants and told them, "Look! my husband has brought in a Hebrew slave to make sport of us! He came in here to lie with me, but I cried out as loud as I could. When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran away outside" (Gen 39,7-15).*

*David grew very angry with that man and said to Nathan: "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this merits death! He shall restore the ewe lamb fourfold because he has done this and has had no pity." Then Nathan said to David: "You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king of Israel. I rescued you from the hand of Saul. I gave you your lord's house and your lord's wives for your own. I gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were not enough, I could count up for you still more. Why have you spurned the Lord and done evil in his sight? You have cut down Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you took his wife as your own, and him you killed with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah to be your wife.' Thus says the Lord: 'I will bring evil upon you out of your own house. I will take your wives while you live to see it, and will give them to your neighbour. He shall lie with your wives in broad daylight. You have done this deed in secret, but I will bring it about in the presence of all Israel, and with the sun looking down.'" Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan answered David: "The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin: you shall not die. But since you have utterly spurned the Lord by this deed, the child born to you must surely die." Then Nathan returned to his house (2Sam 12,5-15).*

The moral, spiritual, social and economic evils that adultery and divorce produce are extremely incalculable. Divorce, today declared a right by the abominable laws of man, is causing the destruction of the family and consequently a permanent harm in children. By now murders and suicides are no longer counted. By right man destroys the Law of God. Nature rebels against its destruction and reacts violently. Unfortunately this is our daily reality. Nature wants what belongs to it.

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna. "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce.' But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful) causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.*

Every offense caused to God is also an offense caused to nature. A mortal wound is inflicted on nature. If it is not immediately treated with the return to the law of the Lord, the evils it produces are incalculable. History testifies it. It is the truth.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that Christians open their eyes and see the debacle.

## Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No'

## 2Cor 5,4-21; Ps 102; Mt 5,33-37

### 15 JUNE

The Word reveals the heart. A pious man and a pious word. Good man and good word. Holy man and holy word. Evil man and evil word. St. James reveals that the language of the bad man has its roots in hell and it is from it that draws the word out. The Book of Sirach urges us to be very prudent in every word uttered.

*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).*

*Cursed be gossips and the double-tongued, for they destroy the peace of many. A meddlesome tongue subverts many, and makes them refugees among the peoples; It destroys walled cities, and overthrows powerful dynasties. A meddlesome tongue can drive virtuous women from their homes and rob them of the fruit of their toil; Whoever heeds it has no rest, nor can he dwell in peace. A blow from a whip raises a welt, but a blow from the tongue smashes bones; Many have fallen by the edge of the sword, but not as many as by the tongue. Happy he who is sheltered from it, and has not endured its wrath; Who has not borne its yoke nor been fettered with its chain; For its yoke is a yoke of iron and its chains are chains of bronze! Dire is the death it inflicts, besides which even the nether world is a gain; It will not take hold among the just nor scorch them in its flame, But those who forsake the Lord will fall victims to it, as it burns among them unquenchably! It will hurl itself against them like a lion; like a panther, it will tear them to pieces. As you hedge round your vineyard with thorns, set barred doors over your mouth; As you seal up your silver and gold, so balance and weigh your words. Take care not to slip by your tongue and fall victim to your foe waiting in ambush (Sir 28,13-26).*

In Christ Jesus, the Christian has become love in the Father. His word must be the fruit of his love, it must be the fruit that comes from love to lead to love. Therefore, it must be a word of truth, justice and charity. He has become grace in Jesus Lord. His word must always produce grace of salvation and redemption. He has become communion in the Holy Spirit. His word must always create peace, reconciliation and great communion among men. This is why his yes must be yes, in truth. His no must be no in justice, in charity and in mercy.

*"Again you have heard that it was said to your ancestors, 'Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.' But I say to you, do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one.*

Those of the Christian are not "yes" or arbitrary "no". They are "yes" and "no" generated in him by love and justice. To the right and to love one always says yes. To the unjust and the false one always says no. Jesus said yes to the cross. He said no to the denial of the Father. He always said yes to charity. He said no to egoism and the thoughts of the world.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that we say our "yes" and "no" according to truth and love.

## You cannot bear it now

## Pr 8,22-31; Ps 8; Rom 5,1-5; Jn 16,12-15

### 16 JUNE

The Lord our God governs every man always moved by his grace and eternal wisdom, that guides his thoughts and interventions in history. The prophet Isaiah shows you the Lord all intent on consoling his people, announcing to it the liberation from the harsh Babylonian slavery. He presents him in the guise of a shepherd that leads his mother sheep slowly and bears the lambs on his chest. Our God is eternally patient and knows what the weight that every heart can bring is.

*Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; Indeed, she has received from the hand of the Lord double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; The rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. A voice says, "Cry out!" I answer, "What shall I cry out?" "All mankind is grass, and all their glory like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower wilts, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it. (So then, the people is the grass.) Though the grass withers and the flower wilts, the word of our God stands forever." Go up onto a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; Cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord God, who rules by his strong arm; Here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, Carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care (Is 40,1-11).*

Saint Paul teaches the Corinthians that the Law of the Lord can be observed. God does not give a weight that nature cannot bring. By giving a weight, he also gives the grace and the strength to overcome every temptation. Nothing is superior to the strength of our nature.

*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 10,8-13).*

St. Paul always affirms of himself that he experienced a test superior to his strength in Asia. It means that it was exceedingly great. But it was overcome by grace.

*We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction that came to us in the province of Asia; we were utterly weighed down beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, we had accepted within ourselves the sentence of death, that we might trust not in ourselves but in God who raises the dead. He rescued us from such great danger of death, and he will continue to rescue us; in him we have put our hope (that) he will also rescue us again, as you help us with prayer, so that thanks may be given by many on our behalf for the gift granted us through the prayers of many (2Cor 1,8-11).*

Jesus must give his disciples an obedience to his Word until death by the cross, until the total annihilation of their life. Now they are not able to carry its weight. Tomorrow the Holy Spirit will come and lead them to their Golgotha.

*"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.*

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, teach Christians the science of patience and wisdom.

## When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek

## 2 Cor 6,1-10; Ps 97; Mt 5,38-42

### 17 JUNE

An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth was the wisest rule given by God to his people in order to limit the often practiced vengeance without any limitation.

*"When men have a fight and hurt a pregnant woman, so that she suffers a miscarriage, but no further injury, the guilty one shall be fined as much as the woman's husband demands of him, and he shall pay in the presence of the judges. But if injury ensues, you shall give life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe (Ex 21,22-25).*

We know that the disproportionate and limitless revenge had been introduced by Lamec. Not only did he practice it, he also boasted of it with his two wives.

*Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, listen to my utterance: I have killed a man for wounding me, a boy for bruising me. If Cain is avenged sevenfold, then Lamech seventy-sevenfold" (Gen 4,23-24).*

We know how much Simeon and Levi did to avenge the dishonor caused to their sister Dina. They killed all the males of an entire people. A disproportionate revenge. Because of this very serious crime, Jacob excluded them from the birthright.

*Dinah, the daughter whom Leah had borne to Jacob, went out to visit some of the women of the land. When Shechem, son of Hamor the Hivite, who was chief of the region, saw her, he seized her and lay with her by force. Since he was strongly attracted to Dinah, daughter of Jacob, indeed was really in love with the girl, he endeavoured to win her affection. Shechem also asked his father Hamor, "Get me this girl for a wife." Meanwhile, Jacob heard that Shechem had defiled his daughter Dinah; but since his sons were out in the fields with his livestock, he held his peace until they came home. Jacob's sons replied to Shechem and his father Hamor with guile, speaking as they did because their sister Dinah had been defiled. "We could not do such a thing," they said, "as to give our sister to an uncircumcised man; that would be a disgrace for us. We will agree with you only on this condition, that you become like us by having every male among you circumcised. Then we will give you our daughters and take yours in marriage; we will settle among you and become one kindred people with you. But if you do not comply with our terms regarding circumcision, we will take our daughter and go away."*

*On the third day, while they were still in pain, Dinah's full brothers Simeon and Levi, two of Jacob's sons, took their swords, advanced against the city without any trouble, and massacred all the males. After they had put Hamor and his son Shechem to the sword, they took Dinah from Shechem's house and left. Then the other sons of Jacob followed up the slaughter and sacked the city in reprisal for their sister Dinah's defilement. They seized their flocks, herds and asses, whatever was in the city and in the country around. They carried off all their wealth, their women, and their children, and took for loot whatever was in the houses. Jacob said to Simeon and Levi: "You have brought trouble upon me by making me loathsome to the inhabitants of the land, the Canaanites and the Perizzites. I have so few men that, if these people unite against me and attack me, I and my family will be wiped out." But they retorted, "Should our sister have been treated like a harlot?" (Gen 34,1-31).*

*"Simeon and Levi, brothers indeed, weapons of violence are their knives. Let not my soul enter their council, or my spirit be joined with their company; For in their fury they slew men, in their wilfulness they maimed oxen. Cursed be their fury so fierce, and their rage so cruel! I will scatter them in Jacob, disperse them throughout Israel (Gen 49,5-7).*

Jesus asks for complete surrender before every injustice suffered. The surrender must be of the mind, of the spirit, of the heart and of the body. It must be his own sheep surrendering in front of his shearers and killers.

*"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on (your) right cheek, turn the other one to him as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.*

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that complete surrender is our only law.

## That you may be children of your heavenly Father

## 2Cor 8,1-9: Ps 145; Mt 5,43-48

### 18 JUNE

The Book of Wisdom reveals to us that our God does his every work in view of the salvation of man. Even his correction is always aimed at salvation. If the Father works for salvation, even his children must work for salvation.

*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! 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 (Cfr. Wis 11,21.12,27).*

In the Book of Leviticus God reveals himself as the Saint, that is, as he who wants only the good of his creatures. Even his children must be saints, that is, they will have to want only the good of their brothers. The good must be sought and lived in every relationship with men.

*The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy. "You shall not defraud or rob your neighbour. You shall not withhold overnight the wages of your day labourer. You shall not curse the deaf, or put a stumbling block in front of the blind, but you shall fear your God. I am the Lord. "You shall not act dishonestly in rendering judgment. Show neither partiality to the weak nor deference to the mighty, but judge your fellow men justly. You shall not go about spreading slander among your kinsmen; nor shall you stand by idly when your neighbour’s life is at stake. I am the Lord. "You shall not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. Though you may have to reprove your fellow man, do not incur sin because of him. Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your fellow countrymen. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord. "Keep my statutes. "When an alien resides with you in your land, do not molest him. You shall treat the alien who resides with you no differently than the natives born among you; have the same love for him as for yourself; for you too were once aliens in the land of Egypt. I, the Lord, am your God.* *"Do not act dishonestly in using measures of length or weight or capacity. You shall have a true scale and true weights, an honest ephah and an honest hin. I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt (Cf. Lev 19,1-37).*

Jesus is the Crucifix given by the Father for the salvation of every man. If the Father gives his Son for the redemption of humanity, those who are his sons in the Son must also give their lives for the salvation of their brothers. As God loves for the salvation of all and gives the Son for all, so every one of his sons in Christ must give his life and everything else for the salvation of all. Universal love of all of themselves, always.

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

In love, the Christian has only one model to imitate: Christ Crucified, gift of the Father for the redemption and salvation of the world. Who wants to live according to this love must never take his eyes off of Jesus, the Crucifix for love of the whole world.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, teach us to love according to the heart of Crucified Jesus.

## So that you may not appear to be fasting

## 2 Cor 9,6-11; Ps 111; Mt 6,1-6.16-18

### 19 JUNE

A Christian is one who in Christ, under the constant motion and guidance of the Holy Spirit, has given his life to the Father so that through it all his glory is revealed. The Christian is a consecrated person in the service of the glory of God. If he works for the glory of the Father, he cannot work for his glory. If he works for his glory, he certainly will not work for the glory of the Father. Never might the Father give him the eternal reward. St. Paul exhorts both the Corinthians and the Romans to always live according to this purpose.

*So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved (1Cor 10,31-33). We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves; let each of us please our neighbour for the good, for building up. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you fall upon me." For whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God (Cf. Rm 15,1-9).*

That is how a mystic of our times, under the constant motion of the Holy Spirit, has always thought and lived her life. Even a sigh of hers is for the glory of the Lord.

*For you ... Lord, I live, I walk, I go, I announce your Word. For you ... Lord, I look for, I ask, I find and knock at your door. For you ... Lord, I hope, I love, I believe and wait for you to come. For you ... Lord, I visit, I cure and relieve suffering. For you ... Lord, I do not wait, I do not want, I do not wish and do not aspire for the reward of men. For you ... Lord, I suffer, I endure, I tolerate and die to always stay with you. For you ... Lord, suffering is joy, the cross is resurrection, death is life and the offering of me is a gift from you. For you ... Lord, obedience, sacrifice, the stable and the cross is the way for the glory of your Father. For you ... Lord, our thoughts do not count, have no value, do not give life and do not lead us to you for eternity. For you ... Lord, the gift of life for the Gospel and your Word of truth give us the joy of paradise.*

Jesus warns us. If we work for the glory of God, the Father will give us his eternal reward in his heaven of bliss and eternal joy. If we work for our glory, we have already received our ephemeral joy. Never might God reward us. We have not worked for Him. By righteousness He owes nothing to us. We are without eternal reward. What good is it for man to gain the whole world, if he then loses his soul?

*"(But) take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. "When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.*

Everyone is obliged to choose. Who serves himself will have the reward from himself. It is a reward of death. Who serves God will have the reward from God and it will be eternal.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that we do everything for the glory of our God.

## Give us today our daily bread

## 2 Cor 11,1-11; Ps 110; Mt 6,7-15

### 20 JUNE

When man is in obedience to the Law of the Lord, he will never be missing in anything. Those who live in the Commandments will always be enveloped with every blessing. It is a promise of God. Never has the Lord failed to a single one of his words. He says and things are.

*"Thus, then, shall it be: if you continue to heed the voice of the Lord, your God, and are careful to observe all his commandments which I enjoin on you today, the Lord, your God, will raise you high above all the nations of the earth. When you hearken to the voice of the Lord, your God, all these blessings will come upon you and overwhelm you: "May you be blessed in the city, and blessed in the country! "Blessed be the fruit of your womb, the produce of your soil and the offspring of your livestock, the issue of your herds and the young of your flocks! "Blessed be your grain bin and your kneading bowl! "May you be blessed in your coming in, and blessed in your going out! "The Lord will beat down before you the enemies that rise up against you; though they come out against you from but one direction, they will flee before you in seven. The Lord will affirm his blessing upon you, on your barns and on all your undertakings, blessing you in the land that the Lord, your God, gives you. Provided that you keep the commandments of the Lord, your God, and walk in his ways, he will establish you as a people sacred to himself, as he swore to you; so that, when all the nations of the earth see you bearing the name of the Lord, they will stand in awe of you. The Lord will increase in more than goodly measure the fruit of your womb, the offspring of your livestock, and the produce of your soil, in the land which he swore to your fathers he would give you. The Lord will open up for you his rich treasure house of the heavens, to give your land rain in due season, blessing all your undertakings, so that you will lend to many nations and borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail, and you will always mount higher and not decline, as long as you obey the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I order you today to observe carefully; not turning aside to the right or to the left from any of the commandments which I now give you, in order to follow other gods and serve them (Dt 28,1-14).*

Jesus exhorts us to always seek the kingdom of God and its justice. The rest will be given in excess. Also in the prayer of Our Father: first we search for the kingdom, first we live in justice, then we look for bread. But bread is already given to those who are in the law.

*"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat (or drink), or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil (Mt 6,25-34).*

In the prayer of "Our Father" everything is a gift from God. One thing is our promise: always forgiving all our debtors, to be us forgiven and become true kingdom of God. If we are the kingdom of God, the Father will make us miss in nothing. We are God's kingdom if we live in the whole Word of Jesus. If we fulfil all righteousness. Whoever spends the day in idleness is not in the Word of Jesus. He does not live in perfect justice.

*In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one. If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.*

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us live by the Word. The Father will provide for us.

**JUNE 2019**

***THIRD DECADE OF JUNE***

## The lamp of the body is the eye

## 2 Cor 11,18.21b-30; Ps 33; Mt 6,19-23

### 21 JUNE

The eye is the first and greatest way through which the evil of the world and every scandal enter the heart of man and turn into bad desire. Nothing is more necessary to the man than the custody of the eyes. Everyone is obliged to keep them closed for evil and to open them in order to operate the greatest good. Job certifies that he always closed his eyes to evil and always opened them for good to all. Nobody received a single evil from him. All received the greatest good. He has made of his eyes a perfect use for everyone.

*If I have made an agreement with my eyes and entertained any thoughts against a maiden; But what is man's lot from God above, his inheritance from the Almighty on high? Is it not calamity for the unrighteous, and woe for evildoers? Does he not see my ways, and number all my steps?  If I have walked in falsehood and my foot has hastened to deceit; Let God weigh me in the scales of justice; thus will he know my innocence! If my steps have turned out of the way, and my heart has followed my eyes, or any stain clings to my hands, Then may I sow, but another eat of it, or may my planting be rooted up! If my heart has been enticed toward a woman, and I have lain in wait at my neighbour’s door; Then may my wife grind for another, and may others cohabit with her! For that would be heinous, a crime to be condemned; A fire that should burn down to the abyss till it consumed all my possessions to the roots. Had I refused justice to my manservant or to my maid, when they had a claim against me, What then should I do when God rose up; what could I answer when he demanded an account?*

*Did not he who made me in the womb make him? Did not the same One fashion us before our birth? If I have denied anything to the poor, or allowed the eyes of the widow to languish While I ate my portion alone, with no share in it for the fatherless, Though like a father God has reared me from my youth, guiding me even from my mother's womb - If I have seen a wanderer without clothing, or a poor man without covering, Whose limbs have not blessed me when warmed with the fleece of my sheep; If I have raised my hand against the innocent because I saw that I had supporters at the gate - Then may my arm fall from the shoulder, my forearm be broken at the elbow! For the dread of God will be upon me, and his majesty will overpower me. Had I put my trust in gold or called fine gold my security; Or had I rejoiced that my wealth was great, or that my hand had acquired abundance - Had I looked upon the sun as it shone, or the moon in the splendour of its progress, And had my heart been secretly enticed to waft them a kiss with my hand; This too would be a crime for condemnation, for I should have denied God above.*

*Had I rejoiced at the destruction of my enemy or exulted when evil fell upon him, Even though I had not suffered my mouth to sin by uttering a curse against his life - Had not the men of my tent exclaimed, "Who has not been fed with his meat!" Because no stranger lodged in the street, but I opened my door to wayfarers - Had I, out of human weakness, hidden my sins and buried my guilt in my bosom Because I feared the noisy multitude and the scorn of the tribes terrified me - then I should have remained silent, and not come out of doors! Oh, that I had one to hear my case, and that my accuser would write out his indictment! Surely, I should wear it on my shoulder or put it on me like a diadem; Of all my steps I should give him an account; like a prince I should present myself before him. This is my final plea; let the Almighty answer me! The words of Job are ended. If my land has cried out against me till its very furrows complained; If I have eaten its produce without payment and grieved the hearts of its tenants; Then let the thistles grow instead of wheat and noxious weeds instead of barley! (Job 31.1-40a).*

We know from the Gospel that the rich villain did not make good use of his eyes. He only used them to look in his closets and his dishes and pots. He finished his days in eternal fire. Not even scribes, Pharisees and chief priests used their eyes to see the good. Their hearts were so wicked as to make their eyes an instrument capable of always seeing evil, even when the greatest good was before them. Evil heart and evil eyes and mouth.

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. "The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light; but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be in darkness. And if the light in you is darkness, how great will the darkness be.*

Every sense is an instrument of the heart. If the eye is bad, the mouth will also be bad. It is a sign that the heart is bad and the whole man is bad. Purification of the soul is needed.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, give us the Spirit of conversion. Pure soul and pure eyes.

## Do not worry about your life

## 2 Cor 12,1-10; Ps 33; Mt 6,24-34

### 22 JUNE

God did not create man by placing him in a wild, scorching desert, devoid of any form of life. He created and placed him in a garden of delights. In it there was every plant from which he drew every fruit to feed the life of his body. But in the garden there was also the tree of death. Never should man have had to feed on it.

*At the time when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens - while as yet there was no field shrub on earth and no grass of the field had sprouted, for the Lord God had sent no rain upon the earth and there was no man to till the soil, but a stream was welling up out of the earth and was watering all the surface of the ground - the Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being. Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and he placed there the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made various trees grow that were delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and bad. A river rises in Eden to water the garden; beyond there it divides and becomes four branches. The name of the first is the Pishon; it is the one that winds through the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. The gold of that land is excellent; bdellium and lapis lazuli are also there. The name of the second river is the Gihon; it is the one that winds all through the land of Cush. The name of the third river is the Tigris; it is the one that flows east of Asshur. The fourth river is the Euphrates. The Lord God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it. The Lord God gave man this order: "You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die" (Gen 2,4-17).*

After sin, God created for man another garden in which to draw every fruit of life. This garden in which to live is the Ten Commandments, his Statutes and his Laws. If man dwells in the garden of God, he receives every life. He comes out of it, he enters the desert of death, of desolation, poverty and hunger. Not only does he come out, he also transforms the earth into a land of misery and death for others.

*When I brought you into the garden land to eat its goodly fruits, You entered and defiled my land, you made my heritage loathsome. Two evils have my people done: they have forsaken me, the source of living waters; They have dug themselves cisterns, broken cisterns, that hold no water (Cf. Jer 2,1-37).*

Today the new garden of life is the Gospel. One enters it, the Father provides for every need, according to his divine and eternal wisdom. You come out, you live in the manner of the younger son of the parable of Jesus: you are forced to graze pigs. These feed on carobs in abundance. We die of hunger. There is no life out of the house of the Gospel. What is our folly? We wish to give life to the world, serving them the waste of carobs, rather than pointing the way to the garden of life.

*"No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat (or drink), or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your life-span? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. They do not work or spin. But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil.*

The Word of Jesus is eternal truth. In the garden of his Gospel there is life in abundance.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that Christians believe in every Word of Christ the Lord.

## Give them some food yourselves

## Gn 14,18-20; Ps 109; 1 Cor 11,23-26; Lk 9,11b-17

### 23 JUNE

We are in the desert. There is no bread. Jesus does not tell the disciples that invite him to dismiss the crowd so that it goes to the nearby villages to get some bread: *"I will give them something to eat"*. Instead he says: *"You give them something to eat"*. There is a substantial change in what happened in the desert with the fathers. There it is God who promises Moses that he would have given Himself both bread and meat to eat to all people.

*Here in the desert the whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "Would that we had died at the Lord’s hand in the land of Egypt, as we sat by our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread! But you had to lead us into this desert to make the whole community die of famine!" Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will now rain down bread from heaven for you. Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not. On the sixth day, however, when they prepare what they bring in, let it be twice as much as they gather on the other days." So Moses and Aaron told all the Israelites, "At evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt; and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, as he heeds your grumbling against him. But what are we that you should grumble against us? When the Lord gives you flesh to eat in the evening," continued Moses, "and in the morning your fill of bread, as he heeds the grumbling you utter against him, what then are we? Your grumbling is not against us, but against the Lord" (Ex 16,2-8).*

In the spiritual desert of history, until the new heavens and the new earth are created, bread will always descend from heaven, but whoever must prepare it, transforming it into the body and blood of Christ Jesus, must be the apostles and presbyters their collaborators in the Episcopal order. Jesus' command - you give them something to eat - goes far beyond the present moment. It is a command that is valid for every time and place. If the Apostle with his word transforms the bread into body and the wine into the blood of Christ, the nourishment of the journey is given. If the Apostle does not transform these elements, the Eucharist does not exist. As in the desert, with Jesus it was necessary that he were given few loaves and few fish, so that He could accomplish the multiplication, so it is necessary that to the Apostle bread and wine are always brought for the transformation into body and blood of the Lord. Man gives matter, the Apostle transforms it into nourishment of eternal life. But man must also give the Apostles and Priests to Christ, so that the miracle can be accomplished. We offer Jesus "the necessary instruments" and the Father, through the work of his Holy Spirit, transforms bread into body and wine into blood. Without apostles and presbyters the transformation will never happen. But even without bread and wine it might never be realized. Man remains without his true nourishment. Lacking all strength, it will be impossible for him to make the journey.

*He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and he healed those who needed to be cured. As the day was drawing to a close, the Twelve approached him and said, "Dismiss the crowd so that they can go to the surrounding villages and farms and find lodging and provisions; for we are in a deserted place here." He said to them, "Give them some food yourselves." They replied, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have, unless we ourselves go and buy food for all these people." Now the men there numbered about five thousand. Then he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of (about) fifty." They did so and made them all sit down. Then taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing over them, broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets.*

Knowing the whole Church how necessary the Eucharist is for her, every day she must raise to the Lord a heartfelt cry to send Apostles and Priests so that they do the body and blood of Christ for her. The Church gives to God her faith in the Eucharist, true and profound faith, of heart, mind and desires. To this she adds her uninterrupted prayer of request. God sees faith. He listens and sends the instruments.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, send Apostles and Priests. We will feed on Christ Jesus.

## Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed,

## Is 49,1-6; Ps 138; At 13,22-26; Lk 1,57-66.80

### 24 JUNE

When the Word comes out of the mouth of the Lord, it is always fulfilled. It is never said in vain. It never falls empty. In the temple, the Angel Gabriel had announced to Zechariah the great event of the birth from him and from Elizabeth, his wife, of a son, with a particular mission, but he did not believe. The Angel gives him a sign: you remain mute until all these things will have been accomplished. They will all be duly accomplished in due time. Conception was accomplished. The gift of the Holy Spirit to the conceived child when he was still in the womb had happened through the Virgin Mary. Childbirth had been accomplished. Zechariah was still mute. The last fulfilment is missing: the imposition of the name that took place on the day of circumcision. Zechariah writes on a tablet that the child's name is John and at once he opens his mouth and his tongue is loosened. Now he can narrate the works of the Lord, he can prophesy who this child is and why the Lord sent him.

Those present at birth praise the Lord for the great wonder accomplished. Elizabeth is in everything like Sarah, Abraham's wife. It was in her that the Lord manifested his omnipotence for the first time. Then he manifested it in Rebecca. And more in Sara. In Anna, Samuel's mother. God is truly present in the life of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Seeing God present in one's life is the obligation of every man. This obligation must be a hundredfold in the Christian. Even in the smallest events of life God reveals himself and works with grace, mercy, benevolence and love. However, after the language of Zechariah is loosened, the attention of those present immediately passes to John. What will it be of this child? Everyone knows that the Lord is with John, but they still do not know the purpose for which the Lord gave him birth. The end is immediately indicated by Zechariah in his hymn of blessing and praise to his God. John was born because he must go before the Lord to prepare his way. The Lord to whom he must prepare the way is the Christ of God, the Sun that is born from above, the Sun that is God and who has come to dwell in the flesh in our midst. John will be the prophet of the Most High.

*When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John." But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbours, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel.*

Another truth that needs to be highlighted requires that it be immediately said that the Holy Spirit does not leave John the Baptist at the mercy of men, their schools, their doctrines and their thoughts. The Spirit of the Lord wants to be his one and only Master. Because of this, from an early age, moves John so that he withdraws into deserted places. Contact with men contaminates the mind and the heart. John cannot contaminate himself. He must be the man with the purest listening to the Word of God. Between him and the Lord there must not even be the shadow of a thought or a word of the earth. A wrong decision of his, an ill-treated presentation of Christ Jesus would suffice and the plan of the Lord's salvation would be polluted. Instead, the Holy Spirit, from the Mother's womb, makes John his own and no one might ever go through the breastplate of fire placed around the Precursor of the Lord. It also applies to Christians. If they let themselves be taken from the world, they pollute themselves with the thoughts of the earth. Little by little they no longer know what thought is of God and what of the world. It is confusion.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that Christians are of the Holy Spirit and never of the world.

## Enter through the narrow gate

## Gn 13,2.5-18; Ps 14; Mt 7,6.12-14

### 25 JUNE

As the history of salvation advances towards full revelation in Christ Jesus, the gate, while still being narrow, changes in nature and substance, shrinking for the better. As you progress, if you could first cross it with a body of flesh, little by little you can cross it only if you become spiritual beings, transformed according to this end by the Holy Spirit. The first narrow gate begins with the Commandments. Obedience to the two tables of the Law is necessary for God's blessing to descend upon man. But also so that man tastes the earth that God promised him. You go out of obedience, the gate closes. God comes to man with his blessing. Man does not ascend to God in the perfection of life. You follow another stretch of road. The gate of life and blessing is the fear of the Lord, which is root, crown, tree and the beginning of wisdom. One comes out of the fear of the Lord, the will of God is not accomplished, God does not descend with his grace, man does not ascend with his human truth, of a person made in the image and likeness of his Creator.

*All wisdom comes from the Lord and with him it remains forever. The sand of the seashore, the drops of rain, the days of eternity: who can number these? Heaven's height, earth's breadth, the depths of the abyss: who can explore these? Before all things else wisdom was created; and prudent understanding, from eternity. To whom has wisdom's root been revealed? Who knows her subtleties? There is but one, wise and truly awe-inspiring, seated upon his throne: It is the Lord; he created her, has seen her and taken note of her. He has poured her forth upon all his works, upon every living thing according to his bounty; he has lavished her upon his friends. Fear of the Lord is glory and splendour, gladness and a festive crown.*

*Fear of the Lord warms the heart, giving gladness and joy and length of days. He who fears the Lord will have a happy end; even on the day of his death he will be blessed. The beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord, which is formed with the faithful in the womb. With devoted men was she created from of old, and with their children her beneficence abides. Fullness of wisdom is fear of the Lord; she inebriates men with her fruits. Her entire house she fills with choice foods, her granaries with her harvest. Wisdom's garland is fear of the Lord, with blossoms of peace and perfect health. Knowledge and full understanding she showers down; she heightens the glory of those who possess her. The root of wisdom is fear of the Lord; her branches are length of days. One cannot justify unjust anger; anger plunges a man to his downfall. A patient man need stand firm but for a time, and then contentment comes back to him. For a while he holds back his words, then the lips of many herald his wisdom (Sir 1,1-21).*

Jesus comes, as for him the narrow gate is the Holy Spirit, who will have to lead him to obey even his most hidden and undisclosed thoughts and desires, until death by crucifixion on Golgotha, so for the disciples of Jesus, the narrow gate is not the Gospel and it is not the Beatitudes, it is instead the perennial and uninterrupted obedience to the Holy Spirit. If we leave the government and motion of the Holy Spirit, we make of the Gospel a word like all other words. This is what is happening today in the Church of the Lord. We read the Gospel as we read every other book, every magazine and every weekly. It is a word, but not the Word of God. Instead, if we are in the government of the Holy Spirit, the Gospel becomes true Word of Christ Jesus. The Spirit of the Lord gives us the intelligence to understand it and moves us to its perfect implementation. It is the Spirit of the Lord what makes us live the Gospel according to the will of God today.

*"Do not give what is holy to dogs, or throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them underfoot, and turn and tear you to pieces. "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets. "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.*

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that the Holy Spirit guides us through the narrow gate.

## Beware of false prophets

## Gn 15,1-12.17-18; Ps 104; Mt 7,15-20

### 26 JUNE

False prophets have been the ruin of the ancient people of the Lord and are also the ruin of the new. A false prophet produces more damage in a single day than a thousand people opposed to Christ every day for a thousand years of hard and bitter fighting against the Gospel. Pagans have never destroyed the Church, indeed they have made her strong and invincible. For Christians their bloodshed for Christ was the seed of other Christians. Instead the Church was always lacerated and is lacerated by her false prophets, that is, by the false prophets that arose and are arising from her bosom. Today are the false Christian prophets not tearing the Church faith, morality, truth, theology, Scripture, Gospel, Revelation, Tradition, Magisterium, sacraments and ordained ministers? Is there only one truth or one principle on which the Church stands that has remained firmly in its place? Paul can also cry out that there is no other Gospel or that it produces salvation if preserved in its purity of origin. He can also cry it out, but who listens to him? Today, the empire is the realm of false prophecy. The more one is a false prophet and the more the world applauds and praises.

*I am amazed that you are so quickly forsaking the one who called you by (the) grace (of Christ) for a different gospel (not that there is another). But there are some who are disturbing you and wish to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach (to you) a gospel other than the one that we preached to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, and now I say again, if anyone preaches to you a gospel other than the one that you received, let that one be accursed! Am I now currying favor with human beings or God? Or am I seeking to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a slave of Christ. Now I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin. For I did not receive it from a human being, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ (Gal 1,6-12). 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).*

Can we look out today from false prophets? There is only one way and it is expensive. We must be cemented in all ten Commandments of the Ancient Law, without ever leaving them. We must dwell in the Beatitudes and in all the Sermon on the Mount without ever looking either to the right or to the left. If we dwell in the Word, the Holy Spirit puts around our person his armour or his wall of fire that no false prophet might cross. Instead, if we go out a little or much of this enclosure protected and guarded by the Holy Spirit, we will be assaulted by the army of false prophets and dragged into falsehood, lie and deception. We will destroy the Church.

*"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or igs from thistles? Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them.*

If we are out of the Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount, the rule of the tree and the fruits no longer applies. This rule is applied from grace, never from vice, never from sin and never from disobedience. With sin in our heart, we become blind in mind and spirit. We see nothing. We will no longer distinguish a camel from a midge, let alone distinguishing a true from a false prophet. It is daily history.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that the Holy Spirit protects us with his wall of fire.

## Depart from me, you evildoers

## Gn 16,1-12.15-16; Ps 105; Mt 7,21-29

### 27 JUNE

One day the Lord told the prophet Jeremiah that if only one righteous person was found in Jerusalem, He would not have allowed its destruction, devastation and ruin.

*Roam the streets of Jerusalem, look about and observe, Search through her public places, to find even one Who lives uprightly and seeks to be faithful, and I will pardon her! Though they say, "As the Lord lives," they swear falsely. O Lord, do your eyes not look for honesty? You struck them, but they did not cringe; you laid them low, but they refused correction; They set their faces harder than stone, and refused to return to you. It is only the lowly, I thought, who are foolish; For they know not the way of the Lord, their duty to their God. I will go to the great ones and speak with them; For they know the way of the Lord, their duty to their God. But, one and all, they had broken the yoke, torn off the harness. Therefore lions from the forest slay them, wolves of the desert ravage them, Leopards keep watch round their cities: all who come out are torn to pieces For their many crimes and their numerous rebellions. Why should I pardon you these things? Your sons have forsaken me, they swear by gods that are not. I fed them, but they committed adultery; to the harlot's house they throng. Lustful stallions they are, each neighs after another's wife. Shall I not punish them for these things? says the Lord; On a nation such as this shall I not take vengeance? Climb to her terraces, and ravage them, destroy them (not) wholly. Tear away her tendrils, they do not belong to the Lord. For they have openly rebelled against me, both the house of Israel and the house of Judah, says the Lord (Jer 5,1-11).*

In my spirit, I am convinced that today the Lord could say the same thing: run through the Church of God, examine all consciences. Find a heart that truly believes in this word of Jesus, "I have never known you. Get away from me, you who work iniquity!", and I might begin to illuminate the world. Someone who believes on a conceptual level can also be found, but then he does not conform his life to the Words of Jesus. He does not build his house on his Gospel. Anyway - he says - his mercy always triumphs. Today, we have even come to want forgiveness without repentance, the Eucharist in mortal sin, the sacraments without any faith in them. All of this is happening because one no longer believes that what Christ has said he also maintains it. If He has said He does not know us, He does not know us. If he says that the door will remain closed, it will remain closed. But we say that his heart is always full of mercy and that the door will open for everyone. Are not we saying that in the end we will all be in heaven? Are not we teaching that hell is empty? Are we not professing that Christ no longer serves as the way to salvation? Are not we crying that every God is equal to every other God? Are not we screaming that there is no more difference between those who observe the Gospel and those who do not observe it? Is not everyone doing what he likes best? Are not we all committed to the construction of the great tower of confusion?

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.' "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined." When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.*

What solution is given to get out of this infernal tower? The solution exists and it is only one: Let he who believes in the Word of Jesus show with his conduct his faith in it.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that every Christian shows his faith with life.

## Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep

## Ez 34,11-16; Ps 22; Rm 5,5-11; Lk 15,3-7

### 28 JUNE

Jesus is the Good Shepherd of the Father. Every sheep of the Father is given to him so that he may wash it with his blood, nourish it with his flesh and makes it walk on the holy road.

*So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came [before me] are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice, and there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father" (Jn 10,7-18).*

The ancient prophecy of Ezekiel is fulfilled in Jesus. In Him, God takes personally care of his sheep. Preaching and the mission serve to this: going in search of the sheep of the Father, that are scattered, to lead them into his fold.

*For thus says the Lord God: I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. I will lead them out from among the peoples and gather them from the foreign lands; I will bring them back to their own country and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel (in the land's ravines and all its inhabited places). In good pastures will I pasture them, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing ground. There they shall lie down on good grazing ground, and in rich pastures shall they be pastured on the mountains of Israel. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord God. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal (but the sleek and the strong I will destroy), shepherding them rightly (Ez 34,11-16).*

It is not enough to gather the sheep of the Father to make them sons of Gehenna. The sheep are to be collected with love and taken care of with utmost care, supreme love and total truth.

*So I exhort the presbyters among you, as a fellow presbyter and witness to the sufferings of Christ and one who has a share in the glory to be revealed. Tend the flock of God in your midst, (overseeing) not by constraint but willingly, as God would have it, not for shameful profit but eagerly. Do not lord it over those assigned to you, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the unfading crown of glory (1Pt 5,1-4).*

Every disciple of Jesus must imitate his Good Shepherd. He must go in search of the lost sheep of the Father. This ministry is of every disciple of the Lord.

*What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost (Mt 18,12-14).* *My brothers, if anyone among you should stray from the truth and someone bring him back, he should know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins (Jms 5,19-20).*

How do we search for sheep? Just as Jesus did. Sacrificing life.

*So to them he addressed this parable. "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbours and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.*

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that that for us no sheep of the Father is lost.

## The gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it

## At 12,1-11; Ps 33; 2 Tm 4,6-8.17-18; Mt 16,13-19

### 29 JUNE

Christ Jesus reigns on the Church founded on the rock that is Peter. As Satan did not prevail over him, so he will not prevail over his body, until we remain in his body. Outside the body of Christ it is the kingdom of darkness. Hades will always prevail outside. The Apocalypse describes the definitive defeat of Satan. He will be in the pool of fire for eternity. Together with him all those who let themselves be deceived by his lie.

*When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison. He will go out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. They invaded the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the holy ones and the beloved city. But fire came down from heaven and consumed them. The Devil who had led them astray was thrown into the pool of fire and sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet were. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Next I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire (Rev 20,7-15).*

Who is Peter then in relationship with the Church? It is He who must always indicate to the Church and to the world the true Christ and the true body of Christ, the true Church of Christ that is only the one founded on Him. Other churches may also exist because of baptism, but they are deficient in many things. They lack either the fullness of grace (they are all those without apostolic succession) or they lack the full light of the truth that guides them. They lack the One who must always indicate the true Christ, his true Word, his true doctrine and his true Spirit. When either the fullness of truth, light and true Christ or the fullness of grace is lacking, true humanity, true holiness and true conformation to Christ Crucified will also necessarily be lacking. The great saints that in the true Church always upset history, turn it upside down, orient it to the truth of the Crucified and Risen Christ attest to it. These events cannot happen except on the Church founded on Peter. It is in it that the Holy Spirit works in the fullness of his gifts. On the other hand, how can a gift of the Holy Spirit ripen its fruits without the true Eucharist? How does a good tree manage to grow without the true water of the Holy Spirit, which is its conducting to the whole truth, since the truth of the Word of Jesus is denied? How can I manage to understand Scripture without Tradition and Magisterium?

*When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*

Today we live in a time where no differences of any kind are desired. All that distinguishes must be abolished. It can also be abolished, cancelled by the satanic will of man. However, the eternal and divine law that no one might ever repeal remains. Since the fruits of salvation ripen only in obedience to the Divine law, this Law is taken away and so is salvation. Without salvation the truth

of man is missing, which is only from obedience to the Eternal law of the Lord. It is an eternal divine disposition. God only obeys his truth. The truth is abolished, we work for the death of man.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that every Christian works for true life in Christ.

## The Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head

## 1Kings 19,16b.19-21; Ps 33; 2Tm 4,6-8.17-18; Lk 9,51-62

### 30 JUNE

When the Lord calls, the before is left and the after does not exist. The after exists while we live, but we do not live according to the will of man called by the Lord, but by the will of the Lord who has called the man. Abraham leaves his father's house. He hands himself over to God. His is an ever present, present. The future is only in the will of his God. Today, the Lord says and Abraham obeys. Tomorrow he says and tomorrow he will obey. The same is true for Moses and also for all the others who are called by him.

*The Lord said to Abram: "Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you" (Gen 12,1-3).* *But the Lord said, "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey, the country of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. So indeed the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have truly noted that the Egyptians are oppressing them. Come, now! I will send you to Pharaoh to lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites out of Egypt?" He answered, "I will be with you; and this shall be your proof that it is I who have sent you: when you bring my people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this very mountain" (Ex 3,7-12).*

Even Jesus, sent by God to work the redemption of the human kind, lives nothing by his will. He says and does all by immediate motion of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit tells him to go and He goes, to stop and He stops; to speak and He speaks, to perform a miracle and He does it. Today the Holy Spirit orders him to set out for Jerusalem and he sets out obeying with firm decision. If Jesus is neither a future nor a present from his will, can he give a present and a future to those whom he calls to his discipleship or to those who ask to follow him? Everyone gives what he has. Jesus has the Spirit that moves him and will give the Spirit that will move his Apostles and Disciples missionaries throughout the world. But who walks moved by the Spirit cannot program his life. If it is not all from the Holy Spirit, it cannot be a missionary life. The Spirit sends and the disciple goes. The mandate, the mission, is perennial, moment by moment, second by second. The true missionary is the one who is always sent. He who sends himself is not a missionary.

*When the days for his being taken up were fulfilled, he resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem, and he sent messengers ahead of him. On the way they entered a Samaritan village to prepare for his reception there, but they would not welcome him because the destination of his journey was Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?" Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they journeyed to another village.*

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

Every disciple of Jesus must choose. If he wants to be a missionary, he must always be sent by the Holy Spirit. If the disciple is the one who is sending himself, he is not a missionary. He is from his will, not from the will of the Spirit of the Lord. He who sends himself, is not sent. Who is sent does not send himself. Who has received a mission and modifies it, is no longer a missionary. The missionary is always from the will of the one who sent him.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that we are always missionaries according to the heart of God.