# PASTORAL LITURGY

# SERVICE

**THE GOSPEL OF THE DAY**

**(FROM THE ROMAN LITURGY)**

**VOLUME 20**

# CATANZARO

# (01 DECEMBER 2019 - 31 MAY 2020)

**PRESENTATION**

The Gospels are bearers, in every word, verse, paragraph, pericope, parable, teaching, story and dialogue, of one truth: Christ Jesus is the one and only Saviour, the one and only truth, the one and only grace, the one and only way that descends from the Father to man and from man rises towards God, the one and only Mediator between the Lord, the Creator, the living and true God and humanity. Not only is He for us. We will be us according to truth and grace, life and justice, holiness and love, light and hope only in Him and with Him, through the work of the Holy Spirit who must always come to us through his body that is the Church, that are the Apostles of the Lord, that is every other member of his body. The Gospels reveal who Christ Jesus is for humanity, but also what for Christ Jesus humanity is. The truth of Christ is the faith of the Apostles.

Through the faith of the Apostles the truth of Christ must become the truth of every man, if he wants to return to being a true man. As the truth of the Father on Christ Jesus was the most pure faith of Christ Jesus, so the truth of Christ on the Apostles and on the whole Church must become the purest faith of the Apostles and of the whole Church. But if the Apostle loses faith in the truth of Christ about Christ or his person, the disasters for humanity are more serious than the burst of a nuclear bomb. If Lucifer, losing faith in his truth, has dragged a third of the heavenly angels into darkness, many more souls a single apostle who loses the faith of Christ and his truth in his person as an apostle and a witness to his truth and his faith, will drag into perdition. Truth of the Father, truth of Christ, truth of the Apostles and truth of the Church.

**WHAT THE GOSPELS SAY**

*"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 thornbushes, 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.*

*"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" (Mt 7,13-27).*

*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).*

*He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." 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 24,44-49).*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.*

*And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him (Jn 1,1-18).*

*Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."*

*Nicodemus said to him, "How can a person once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother's womb and be born again, can he?" Jesus answered, "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I told you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

*Nicodemus answered and said to him, "How can this happen?" Jesus answered and said to him, "You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this? Amen, amen, I say to you, we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but you people do not accept our testimony. If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the one who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."*

*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.*

*And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God (Jn 3,1-21).*

*Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of (his) disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may (come to) believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name (Jn 20,30-31).*

**WHAT THE APOSTLES SAY**

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access (by faith) to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us. For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. Therefore, just as through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all, inasmuch as all sinned  -  for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come. But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by that one person's transgression the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one person Jesus Christ overflow for the many. And the gift is not like the result of the one person's sinning. For after one sin there was the judgment that brought condemnation; but the gift, after many transgressions, brought acquittal. For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ. In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord (Rm 5,1-21).*

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the holy ones who are (in Ephesus) faithful in Christ Jesus: grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus 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 favor 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 favor 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* *[7](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/__P108.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22%244L5) with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first installment 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 1,1-23).*

*You were dead in your transgressions and sins in which you once lived following the age of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the desires of our flesh, following the wishes of the flesh and the impulses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ (by grace you have been saved), raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them. Therefore, remember that at one time you, Gentiles in the flesh, called the uncircumcision by those called the circumcision, which is done in the flesh by human hands, were at that time without Christ, alienated from the community of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh, abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims, that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile both with God, in one body, through the cross, putting that enmity to death by it. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone. Through him the whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord; in him you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit (Eph 2,1-22).*

*I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it says: "He ascended on high and took prisoners captive; he gave gifts to men." What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended into the lower (regions) of the earth? The one who descended is also the one who ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things. 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. So I declare and testify in the Lord that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds; darkened in understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance, because of their hardness of heart, they have become callous and have handed themselves over to licentiousness for the practice of every kind of impurity to excess. That is not how you learned Christ, assuming that you have heard of him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, that you should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth. Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun set on your anger, and do not leave room for the devil. The thief must no longer steal, but rather labor, doing honest work with his (own) hands, so that he may have something to share with one in need. No foul language should come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for needed edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. (And) be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ (Eph 4,1-32).*

*Strengthhened with every power, in accord with his glorious might, for all endurance and patience, with joy giving thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light. He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross (through him), whether those on earth or those in heaven. And you who once were alienated and hostile in mind because of evil deeds he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through his death, to present you holy, without blemish, and irreproachable before him, provided that you persevere in the faith, firmly grounded, stable, and not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, am a minister. Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church, of which I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God, the mystery hidden from ages and from generations past. But now it has been manifested to his holy ones, to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory. It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labor and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me (Col 1,11-29).*

*For I want you to know how great a struggle I am having for you and for those in Laodicea and all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged as they are brought together in love, to have all the richness of fully assured understanding, for the knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this so that no one may deceive you by specious arguments. For even if I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing as I observe your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. So, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him, rooted in him and built upon him and established in the faith as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one captivate you with an empty, seductive philosophy according to human tradition, according to the elemental powers of the world* *[3](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/__P10L.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22%244OD) and not according to Christ. For in him dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily, and you share in this fullness in him, who is the head of every principality and power. In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not administered by hand, by stripping off the carnal body, with the circumcision of Christ. You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And even when you were dead (in) transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions; obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us, he also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross; despoiling the principalities and the powers, he made a public spectacle of them, leading them away in triumph by it. Let no one, then, pass judgment on you in matters of food and drink or with regard to a festival or new moon or sabbath. These are shadows of things to come; the reality belongs to Christ. Let no one disqualify you, delighting in self-abasement and worship of angels, taking his stand on visions, inflated without reason by his fleshly mind, and not holding closely to the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and bonds, achieves the growth that comes from God. If you died with Christ to the elemental powers of the world, why do you submit to regulations as if you were still living in the world? "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!" These are all things destined to perish with use; they accord with human precepts and teachings. While they have a semblance of wisdom in rigor of devotion and self-abasement (and) severity to the body, they are of no value against gratification of the flesh (Col 2,1-23).*

*In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe,*

*who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word. When he had accomplished purification from sins, he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high, as far superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs (Eb 1,1-4).*

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us* *[2](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/__P11R.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22%244VK) and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith. For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God. Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood. You have also forgotten the exhortation addressed to you as sons: "My son, do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines; he scourges every son he acknowledges." Endure your trials as "discipline"; God treats you as sons. For what "son" is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are without discipline, in which all have shared, you are not sons but bastards. Besides this, we have had our earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not (then) submit all the more to the Father of spirits and live? They disciplined us for a short time as seemed right to them, but he does so for our benefit, in order that we may share his holiness. At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it. So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees. Make straight paths for your feet, that what is lame may not be dislocated but healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for that holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one be deprived of the grace of God, that no bitter root spring up and cause trouble, through which many may become defiled, that no one be an immoral or profane person like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that later, when he wanted to inherit his father's blessing, he was rejected because he found no opportunity to change his mind, even though he sought the blessing with tears. You have not approached that which could be touched and a blazing fire and gloomy darkness and storm and a trumpet blast and a voice speaking words such that those who heard begged that no message be further addressed to them, for they could not bear to hear the command: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." Indeed, so fearful was the spectacle that Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling." No, you have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and countless angels in festal gathering, and the assembly of the firstborn enrolled in heaven, and God the judge of all, and the spirits of the just made perfect, and Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and the sprinkled blood that speaks more eloquently than that of Abel. See that you do not reject the one who speaks. For if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much more in our case if we turn away from the one who warns from heaven. His voice shook the earth at that time, but now he has promised, "I will once more shake not only earth but heaven." That phrase, "once more," points to (the) removal of shaken, created things, so that what is unshaken may remain. Therefore, we who are receiving the unshakable kingdom should have gratitude, with which we should offer worship pleasing to God in reverence and awe. For our God is a consuming fire (Heb 12,1-29).*

*What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life - for the life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us - what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this so that our joy may be complete.*

*Now this is the message that we have heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say, "We have fellowship with him," while we continue to walk in darkness, we lie and do not act in truth. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of his Son Jesus cleanses us from all sin.*

*If we say, "We are without sin," we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from every wrongdoing. If we say, "We have not sinned," we make him a liar, and his word is not in us (1Jn 1,1-10).*

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

**WHAT REVELATION SAYS**

*After this I had a vision of an open door to heaven, and I heard the trumpetlike voice that had spoken to me before, saying, "Come up here and I will show you what must happen afterwards." At once I was caught up in spirit. A throne was there in heaven, and on the throne sat one whose appearance sparkled like jasper and carnelian. Around the throne was a halo as brilliant as an emerald. Surrounding the throne I saw twenty-four other thrones on which twenty-four elders sat, dressed in white garments and with gold crowns on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings, and peals of thunder. Seven flaming torches burned in front of the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. In front of the throne was something that resembled a sea of glass like crystal. In the center and around the throne, there were four living creatures covered with eyes in front and in back. The first creature resembled a lion, the second was like a calf, the third had a face like that of a human being, and the fourth looked like an eagle in flight. The four living creatures, each of them with six wings, were covered with eyes inside and out. Day and night they do not stop exclaiming:*

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and who is, and who is to come." Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before the one who sits on the throne and worship him, who lives forever and ever. They throw down their crowns before the throne, exclaiming:*

*"Worthy are you, Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things; because of your will they came to be and were created" (Rev 4,1-11).*

*I saw a scroll in the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. It had writing on both sides and was sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a mighty angel who proclaimed in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to examine it. I shed many tears because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to examine it. One of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. The lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has triumphed, enabling him to open the scroll with its seven seals."*

*Then I saw standing in the midst of the throne and the four living creatures and the elders, a Lamb that seemed to have been slain. He had seven horns and seven eyes; these are the (seven) spirits of God sent out into the whole world. He came and received the scroll from the right hand of the one who sat on the throne. When he took it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones. They sang a new hymn:*

*"Worthy are you to receive the scroll and to break open its seals, for you were slain and with your blood you purchased for God those from every tribe and tongue, people and nation. You made them a kingdom and priests for our God, and they will reign on earth."*

*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 honor, glory and might, forever and ever."*

*The four living creatures answered, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped (Rev 5,1-14).*

*Then I watched while the Lamb broke open the first of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures cry out in a voice like thunder, "Come forward." I looked, and there was a white horse, and its rider had a bow. He was given a crown, and he rode forth victorious to further his victories. When he broke open the second seal, I heard the second living creature cry out, "Come forward." Another horse came out, a red one. Its rider was given power to take peace away from the earth, so that people would slaughter one another. And he was given a huge sword. When he broke open the third seal, I heard the third living creature cry out, "Come forward." I looked, and there was a black horse, and its rider held a scale in his hand. I heard what seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures. It said, "A ration of wheat costs a day's pay, and three rations of barley cost a day's pay. But do not damage the olive oil or the wine." When he broke open the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature cry out, "Come forward." I looked, and there was a pale green* *[7](http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/__P12P.HTM%22%20%5Cl%20%22%24535) horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hades accompanied him. They were given authority over a quarter of the earth, to kill with sword, famine, and plague, and by means of the beasts of the earth. When he broke open the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the witness they bore to the word of God. They cried out in a loud voice, "How long will it be, holy and true master, before you sit in judgment and avenge our blood on the inhabitants of the earth?" Each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to be patient a little while longer until the number was filled of their fellow servants and brothers who were going to be killed as they had been. Then I watched while he broke open the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; the sun turned as black as dark sackcloth and the whole moon became like blood. The stars in the sky fell to the earth like unripe figs shaken loose from the tree in a strong wind. Then the sky was divided like a torn scroll curling up, and every mountain and island was moved from its place. The kings of the earth, the nobles, the military officers, the rich, the powerful, and every slave and free person hid themselves in caves and among mountain crags. They cried out to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb, because the great day of their wrath has come and who can withstand it?" (Rev 6,1-17).*

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people and God himself will always be with them (as their God). He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, (for) the old order has passed away." The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Then he said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true." He said to me, "They are accomplished. I (am) the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water. The victor will inherit these gifts, and I shall be his God, and he will be my son. But as for cowards, the unfaithful, the depraved, murderers, the unchaste, sorcerers, idol-worshipers, and deceivers of every sort, their lot is in the burning pool of fire and sulfur, which is the second death." One of the seven angels who held the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come here. I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." He took me in spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It gleamed with the splendor of God. Its radiance was like that of a precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal. It had a massive, high wall, with twelve gates where twelve angels were stationed and on which names were inscribed, (the names) of the twelve tribes of the Israelites. There were three gates facing east, three north, three south, and three west. The wall of the city had twelve courses of stones as its foundation, on which were inscribed the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. The one who spoke to me held a gold measuring rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city was square, its length the same as (also) its width. He measured the city with the rod and found it fifteen hundred miles in length and width and height. He also measured its wall: one hundred and forty-four cubits according to the standard unit of measurement the angel used. The wall was constructed of jasper, while the city was pure gold, clear as glass. The foundations of the city wall were decorated with every precious stone; the first course of stones was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh hyacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made from a single pearl; and the street of the city was of pure gold, transparent as glass. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and to it the kings of the earth will bring their treasure. During the day its gates will never be shut, and there will be no night there. The treasure and wealth of the nations will be brought there, but nothing unclean will enter it, nor any (one) who does abominable things or tells lies. Only those will enter whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life (Rev 21,1-27).*

*Then the angel showed me the river of life-giving water, sparkling like crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of its street. On either side of the river grew the tree of life that produces fruit twelve times a year, once each month; the leaves of the trees serve as medicine for the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there anymore. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will look upon his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Night will be no more, nor will they need light from lamp or sun, for the Lord God shall give them light, and they shall reign forever and ever.*

*And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, and the Lord, the God of prophetic spirits, sent his angel to show his servants what must happen soon." "Behold, I am coming soon." Blessed is the one who keeps the prophetic message of this book.*

*It is I, John, who heard and saw these things, and when I heard and saw them I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me. But he said to me, "Don't! I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brothers the prophets and of those who keep the message of this book. Worship God."*

*Then he said to me, "Do not seal up the prophetic words of this book, for the appointed time 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 22,1-21).*

Reading what the whole New Testament teaches - we have deliberately omitted to reproduce passages from the Old Testament on Christ the Lord - and observing the thoughts of the disciples of Jesus in relation to the scriptural dictate, we must necessarily affirm, for right, wise, true deduction and conclusion, that the Gospel is no longer part of the Christian creed. Even if the Holy Scripture is read during the Liturgy, the clear separation between the Liturgy, creed and life always remains. What is this separation, detachment and distance - in this detachment the Tradition and the Magisterium are also involved - a gap that has now become unbridgeable between the New Testament, the same Scripture and the Christian creed, faith and thought, due to? But above all is there a way so that this abyss can be filled?

The way is one and always the same: prophecy. Every day the apostle of Christ Jesus must think, see and discover himself a prophet of Christ Jesus. So also the priest and the deacon, the confirmed and the baptized. Detachment from the Word is detachment from the prophetic ministry. Detachment from prophetic ministry is detachment from Christ. Detachment from Christ is detachment from the Father and from the Holy Spirit, but it is also detachment from grace and truth. But already in the distant seventies of the last century the children of the Catholic Church were reproached for speaking to the belly of man and not to his heart. Christ speaks to the heart. His disciples to their belly or to their skin. The prophet speaks to the heart of man, if he speaks in the Spirit. He speaks in the Holy Spirit if he lets himself be made truth and grace of Lord Jesus, by him. One thing is evident: the prophet of Christ is no longer a prophet of Christ.

This is the invitation of the Mother God to her children: be true prophets, in the Church and in the world, with the strength of the Holy Spirit, true prophets of Christ Jesus. But who is the true prophet? He who truly believes in the Word of Christ Jesus and makes of it his one and only truth of salvation. The way is the ancient one already indicated by Paul to Timothy.

*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; fulfill your ministry* *(2Tm 4,1-5).*

May the Angels and Saints help Jesus' disciples so that they are true prophets, true witnesses of his truth and true heralds of his Word in the Church and in the world.

 ***Catanzaro 04 March 2019***

***Msgr. Costantino Di Bruno***

# DECEMBER 2019

# *FIRST DECADE OF DECEMBER*

# You do not know on which day your Lord will come

# SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER (Mt 24,37-44)

Scrolling through the Holy Scriptures, from the first verse of Genesis to the last of the Apocalypse, there is a truth that no one might ever deny, refute or declare non-truth. Only the Lord is the Lord. There is no other Lord either on earth or in the eternal skies. In heaven one decided to become Lord and was plunged into eternal darkness. It is Lucifer, the angel that once was the bearer of light. It is he who has seduced a third of angels to be proclaimed Lords, as God, equal to Him and in front of Him. But it is also Lucifer who seduced Eve, so that she proclaimed herself equal to God, separated from God and independent of Him. It is always Lucifer and his Angels that today are seducing humanity so that every man declares himself the lord of his life and also God of the life of his brothers. But history attests that nobody is Lord.

No one is Lord, because no one can govern his life by his will. The man was wanted, he is wanted to let himself be governed by the will of his Creator, Lord and God. By obeying the divine will man becomes man, walks from life to life and will reach blessed life in Paradise. But if he walks in pursuit of his instincts, his vices and his sinful fantasies, not only he will never become the man as he was thought of by God; furthermore, he will fall into an abyss of death, which will be consumed into and eternal perdition, unless he does not get converted and does not return to obedience to the will of God, which is entirely manifested in his Word. We listen to the Lord, we live what we have heard, we become true men. We do not listen, we do not obey and we do not live according to the divine Word, never might we become true men. We are lacking in eternal truth.

*For as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In (those) days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be (also) at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.*

The time given to us to bring our humanity into the highest perfection of the eternal truth that is obtained through obedience to the Word is very short. This truth is revealed by all the Holy Scripture. St. Paul shouts it firmly: *"I tell you, brothers, the time is running out. From now on, let those having wives act as not having them, those weeping as not weeping, those rejoicing as not rejoicing, those buying as not owning, those using the world as not using it fully. For the world in its present form is passing away"* (1 Cor 7: 29-31). If time is short, we must commit ourselves to bring it to the highest fruiting. It must not be wasted, living in idleness or spiritual sloth, submerged by vices or by the many transgressions of the Law of the Lord.

When our God comes to reap our life, if we will have remained bad weed and we will have transformed into any other bad grass, there will be no place for us in his eternal barns. Our collocation is in the eternal heart. Since no one knows the day of his harvest, it is right that we are always prepared. When the Lord comes, he will have to find us with the lamps lit, ready to accompany him to his home where there will be an eternal feast. Jesus warns us: no one might ever imagine the hour of his death. The one of the transit towards eternity could be every moment. Who will be found light, will enter the eternal light. Whoever will have become darkness will share the darkness of hell, without ever leaving from them. We have been warned. Now it is up to us to treasure this word of love of our God and prepare our blessed eternity.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, obtain for us a true faith in every Word of Christ Jesus.

# Only say the word and my servant will be healed

# MONDAY 2 DECEMBER (Mt 8,5-11)

Christ Jesus, being true God and true man, perfect in divinity and perfect in humanity, is an eternal and infinite mystery, never fully understood and always to be understood. Even eternity is not enough and suffices to enter into the full knowledge of his truth. From heaven he descends to earth. He is made flesh. He comes to live among us full of grace and truth. Every person who meets with Him catches only a spark of his infinite mystery. Brought together all the gathered sparks, a full truth can be drawn about his person and his mission. But it always remains an incomplete truth. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to take a loving heart of the truth of Christ and to bring it from light to light, up to the summit of knowledge and science attainable by a creature, which is limited by essence.

Today a centurion comes before Jesus. This man has an experience. In the army of Rome he is subordinate to people higher than him, but he too has soldiers under his rule. He receives a word and executes it. He gives a word to which obedience is immediately given. Jesus is not a centurion, he is not a consul and is not an emperor who rules men. He is the Lord over all creation. Nothing is above Him. Instead everything has been submitted to Him. It is as if the centurion knew Daniel's prophecy: *"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”* (Dn 7,9-10).

This is the first part of the prophecy. Now the second part is following: *"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). If Jesus was placed above everything, everything must immediately be obedient to him. From this faith the centurion draws the deduction: it is sufficient that He says a Word and his servant will be healed Who commands does not have to go in person. It suffices that his word is brought. Word uttered, healing achieved. Command given, obedience given. Truly this man believes in the truth of Jesus. He is the Most High and the Sovereign.

*When he entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully." He said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion said in reply, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven.*

Today, just this faith has failed. For many Christians Jesus is no longer the Most High, the Sovereign, the God through whom everything was created, the Saviour, the Redeemer, Grace, truth, Light and Life. People are making of him a man like all other men. Even of his Word its truth and uniqueness is being lost. By now it is no longer the only Word of eternal life. Every other word of men is declared a word of salvation and redemption. It is urgent that the true faith in Christ Jesus is recovered and placed on the lamp stand. When the truth of Jesus is lost, everything that comes from it is lost. Having lost the truth of our incarnate God, even the truth of the Church, his body, is lost. Nothing remains in its truth anymore. It gives great sadness to the heart to see Jesus' disciples set fire to the truth of their Lord, burning themselves in turn!

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, do not let the truth of Christ to be destroyed.

### All things have been handed over to me by my Father

### TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER (Lk 10,21-24)

Eternal life is in the knowledge of the Father and the Son, not of the Father without the Son and not of the Son without the Father. Father and Son are one thing, one knowledge and one eternal life. That is how the Gospel according to John reveals this truth: *“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”* (Jn 17,1-8). The Father placed everything in the hands of his Son.

Whoever wants to know the Father must know Christ Jesus. Christ is the truth of the Father. Without Christ Jesus, his Only Begotten Son, the Father is without truth. The Father is the truth of Christ Jesus. Christ Jesus is separated from the Father, Christ is without truth. But if Christ is without truth, the whole Church is without truth. The whole of humanity remains without truth. The mission of giving every man eternal life in the knowledge of the truth of the Father and the Son is of the Son. The mission of giving eternal life in the knowledge of Christ Jesus is of the Church. The Father gives everything for the Son. The Son gives everything for his Church. The Church gives everything for the apostolic mission. Where there is no apostolic mission, there is no truth of the Church, consequently there is no truth about Christ or even the truth of the Father. There is a Scripture without the heart of the Church, the heart of Christ and the heart of the Father. Just as there is a "supper of the Lord" without the heart of Christ and consequently without the heart of the Church and the heart of the Father. A Church without a heart serves nothing, just as a "supper of the Lord" does not serve without the heart of Christ, the heart of the Church and the heart of the Father. The heart of Christ must be the heart of every man. Only the Church with the heart of Christ can give the heart of Christ to men.

*At that very moment he rejoiced (in) the holy Spirit and said, "I give you praise, 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 who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him." Turning to the disciples in private he said, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."*

The Apostolic Church is the essence of the truth of Christ, because only she might give the truth of Christ to every man, on condition that she herself is the heart of Christ, and she is the heart of Christ if she remains in perfect knowledge of her Lord. When St. Paul says *“In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favour that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth. In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the one who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ. In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised holy Spirit, which is the first instalment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory”* (Eph 1,7-14), the ministry of the Apostolic Church must always be added.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, obtain for us the perfect knowledge of Christ and of the Church.

### I do not want to send them away hungry

### WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER (Mt 15,29-37)

Jesus does not want to send those who are with him back digiuni, so that they do not faint along the way. He feeds himself as food, bread of truth and knowledge and also bread of eternal life, human substance in its reality of true flesh in which there is also the divine substance. In Christ Jesus, all of God, that is truth and eternal life, is given to man so that he does not fail in the "creation" of himself and can tomorrow achieve eternal bliss in the glory of Paradise. The man according to God, the man that was created by him in his image and likeness, must walk in eternal light towards the eternal light, transforming himself into light, truth, justice and holiness. This "creation" or "conformation to the truth and life of Christ", or passage from man according to the flesh to man according to the Holy Spirit, might only be accomplished by feeding on Christ, the Bread of truth and eternal life.

But today, it seems that Amos’ prophecy is being fulfilled: *“Yes, days are coming, says the Lord God, when I will send famine upon the land: Not a famine of bread, or thirst for water, but for hearing the word of the Lord. Then shall they wander from sea to sea and rove from the north to the east In search of the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it. On that day, fair virgins and young men shall faint from thirst”* (Am 8,11-13). Many approach the rivers of our Churches, but remain disappointed like the caravans of which the Book of Job speaks: *“My brethren are undependable as a brook, as watercourses that run dry in the wadies; Though they may be black with ice, and with snow heaped upon them, Yet once they flow, they cease to be; in the heat, they disappear from their place. Caravans turn aside from their routes; they go into the desert and perish. The caravans of Tema search, the companies of Sheba have hopes; They are disappointed, though they were confident; they come there and are frustrated”* (Jb 6,15-20). If any soul enters our Church today, he hears talking about everything, except the mystery of Christ Jesus, a mystery in which our eternal life is enclosed. And the soul goes away, losing itself in the falsehoods of this world. Not feeding on Christ, truth, light, justice and thought of the Father, even if he feeds on Christ, flesh and blood, it is no good to him. He lacks the truth to be realized, truth in which he must transform himself. They are really torrents that give no hope.

*Moving on from there Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, went up on the mountain, and sat down there. Great crowds came to him, having with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute, and many others. They placed them at his feet, and he cured them. The crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the deformed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind able to see, and they glorified the God of Israel. Jesus summoned his disciples and said, "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way." The disciples said to him, "Where could we ever get enough bread in this deserted place to satisfy such a crowd?" Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" "Seven," they replied, "and a few fish." He ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied. They picked up the fragments left over - seven baskets full.*

It is not true that man is without thirst for truth, light, heavenly justice and eternal thought. It is false to say that man today does not want Christ Jesus. Today, man does not want that false Christ that we announce to him and does not want that word that we say about God, whereas in reality it is only a word of lies and deception. The Holy Spirit who pushes man towards the light withdraws hearts when darkness is given to them. We justify our darkness by accusing the Holy Spirit of rejecting the light. If the truth of Christ is not the truth of the minister of the Word, who approaches hears the smell of lies and withdraws. He returns to the world without truth from which he came out in search of the truth. Jesus is truth and eternal life of the Father, he gives truth and eternal life. We give what we are, what we become every day. Whoever becomes truth in Christ gives the truth of Christ.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, arrange that every Christian is the truth of Christ to give Christ.

### Built his house on rock

### THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER (Mt 7.21-24-27)

Our rock is the Father. Rock of the Father, in the Holy Spirit, is Christ Jesus. Rock of Christ Jesus, always in the Holy Spirit, is the Church, but not every Church, but only the Church founded on Peter. What the Psalmist says of God, the Christian must say it of the Church, founded on Peter: *“I love You, O Lord, my strength.”The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.I call upon the* Lord*, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies.The cords of death encompassed me, And the torrents of ungodliness terrified me.The cords of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.In my distress I called upon the Lord, And cried to my God for help; He heard my voice out of His temple, And my cry for help before Him came into His ears.Then the earth shook and quaked; And the foundations of the mountains were trembling And were shaken, because He was angry.Smoke went up out of His nostrils, And fire from His mouth devoured; Coals were kindled by it.He bowed the heavens also, and came down With thick darkness under His feet”* (Ps 18(17) 1-10). The Church founded on Peter must be this eternal rock on which everyone might build his house, without either fear or dread that it can collapse due to winds and rain.

When is the Church a true rock of salvation? When she is the true Word of Christ Jesus as Christ Jesus is the true Word of the Father. When every minister of the Word might say like Lord Jesus: *"Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but also in the one who sent me, and whoever sees me sees the one who sent me. I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness. And if anyone hears my words and does not observe them, I do not condemn him, for I did not come to condemn the world but to save the world. Whoever rejects me and does not accept my words has something to judge him: the word that I spoke, it will condemn him on the last day, because I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. So what I say, I say as the Father told me"* (Jn 12,44-50). If the Church, in her Apostles and ministers of the Word, might not make this confession of faith, she will condemn the whole world to build its house on the sand of falsehood, lies, deceit, injustice and the thought of Satan. The responsibility is very high, because it is of eternal life, but also of eternal death. If the Church is the rock of Christ, whoever builds on her Word builds an eternal house. If she is not Christ's rock, he who builds on her builds for hell.

*"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. "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."*

If the minister of the Word wants to be the rock of Christ, as Christ is the rock of the Father, he must preach with the same apostolic courage as Paul: *“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ and manifests through us the odor of the knowledge of him in every place. For we are the aroma of Christ for God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to the latter an odor of death that leads to death, to the former an odor of life that leads to life. Who is qualified for this? For we are not like the many who trade on the word of God; but as out of sincerity, indeed as from God and in the presence of God, we speak in Christ”* (2Cor 2,14-17). Haggling the Word, selling and selling off Christ is useless. It is an illusion to think that we can build the house of the world on peace, excluding Christ. The Prince of Peace is Christ, and Peace, the true one, is built in Him, with Him and for Him.

Mother of God, Angels, Saints arrange that every Christian is the Rock of Christ Jesus.

### Do you believe that I can do this?

### FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER (Mt 9,27-31)

The era of the Messiah is characterized by the gift of sight to the blind. Thus the prophet Isaiah: *“The desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song. The glory of Lebanon will be given to them, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the hands that are feeble, make firm the knees that are weak, Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; With divine recompense he comes to save you. Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; Then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the dumb will sing. Streams will burst forth in the desert, and rivers in the steppe. The burning sands will become pools, and the thirsty ground, springs of water; The abode where jackals lurk will be a marsh for the reed and papyrus. A highway will be there, called the holy way; No one unclean may pass over it, nor fools go astray on it. No lion will be there, nor beast of prey go up to be met upon it. It is for those with a journey to make, and on it the redeemed will walk. Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; They will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee”* (Is 35,1-10). When a prophecy is fulfilled, all the others are fulfilled. The Word is one.

With Jesus, transported on a spiritual plane - the material plane is only an image and a figure - this Word of God, given through the prophet, is fulfilled in its entirety. It is enough to read the Gospel and you will see that no Word remains unfinished. Not remaining unfinished as an image and figure, it will not even remain incomplete as a reality of eternal life. The sight of the spirit is returned to man, the life of the soul and the strength to walk on the path of salvation. The work of the Messiah is a true new creation. Today, this work is entrusted to the Church, founded on Peter. If the Apostles and ministers of the Word give sight to the spirit, man sees. If they leave him blind, man might never see. If they give life to their soul, it rises and gives life to the whole body, otherwise it remains in the tomb for all its days. Image of this new creation is what Peter operates on the Bella door of the temple on the crippled man from birth: *""I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, (rise and) walk." Then Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles grew strong. He leaped up, stood, and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God”* (Acts 3,6-8).

The Apostles and, in a hierarchical communion with them, every disciple of Jesus according to the charisma received must be the creators of a new reality. But no one might ever create this new reality in others if he is not a new creature first.

*And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed (him), crying out, "Son of David, have pity on us!" When he entered the house, the blind men approached him and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I can do this?" "Yes, Lord," they said to him. Then he touched their eyes and said, "Let it be done for you according to your faith." And their eyes were opened. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." But they went out and spread word of him through all that land.*

For the new creation to be accomplished, the same faith and the same obedience of Jesus are needed. As Jesus believes in the Father and obeys his Word, creating in others what the Word created every day in his nature, so too the Apostle and every disciple, if they want to create new life, must believe like Christ Jesus and obey the Word like Him, without even leaving out an iota or a sign. The fruits of the Apostle and of every disciple are the fruit of his faith and his obedience. Less faith, less obedience, fewer newly created fruits. The failure of the mission is never of the world that does not want. Instead, it is always of the Apostle and the disciple who do not believe in the Word and do not obey it. Whoever believes and obeys, always bears fruit.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that the disciple of Jesus believes and obeys the Word.

### Like sheep without a shepherd

### SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER (Mt 9,35-10,1-6-8)

The Pastor over every other pastor, in the Old Testament, is the priest who teaches every son of Israel the will of God contained in his Word. The Pastor must be bound to the will of God contained in the Word as the tree to the earth. If he separates himself from the will of God contained in the Word, he is no longer a Shepherd according to God. Either he abandons his sheep to sin, to disobedience, to transgression, to immorality and to idolatry, or he uses sheep to feed himself. The Pastors were the true cause of the misleading of the people of God. In the prophet Hosea they are responsible for every moral, spiritual, economic, political and social disaster: *“There is no fidelity, no mercy, no knowledge of God in the land. False swearing, lying, murder, stealing and adultery! in their lawlessness, bloodshed follows bloodshed. Therefore the land mourns, and everything that dwells in it languishes: The beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and even the fish of the sea perish. But let no one protest, let no one complain; with you is my grievance, O priests! You shall stumble in the day, and the prophets shall stumble with you at night; I will destroy your mother. My people perish for want of knowledge! Since you have rejected knowledge, I will reject you from my priesthood; Since you have ignored the law of your God, I will also ignore your sons. One and all they sin against me, exchanging their glory for shame”* (Hos 4,1-7).

To these so severe words, those of the prophet Isaiah are added with which the Lord denounces a degradation never reached before: “All you wild beasts of the field, come and eat, all you beasts in the forest! My watchmen are blind, all of them unaware; They are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; Dreaming as they lie there, loving their sleep. They are relentless dogs, they know not when they have enough. These are the shepherds who know no discretion; Each of them goes his own way, every one of them to his own gain: "Come, I will fetch some wine; let us carouse with strong drink, And tomorrow will be like today, or even greater" (Is 56,9-12). When the shepherds reach these depths of immorality, for the people there is no hope of salvation. It is consumed by idolatry and immorality. Even in the time of Jesus the spiritual and moral condition of the people of God were very bad, again because of the pastors. Being scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, chief priests and elders of the people, all intent on looking after their personal glory, they did not care about the sheep entrusted to them. Indeed, they harassed them with their human traditions, made to pass for the Law of Moses and divine will. It was these pastors who wanted Jesus' death by crucifixion.

*Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the labourers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest." Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 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.*

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, the Beautiful Shepherd who takes at heart the care of the sheep that the Lord sends him every day. Not only that. He sends his disciples on a mission so that they show every man the great mercy with which the Lord God has decided to love his flock. What he asks them to do is what He is doing and for this he gives them the power to work signs and wonders. But the purpose of compassion is only one: convincing men that the kingdom of God is in their midst. However, everything will have to be lived with a new and virtuous lifestyle, wrapped in great gratuitousness. Thus preaching, working and living, they will become credible and men will be able to adhere to their call to conversion and thus enter the kingdom that comes.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us disciples of Jesus with the highly evangelical style.

### Hail, favored one!

### SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER (Lk 1,26-38)

The Virgin Mary is the first human creature in whom the Lord's promise, made to the serpent in the garden of Eden after sin is fulfilled: *"Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures; On your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel"* (Gen 3,14-15). In the "Full of Grace" there was not a moment in which Satan set his foot to crush her, make her his own, and the moment after in which the Lord intervened powerfully to put an end to the rule of the ancient serpent. She was all of God from the first moment of her conception. There was not first the conception and a second after the liberation from the heavy legacy of the guilt of Eve and Adam, but in the same microsecond in which the conception took place, eternal enmity also took place. Conceived without sin and born without sin, she also grew up without sin. Full of grace from the beginning of her existence, she lived growing from grace to grace, from faith to faith and from charity to charity without interruption.

Why was this singular privilege granted to the Virgin Mary? Because the heavenly Father chose and called her to be the Mother of his Only Son through the work of the Holy Spirit. God acted as a divine armour so that not even the slightest sin entered her heart and stained her soul. We can apply first of all to her what is written in the Book of Wisdom: *“But the just live forever, and in the Lord is their recompense, and the thought of them is with the Most High.Therefore shall they receive the splendid crown, the beauteous diadem, from the hand of the Lord - For he shall shelter them with his right hand, and protect them with his arm. He shall take his zeal for armor and he shall arm creation to requite the enemy; He shall don justice for a breastplate and shall wear sure judgment for a helmet; He shall take invincible rectitude as a shield and whet his sudden anger for a sword, And the universe shall war with him against the foolhardy. Well-aimed shafts of lightnings shall go forth and from the clouds as from a well-drawn bow shall leap to the mark; and as from his sling, wrathful hailstones shall be hurled. The water of the sea shall be enraged against them and the streams shall abruptly overflow; A mighty wind shall confront them and a tempest winnow them out; Thus lawlessness shall lay the whole earth waste and evildoing overturn the thrones of potentates* (Wis 5,15-23). This happened to Satan every time he got close to the Full of Grace.

*In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

The Virgin Mary is the work of God's works. In her God revealed all the greatness of his wisdom, omniscience, grace, omnipotence, charity, holiness and light. The Lord spared himself in making her so beautiful, so holy and so perfect in nothing. Looking at her the Lord sees himself reflected like in a mirror. So great is the spiritual beauty of the Immaculate Virgin. Truly "the Almighty has done great things in her!"

Angels and Saints arrange that every day we fall in love with the beauty of our Mother.

### As for you, your sins are forgiven

### MONDAY 9 DECEMBER (Lk 5,17-26)

The forgiveness of sins is the fruit of the great mercy of the true and living God, of the God who is the only Creator and Lord of man. From the first sin, the Lord has always promised and given his forgiveness. However, there are some conditions for the Lord to forgive: acknowledging the evil committed, abandoning the path of transgression of his Law, humbly asking for forgiveness of all guilt and participating in the atonement of the penalty due to the sins committed. At one time it was taught that in order to be confessed according to truth and justice, five conditions were required: examination of conscience, pain of sins, purpose of never committing them again, accusation of sins, satisfaction or penance. With sin, even if sometimes it is committed against man, it is always God the one who is offended, because it is the transgression of his holy Law. Its dimension of transcendence must never be forgotten. Woe making of it only a matter of immanence. Since sin is an offence against God, only God can forgive it.

If it is God the one who gives forgiveness, it is always his minister the who invites to let ourselves be reconciled with him and it is always the minister the one who gives it in the name of the Lord. Both in the invitation to conversion and in the gift of the remission of sin, the Lord's minister is the necessary way. In the Old Testament this ministry was of the priests. The prophets were the powerful voice calling for conversion and reconciliation. They were also tho ones who announced that the Lord had forgiven his people. First, Natan reveals the horrendous sins committed by David and then announces him forgiveness from the Lord: *“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. 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”* (Cf. 2Sam 12,1-14). In the name of his God the prophet frees David from death due to the transgressors of the Law of the Lord, announcing him his forgiveness.

*One day as Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem, and the power of the Lord was with him for healing. And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed; they were trying to bring him in and set (him) in his presence. But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, "As for you, your sins are forgiven." Then the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them in reply, "What are you thinking in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'' - he said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He stood up immediately before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God. Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God, and, struck with awe, they said, "We have seen incredible things today."*

Jesus is not only the prophet of the living God who announces the forgiveness of sins. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. He takes it away atoning it in his body. Not only does he take away sin by vicarious atonement, above all he is the One who gives man the Holy Spirit, pouring him perpetually from his heart. The Spirit makes every man a new creature. As Jesus is the Father's minister for expiation, forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that man becomes truth and is filled with grace, so the Apostles are Christ's ministers for atonement, forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit. They will do all this by announcing conversion and forgiveness and celebrating both the sacraments of forgiveness, baptism and penance, and also the other sacraments for the abundance of grace so that man becomes the truth of God in the world. By healing the paralytic from his evil, Jesus attests that he is truly sent by God. If he is sent by God, even his Word is the Word of God. It is not the word of man.

Mother of God, Angels, Saints ensure that every man let himself be reconciled with God in Christ.

### It is not the will of your heavenly Father

### TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER (Mt 18,12-14)

From the first sin committed, it was always the Lord who went in search of man. So he did with Adam and Eve hiding in the bushes of the garden: *“When they heard the sound of the Lord God moving about in the garden at the breezy time of the day, the man and his wife hid themselves from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. The Lord God then called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself." Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? You have eaten, then, from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!" ”* (Gen 3,8-11). From this moment on the Lord never stopped looking for man. He never gave up.

First, he announces to Cain that he can dominate his murderous instinct. Then, he reassures him. Abel's blood cries to him from the ground. But He is not the God of revenge, but of forgiveness and mercy. After sin, He Always gives way to repentance: *"So the Lord said to Cain: "Why are you so resentful and crestfallen? If you do well, you can hold up your head; but if not, sin is a demon lurking at the door: his urge is toward you, yet you can be his master"* (Gen 4,6-7). *“Then the Lord asked Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He answered, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" The Lord then said: "What have you done! Listen: your brother's blood cries out to me from the soil! Therefore you shall be banned from the soil that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. If you till the soil, it shall no longer give you its produce. You shall become a restless wanderer on the earth." Cain said to the Lord: "My punishment is too great to bear. Since you have now banished me from the soil, and I must avoid your presence and become a restless wanderer on the earth, anyone may kill me at sight." Not so!" the Lord said to him. "If anyone kills Cain, Cain shall be avenged sevenfold." So the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest anyone should kill him at sight” (Gen 4,9-15).*

From Adam to Jacob it is the Lord who personally intervenes to look for the lost sheep in order to lead it to his fold. With Moses the dual mediation of prophecy and the priesthood is born. With Samuel the other great mediation of royalty. Priests, kings and prophets are the ministers of the Lord, each according to a particular mission and ministry that must always work so that the people do not get lost or once lost return to their Lord and God. We know that priesthood and royalty failed in their mission. Only the prophecy remained in its truth. Prophets were always the Lord's voice, because they were not by descent, but by direct call of the Lord. God has always entrusted them the mystery of the Word. The divine Word resounded in the people whole and pure through them.

*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.*

Today, the Apostles of the Lord are the ones who must go in search of the lost sheep and also of those who are not sheep of Christ Jesus. They are the ones who have to go all over the world to call every man so that he becomes a disciple. But it is also they who must be vigilant so that no sheep entrusted to them is lost, nourishing it with truth, grace, light, justice and eternal life. In collaboration with the apostolic ministry, according to specific ministries, received sacraments and gift of grace and truth, every other member of the body of Christ. But always in hierarchical communion with the apostolic service, never without it, never against it and never as a parallel path to it. If the missionary of Jesus is shipwrecked in his mission the whole flock is lost. If he lives it incorrectly or with a great deal of distraction, the sheep will soon get lost, they will go astray.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, arrange that no sheep of Jesus is lost due to our fault.

**DECEMBER 2019**

***SECOND DECADE OF DECEMBER***

### Take my yoke upon you

### WEDNESDAY 11 DECEMBER (Mt 11,28-30)

That is how Sweetness and lovability of the law of the Lord are sung by the Psalm: *“The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eye. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The statutes of the Lord are true, all of them just; More desirable than gold, than a hoard of purest gold, Sweeter also than honey or drippings from the comb. By them your servant is warned; obeying them brings much reward. Who can detect trespasses? Cleanse me from my inadvertent sins. Also from arrogant ones restrain your servant; let them never control me. Then shall I be blameless, innocent of grave sin. Let the words of my mouth be acceptable, the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock and my redeemer”* (Ps 19 (18), 8.15). When will a man feel the sweetness and lovability of God's Law? Only when he submits to it with prompt, immediate and eternal obedience.

For the Law to be observed, it must necessarily also be known in its inner truth. The Psalmist asks the Lord for all intelligence so that he understands the Law, but also to keep the Law in his heart and to guard himself in the Law: *“Lord, teach me the way of your statutes; I shall keep them with care. Give me understanding to keep your law, to observe it with all my heart. Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my delight. Direct my heart toward your testimonies and away from gain. Avert my eyes from what is worthless; by your way give me life. For your servant, fulfill your promise made to those who fear you. Turn away from me the taunts I dread, for your judgments are good. See how I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.*

This prayer must be with no interruption. If we fail to ask for this grace, the heart immediately takes cross ways, abandons itself to temptation, breaks the covenant and becomes a transgressor of the divine will manifested to it: *“Let your mercy come to me, Lord, salvation in accord with your promise. Let me answer my taunters with a word, for I trust in your word. Do not take the word of truth from my mouth, for in your judgments is my hope. I will keep your law always, for all time and forever. I will walk freely in an open space because I cherish your precepts. I will speak openly of your testimonies without fear even before kings. I delight in your commandments, which I dearly love. I lift up my hands to your commandments; I study your statutes, which I love”* (Ps 119 (118) 33-48). Every believer in God must know that taste for the Law, love for it, desire to make it become his thought and will is a gift that must always descend from Heaven. This is why he must never forget to ask for this gift, on which all of his life will depend, both in time and in eternity. From the observance of the Law is life. From disobedience is death.

*"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."*

Everything in us is the fruit of divine mercy. God is asked to make us what He commands: *"All my hope is placed in the immense greatness of your mercy. Give what you command and command what you want. You command us continence and someone said: "Conscious that no one can be continent if God does not grant it, this was already a sign of wisdom, to know from whom this gift comes to us." In truth, continence gathers us and leads us back to that unity which we have left dispersing ourselves in the manifold. He loves you less who loves other things with you without loving them because of you. O love, that always burn without ever becoming extinct, charity, my God, inflame me. Command continence. Well, give what you command and command what you want"* (Confessions X, 29.40). It is a prayer that must always be raised to our God in the Holy Spirit.

Mother of God, Angels, Saints, help us to take upon us the sweet yoke of Christ Jesus.

### The kingdom of heaven suffers violence

### THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER (Mt 11,11-15)

Jesus says that "the kingdom of heaven undergoes violence and the violent seize it". Of course it is primarily about violence against our flesh, our body that will have to predispose itself to be crucified with Christ. Jesus exercises this violence in a very unique way in the Garden of Gethsemane, when during his prayer his sweat turned into drops of blood: *“Then going out he went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he arrived at the place he said to them, "Pray that you may not undergo the test." After withdrawing about a stone's throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done." (And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.) When he rose from prayer and returned to his disciples, he found them sleeping from grief. He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not undergo the test" ”* (Lk 22,39-46). It is the violence of prayer. For it the Father is asked to submit our flesh to the Holy Spirit.

It is also the violence to remain on the cross, without letting ourselves be tempted to descend from it. For this violence Jesus is annihilated in his divine nature and person, according to the great teaching left us by Saint Paul: *“Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, 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. So then, my beloved, obedient as you have always been, not only when I am present but all the more now when I am absent, work out your salvation with fear and trembling. For God is the one who, for his good purpose, works in you both to desire and to work. Do everything without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine like lights in the world, as you hold on to the word of life, so that my boast for the day of Christ may be that I did not run in vain or labor in vain”* (Phil 2,5-16). It is the violence of perseverance. Many are the ones that get lost for lack of perseverance.

*Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force. All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah, the one who is to come. Whoever has ears ought to hear.*

Today the disciple of Jesus lives totally separate from the Evangelical Dictate. For him the Word of his Master no longer exists. He thinks and acts as if Jesus had never spoken and not even the heavenly Father had ever revealed his will to obey his Word, his Law and his Voice. If the Gospel is no longer the way to go, the Law to be observed and the Word to obey in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, there is no need, either for the violence of prayer or for the violence of perseverance. What good is it to be violent to stay on the narrow way that leads to eternal life, if Paradise is given to all, according to the new Gospel that the Christian wrote today for himself and for others? What is the use of being violent in the mission in order to make Christ Jesus be known, if every path is good to enter the kingdom of heaven? One heresy is enough, one mistake is enough for all Revelation, Tradition and the Magisterium to be declared a thing of the past. Now is the time when the whole past of religion and of the Christian faith is considered dead.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, free the people of God from this great, infinite foolishness.

### A friend of tax collectors and sinners

### THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER (Mt 11,16-19)

When we do not want to believe in the Word of the prophets, because we love to proceed by our own ways, we always find a human and even diabolical motivation. At the time of the disaster in Jerusalem, Jeremiah is first asked to consult the Lord. Jeremiah consults his God and gets the answer. It is not accepted and he is accused of having spoken in his name and not in the name of the Lord. It is a history with a very rich teaching: *“Then all the army leaders, Johanan, son of Kareah, Azariah, son of Hoshaiah, and all the people, high and low, approached the prophet Jeremiah and said, "Grant our petition; pray for us to the Lord, your God, for all this remnant. We are now few who once were many, as you well see. Let the Lord, your God, show us what way we should take and what we should do." Very well! the prophet Jeremiah answered them: I will pray to the Lord, your God, as you desire; whatever the Lord answers you, I will tell you; I will withhold nothing from you. And they said to Jeremiah, "May the Lord be our witness: we will truly and faithfully follow all the instructions the Lord, your God, will send us. Whether it is pleasant or difficult, we will obey the command of the Lord, our God, to whom we are sending you, so that it will go well with us for obeying the command of the Lord, our God."* *”* This is the promise of all the leaders and the people.

The Lord answers his prophet: “*Ten days passed before the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah. Then he called Johanan, son of Kareah, his army leaders, and all the people, high and low, and said to them: Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to offer your prayer: If you remain quietly in this land I will build you up, and not tear you down; I will plant you, not uproot you; for I regret the evil I have done you. Do not fear the king of Babylon, before whom you are now afraid; do not fear him, says the Lord, for I am with you to save you, to rescue you from his power. I will grant you mercy, so that he will be sorry for you and let you return to your land. But if you disobey the voice of the Lord, your God, and decide not to remain in this land, saying, "No, we will go to Egypt, where we will see no more of war, hear the trumpet alarm no longer, nor hunger for bread; there we will live"; then listen to the word of the Lord, remnant of Judah: Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: If you are determined to go to Egypt, when you arrive there to stay, the sword you fear shall reach you in the land of Egypt; the hunger you dread shall cling to you no less in Egypt, and there you shall die.* Word of the living and true God. The reception was one of total refusal: “*When Jeremiah finished speaking to the people all these words of the Lord, their God, with which the Lord had sent him to them, Azariah, son of Hoshaiah, Johanan, son of Kareah, and all the insolent men shouted to Jeremiah: "You lie; it was not the Lord, our God, who sent you to tell us not to go to Egypt to settle. It is Baruch, son of Neriah, who stirs you up against us, to hand us over to the Chaldeans to be killed or exiled to Babylon"* (Cf. Jer 42,1-43,3). With John the Baptist and with Jesus we go much further. Their own humanity is destroyed. While with Jeremiah the Lord had not spoken. With John the Baptist and with Jesus the Lord could not even speak.

*"To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by her works."*

We know that the strategy of destroying the person who speaks in the name of God with Jesus reached its climax when he was accused of doing the healing of the demon-possessed in the name of the prince of demons. Never might whoever acts in the name of Satan act in the name of the Lord. A very serious sin against the Holy Spirit. Thus the doors of the kingdom of heaven are closed and those of hell and eternal darkness are opened wide.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, do not allow us to fall into sin against the Spirit.

### So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands

### FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER (Mt 17,10-13)

Suffering both physical and spiritual is always the fruit of sin. If it is not always the fruit of personal sins, it is always the fruit of man's sin. Sin can be visible and invisible, near or remote, direct and indirect, wanted or allowed. It is urgent to know that never sin stops its effects on the person who commits it, its consequences are for the whole humanity. What is true for sin, also applies to fidelity to the law and its obedience. Saint Paul reveals this truth in fullness of science and inspired doctrine in the Letter to the Romans: *“Therefore, just as through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all, inasmuch as all sinned -  for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come. But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by that one person's transgression the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one person Jesus Christ overflow for the many. And the gift is not like the result of the one person's sinning. For after one sin there was the judgment that brought condemnation; but the gift, after many transgressions, brought acquittal. For if, by the transgression of one person, death came to reign through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of justification come to reign in life through the one person Jesus Christ.”*

This is how Paolo continues in his revelation: *“In conclusion, just as through one transgression condemnation came upon all, so through one righteous act acquittal and life came to all. For just as through the disobedience of one person the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous. The law entered in so that transgression might increase but, where sin increased, grace overflowed all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through through justification for eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord* (Rm 5,12-21). The suffering of Christ has a twofold origin: in his will of obedience to the Father until the very end through great love and in the hatred of the world that has poured on Jesus for no reason. Hatred is always the fruit of a personal sin that governs the heart. Sin is taken from the heart and hatred also disappears. Having hatred and envy disappeard, one becomes just and collaborates with the Lord to create justice and truth in hearts. Sin always generates death. Obedience always bears grace and truth.

*Then the disciples asked him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" He said in reply, "Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased. So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.*

Having been sent by God to bear witness to truth and light, which is Christ Jesus, John the Baptist was killed by the hatred of Herodias, that in turn used the impurity of her daughter and the concupiscence and foolishness of Herod. Instead, Jesus will be crucified by the envy and hatred of the leaders of his people. Falsehood, lies, and sin have always hated and will always hate truth, light and justice. Jesus is the light of the world. The darkness, which hates the light, raged against Jesus until they had him be nailed to a cross. But we know that darkness has not power to turn off the light. Its victory was only for a few moments. Then Jesus rose again and clothed his body with immortal, divine, eternal light. His own body has been transformed into light, becoming spirit as God is spirit. Darkness will always attack the light to extinguish it. But it is not in its power to succeed. Only our sin succeeds.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us light, truth and justice in Christ Jesus, the Crucifix.

### Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you

### SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER (Mt 11,2-11)

In the prophecy of Malachi, confirmed by Sirach, it is said only that Elijah is sent to prepare a well-disposed people for the Lord, so that by coming he will not hit the earth with extermination: *“Till like a fire there appeared the prophet whose words were as a flaming furnace. Their staff of bread he shattered, in his zeal he reduced them to straits; By God's word he shut up the heavens and three times brought down fire. How awesome are you, Elijah! Whose glory is equal to yours? You brought a dead man back to life from the nether world, by the will of the Lord. You sent kings down to destruction, and nobles, from their beds of sickness. You heard threats at Sinai, at Horeb avenging judgments. You anointed kings who should inflict vengeance, and a prophet as your successor. You were taken aloft in a whirlwind, in a chariot with fiery horses. You are destined, it is written, in time to come to put an end to wrath before the day of the Lord, To turn back the hearts of fathers toward their sons, and to reestablish the tribes of Jacob. Blessed is he who shall have seen you before he dies”* (Sir 48,1-11). The Gospel reveals that it is not Elijah the one who comes. Instead, John the Baptist is the one sent with the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare hearts to welcome the Christ of God. Moreover, it is he who reveals that Jesus is the true Messiah, the true Christ, the Lamb of God and the Son of God. He sees and witnesses what he has seen.

Then, why does he send some of his disciples to ask Jesus if he is really the Messiah? He asks because he is just a prophet. He says what the Spirit puts on his mouth. He is not a scribe and does not even know what was not revealed to him. Jesus does not fulfill the expectations of the men of his time. He does not present himself as a new David. He has no army. What Messiah will he be? Doubts can arise. Jesus reassures him: tell John what you have seen. The Scriptures are fulfilled in me. However, I did not come to realize the earthly expectations of men, but the divine ones of my Father. I am the Messiah who came not to bring war, but light, peace, conversion, eternal life, the forgiveness of sins and the redemption of man from evil.

*When John heard in prison of the works of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to him with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: 'Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.' Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

The temptation of then is the temptation of today, tomorrow and always. Is the Church not under attack today? Is not she undergoing the temptation of reducing everything to immanence? Are we not making the messianism of the purest and highest transcendence a fact for the things of the earth? Are we not even once again crucifying the Christ of God on the cross of our worldly theories? To keep his being Messiah in the will of the Father, Christ Jesus went to the cross. We are removing Christ from the cross and the cross of Christ, so as not to have even the memory of that divine messianism, according to the Father. We must choose. Man is saved only by God's Messiah according to the truth of the Holy Spirit. Other ways of salvation have not been given.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, do not allow us to reduce the Church to a human event.

### By what authority are you doing these things?

### MONDAY 16 DECEMBER (Mt 21,23-27)

True authority is always a creator of truth and therefore cannot come except from God. Every authority of omnipotence comes from God. He alone is the Almighty and the Holy One. The true miracle is the work of God through man, who participates in his eternal power. The authority to purify the cult and to teach the true way of salvation, comes from the Holy Spirit. Every man lives in a profound spiritual blindness. If a man with his word opens the eyes of the spirit to the blind, his authority necessarily comes from God. But Jesus had manifested this divine origin of all his authority since the beginning of the synagogue: *“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). This is very pure authority that comes only from God.

That the authority of Jesus is from God, all his great signs, miracles and wonders attest it. No man with the mere word can give sight to a blind man and no one can raise a dead man who has been lying in his grave for four days by now. No one can wash away leprosy and no one can command the wind and the sea. The miracles of Jesus are so real signs that they cannot be doubted in any way and neither can they be attributed to a human authority of science or of another discovery of our technique. Like the magicians of Egypt, we are called to confess that Jesus acts with the finger of God, that is, with his authority. But Jesus cannot tell the truth to those who are questioning him. His hour has not come yet and he must beware of telling them the divine origin of the authority with which he is acting. He promises to reveal them the origin, if they had told him what the origin of John's baptism was, whether from heaven or from men? With two calculations, the people present say they do not know. They lie. They do not tell the truth to Jesus. They know that John is a prophet of the living God. However, it was not convenient for them to say the origin of his baptism. Currently not for Jesus is convenient to explicitly say the origin of his authority. He does not deny his divine origin. He says he won't reveal it. They do not say it out of ignorance. He does not say it for science, most pure knowledge. Jesus knows he is from eternal light, but he does not reveal it.

*When he had come into the temple area, the chief priests and the elders of the people approached him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them in reply, "I shall ask you one question, and if you answer it for me, then I shall tell you by what authority I do these things. Where was John's baptism from? Was it of heavenly or of human origin?" They discussed this among themselves and said, "If we say 'Of heavenly origin,' he will say to us, 'Then why did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we fear the crowd, for they all regard John as a prophet." So they said to Jesus in reply, "We do not know." He himself said to them, "Neither shall I tell you by what authority I do these things.*

From this evangelical pericope we must learn two very high truths. Whoever is in charge of discernment in the community is obliged to separate good from evil, what comes from God from what comes from men, with a very clear cut. What is of God is of God. What is of men is of men. Instead, Scribes, Pharisees, chief priests and elders of the people work exclusively for them. With John the Baptist they say they do not know. He is by now dead and can do no harm. In a few days they will accuse Jesus of blasphemy because he revealed his truth. They deny out of interest. Out of interest, they declare the most pure truth of Christ the Lord blasphemy.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that the ministers of truth are always for the truth.

### Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David

### TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER (Mt 1,1-17)

The evangelist Matthew does not want those who read his Gospel to have doubts about the truth of Christ Jesus. In him the promise made by God to Abraham and that always made by the Lord to David is fulfilled. Let us examine everything according to the purest light of the Holy Spirit and we will have a very clear vision of the person and mission of Jesus. Thus the Lord God to Abraham: *"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).* *Again the Lord's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing - all this because you obeyed my command'' ”* (Gen 22,15-18). Whoever wants to be blessed must be blessed in Jesus the true descendants of Abraham. He is God's blessing for all peoples. Jesus is not born for a people, but for the whole of humanity. This is his truth.

Our God has only one kingdom, not many kingdoms. Of this kingdom King is only Christ Jesus. We enter his kingdom, we are blessed and we are saved. We remain outside the kingdom, we remain in sin: *"The Lord of hosts has this to say: when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. It is he who shall build a house for my name. And I will make his royal throne firm forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. And if he does wrong, I will correct him with the rod of men and with human chastisements; but I will not withdraw my favor from him as I withdrew it from your predecessor Saul, whom I removed from my presence. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever'" ”* (2Sam 7,8-16). Our God, who is the only living and true God, no longer has a kingdom, either on earth or in heaven. His kingdom is one. His king is one. One enters under the government of his only King, Christ Jesus, he is of his kingdom, he will enter tomorrow into his eternal kingdom, on condition that he remain today in the kingdom of Christ. From the kingdom of the earth to the eternal kingdom. In the kingdom of Christ and in the kingdom of God.

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king. David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asaph. Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile. After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok. Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Messiah. Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah, fourteen generations.*

This double truth - is the blessing of humanity in Jesus. It is Jesus the only king constituted by God for time and eternity - is dying in the heart of many disciples of Jesus. It is urgent that it be relocated in the heart of the Church to be given as truth of true salvation to every other man. From the heart of the Christian to the heart of all.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that the double truth of Christ never die in us.

### Do not be afraid to take Mary

### WEDNESDAY 18 DECEMBER (Mt 1,18-24)

Every man must want his steps to be led by the Law of his God. In this conduction he must always seek not only the greatest good for himself, but also for others. Every man is called to be in the image and likeness of his Creator and Lord. Who is our Lord? He who has thought, thinks and will always think the best good for man, the fruit of his eternal wisdom. Thus St. Paul in the Letter to the Romans: *“For Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation”* (Rm 5,6-11). Like his God, Joseph also thinks the best for the Virgin Mary. Like Joseph, the disciple of Jesus must always think the best for every other man.

But the Lord does not want for the Virgin Mary the best thought of by man, he wants the best, indeed the excellent thought of by him. He wants the utmost good and sends his angel to ask Joseph to put his whole life at the service of his mystery of salvation and redemption. He will have to take Maria with him as his bride. He will also have to give the name to the Son who will be born of her. For him the Son of Mary will be a true Son of David. He will be the King with the eternal kingdom. The Son of David will be the one to save the people from their sins. As soon as he awakes from sleep, Joseph does as the Lord had commanded him. Thus Joseph reveals himself to be a great teacher in justice and a great master of obedience. Being a great master of obedience, he will also be a perfect master of service. Here is the perfection asked of the disciple of Jesus: teacher in justice, in obedience and in service. The Lord always seeks these disciples of Jesus. He wants to entrust to them the mysteries of salvation and redemption so that they may give them thorough fulfillment throughout the course of history. But if a disciple of Jesus is not great in justice, he will never be great in obedience and never in service.

*Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.*

The mystery of the Virgin Mary and of Christ Jesus must accompany the whole history of humanity. Mary and Jesus are always there. The one who is often missing is the disciple. The Lord cannot ask him to take Mary with him as his mystical bride, nor to welcome Jesus as his true heart and true life, because he is not a teacher in justice, in truth and in love. It will always be difficult to obey for those who place themselves outside the Law of the Lord, for those who do not think the best for every one of his brothers. The mystery of Christmas cannot die. The day when for us it dies, the mystery of salvation and redemption which is Christ Jesus and which today must be accomplished for the immediate obedience of the Lord's disciple, also dies. Therefore, it is urgent that the Christian enters the highest justice if he wants to live of true obedience to his Lord.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that Joseph's example guides our whole life.

### Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son

### THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER (Lk 1,5-25)

Joseph is the man who observes the Law of the Lord, thinking the best beyond the Law itself. His heart is ready to pass to an obedience that asks for total abandonment in the hands of his Lord: "Let it be done to me, Lord, according to your will. Your will is my Law. Your wish my perennial Statute". Zacharias and Elizabeth are righteous before God and keep all the laws and prescriptions of the Lord. But they do not go further. They are not as perfect in the justice of the best as Joseph is. the Lord does not ask for any renunciation, any sacrifice and any abnegation to Zacharias. He only asks to believe that through his divine omnipotence he will become the father of a child, to whom he will have to give the name John. Zacharias sees himself old, advanced over the years, sees Elizabeth not only sterile, but also far beyond the age at which a woman might have children. For these human reasons he does not believe in the omnipotence of his God. He also forgets that Abraham, when he conceived Isaac, was much older than he and also Sara much older than his wife. Zechariah doubts the words addressed to him by the angel. Since the angel of the Lord did not come to give an order to Zechariah, but only to announce to him what his God was about to do with his old flesh and the sterile flesh of Elizabeth, he gave him a sign of the truth of his words: Zechariah will remain mute until the day when every word of the angel is duly fulfilled, that is, until the day of circumcision, the day in which the name of the child was given. With this sign Zechariah will know that everything will be accomplished.

*In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years. Once when he was serving as priest in his division's turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of (the) Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God.*

*He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord." Then Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel said to him in reply, "I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news. But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and were amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary. But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He was gesturing to them but remained mute. Then, when his days of ministry were completed, he went home. After this time his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months, saying, "So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others."*

Since John, the Son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, will be clothed with a unique mission throughout the history of salvation, his life will also be unique. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit from the womb of his mother. The Spirit will lead him from this moment on to the completion of his very high mission. The Spirit of God will be manifested in Him with so great a fortitude as that received as a gift by the prophet Elijah. This prophet spoke to kings and queens without any fear. In one day he killed all the prophets of Baal. He made fire come down from the sky. John will not repeat the deeds of Elijah. His power will be only the Word that he will announce.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that every Christian is strong in the Holy Spirit.

### May it be done to me according to your word

### FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER (Lk 1,26-38)

The more a person is rich in grace, the more wisdom abounds in him. The more one is filled with wisdom, the more he is inclined to do the will of the Lord in its knowledge and truth. In many we say we do the will of God, but, not being full of grace, we lack in wisdom, we do not know the truth of God's will and consequently we act according to our feeling, convinced that we obey our God and Lord. The Virgin Mary is full of grace, full of wisdom, she walks from truth to truth and from faith to faith and as soon as the Angel reveals to her what the Lord has decided to do in her, in her virginal womb, she immediately asks the Angel to show her the ways. The will of God must be done according to the rules established by Him. Today, much, very much will of man is made to pass for will of God. But the will of man will never be assumed by God as his will. The results are of no salvation, no redemption, no justification, no conversion, no sanctification and no building up of the body of Christ the Lord. Mary doesn't have to do anything. God must do everything in her and for her. The Holy Spirit will be the one to make her the Mother of the Son of the Most High, of the Eternal Word, remaining she Virgin forever. That is why every day, it is necessary to grow, like the Mother of God, from grace to grace and from light to light. Thus we will always know how to put aside all our human wisdom and intelligence and also supernatural wisdom and intelligence, to let us be guided by the actual Word, which is the only one that reveals to us the modalities according to which the will of God must be realized. Replacing the Christian today, in almost everything, the will of God with his will, he attests that he is extremely poor in divine grace, devoid of the Holy Spirit, lacking in supernatural light and lacking in true modalities. For a disciple of Jesus the grace is all.

*In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

The more one is in grace, the more our faith opens up to the mysteries of salvation. No creature in the world is full of grace like the Virgin of Nazareth. And no creature possesses even a faith similar to hers, that is faith of abandonment, surrender, offering of her life to God, in soul, spirit and body, so that his divine will is fulfilled. Today let us observe the life of the Christian. From the fruits that it matures, we must necessarily deduce that there is total absence of grace in it. Lacking in grace, wisdom is also absent. The questions we ask are many, the answers might never be those of God. What is the saddest fruit we are producing? While the Virgin Mary made the eternal Word become flesh in her womb, we are gradually removing Christ from the heart, from the mind, from the will and from the mystery of the Church herself. We are shattering, erasing, declaring not essential, not necessary and even vain the work that God has done in Mary. The Christian cannot walk in a history poor in grace and truth. Like Christ, in Christ, with Christ and for Christ he was constituted light, truth, grace and eternal life for every man. He dies to grace and the world remains in death.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that the Christian grows in grace and truth.

**DECEMBER 2019**

***THIRD DECADE OF DECEMBER***

### The infant in my womb leaped for joy

### SATURDAY 21 DECEMBER (Lk 1,39-45)

Whatever a human mind could have imagined happened in Mary, in the Virgin of Nazareth: The Word became flesh. God really became a man. The Only Son of the Father has assumed our humanity. Starting with Lucifer in eternity, passing through the first woman and the first man, reaching the present day, a third of angels and many men have decided, they decide to make themselves Gods. In truth they are only angels and only men. Instead, in Mary, it is God who became true man. What happened in her might never happen again. It hasn't happened before. It will never happen again forever. Only one is the Son of God who became true man, true flesh. But there is another very singular thing that was accomplished in Mary, preceding and anticipating what would have happened starting from the day of Easter or Pentecost, depending on whether reference is made to the Gospel according to John or to the Acts of the Apostles. What is this very singular thing? Mary is filled with the Holy Spirit. She is moved, urged to go immediately to Zechariah's house by the Spirit. In this house, for her, for her breath, her voice or vital breath, the Holy Spirit has alighted on Elizabeth. This immediately, illuminated by the Spirit of the Lord, saw all the mystery that was fulfilled in Mary. Moreover, the Holy Spirit has settled on the child carried in his lap, filling him with himself.

For Mary the word spoken by the Angel Gabriel to Zacharias in the temple was realized: "He will be filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb". We know that in the Old Testament it was always the Lord who gave the Holy Spirit. Never has he passed from one man to another man. This transition from man to man did not occur even with Moses. On the seventy elders it was the Lord who took part of the Spirit that was on Moses and put him on those who had been chosen to govern the Lord's people with him. Thus, Mary becomes a true image of the Church. After his glorious resurrection Jesus will breathe his Spirit on the Apostles and from these the Spirit will be breathed on every other man who will be converted to their Word, always announced to them in the Holy Spirit and through the Holy Spirit which is in it; they will be converted and welcome Christ as the one and only source of eternal life. If the Apostles are not full of the Holy Spirit, like the Virgin Mary, like Christ Jesus, they will have a sterile breath that will never produce a single fruit of salvation. They might also give the Holy Spirit through the celebration of the sacraments, but this Spirit, without having been preceded by the Spirit of the Word, Spirit of conversion and attraction of the hearts to Christ the Lord, will produce very few fruits. The sterility of the Christian life is in the littleness of the Holy Spirit.

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

Every man has contact with the breath of the Holy Spirit, which is in the Apostle of the Lord and in those who announce the Word, he must make the same profession of faith as the two disciples of Emmaus: *"Did not perhaps our hearts burn within us while he conversed with us along the way, when he explained the Scriptures to us?"* (Lk 24:32). If the disciple of Jesus speaks and the heart of the listener does not burn and is not ablaze with the Holy Spirit, it is a sign that the one who announces is without Him. His heart does not burn. Not even the heart of the listener might ever burn. What happened in the house of Zechariah must happen every day in the house of the world. Moved by the Spirit, the Christian enters this house, greets with a greeting full of the Holy Spirit, the light of God enters the heart and ignites it. We accept the mystery, we adhere to Christ. We let ourselves be renewed by his grace and truth and we become new creatures. All this happens because the breath is rich in the Holy Spirit, light, truth and conviction. A heart devoid of the Holy Spirit can only sow darkness and gloom.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that every disciple of Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit.

### She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus

### SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER (Mt 1,18-24)

The incarnation of the Son of the Most High is the work of the Father and of the Word and of the Holy Spirit, but also the work of the Virgin Mary and of Joseph. God, in the Holy Spirit, gives his Son. Mary, in the Holy Spirit, gives her whole body and her life. Even Joseph, in the Holy Spirit, gives his heart, his mind, his will and his life. What happened for the birth to the land of Christ the Saviour must take place for the birth in every heart of the Lord Jesus. Today Jesus is born in a heart, if the Apostles of the Lord bring the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit into their hearts. The Father, in the Holy Spirit, must give men his Incarnate Son for their salvation. The Holy Spirit must convince and attract men to let themselves be made new creatures in Christ Jesus. The Son must increase his body with the addition of ever new creatures, regenerated, sanctified and made sharers in the divine nature in the waters of Baptism. If the Apostle of Christ the Lord and the disciple or minister of the Word that announces the Gospel is deprived of the Holy Spirit, this great mystery is not fulfilled. He cannot have God the Father and his Son in the heart who does not have the Holy Spirit. But not even the Word that convinces, attracts and converts might dwell in a heart devoid of the Spirit of God. The disciple of Jesus is called to dwell in the bosom of the Father like Lord Jesus. This bosom is the home of his evangelizing and saving mission.

Joseph lives in the midst of great justice. His is a justice capable of thinking the greatest good for the Virgin Mary. But God does not want Joseph to live this justice. If it is good for the Virgin Mary, it is not good for his Son, who must be born as a true son of David and not just as a descendant of Abraham. In Jesus, both the promises made by the Lord to Abraham and those made to David must be fulfilled. Joseph does not know the mystery of the Child that Mary carries in her womb. But the Father knows it and he sends his Angel to reveal it, so that Joseph may welcome it and live perfect justice from the perfection of the mystery. Today we are all falling into this temptation: we want to live a justice but in ignorance of the mystery of man, called to be born in Christ Jesus. The Apostle of the Lord is the true Angel of the Lord who must go to every man, manifest to him his mystery, invite him to welcome it, to become a mystery in the mystery. If the Angel of the Lord separates himself from the mystery, what revelation might he ever make to men? An angel without mystery has a word without mystery and a mission without mystery.

*Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.*

What is perfect justice for every man? The realization in his life of the mystery that God has written for him. This mystery is not accessed by human reasoning nor by the logic of very pure justice. It comes only by revelation. But no man can reveal his mystery to another man. Only the Angel of the Lord can. Who are the Angels of God today who must reveal to every man the mystery written for them by their Creator and God? Only the Apostles of Christ Jesus, but if they live the justice of apostolic succession and the charity of hierarchical communion. In listening and obedience to the Apostles of Jesus, are all the ministers of the Word and the witnesses of it. The more the Apostle will dwell in the bosom of Christ, the bosom of the Father, and the more his mission will be rich in fruits of conversion and salvation. Every man will know his mystery.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, help apostles and disciples to live in the bosom of the Father.

### For surely the hand of the Lord was with him

### MONDAY 23 DECEMBER (Lk 1,57-66)

The Father accomplishes his works with the hands of his Only Son, of his Eternal Word and with the Holy Spirit who is his Eternal and Divine Wisdom. All that is God's external work is the fruit of the Blessed Trinity. Thus the Book of Sirach: *“Wisdom sings her own praises, before her own people she proclaims her glory; In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, in the presence of his hosts she declares her worth: "From the mouth of the Most High I came forth, and mistlike covered the earth. In the highest heavens did I dwell, my throne on a pillar of cloud. The vault of heaven I compassed alone, through the deep abyss I wandered. Over waves of the sea, over all the land, over every people and nation I held sway. Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose inheritance should I abide? "Then the Creator of all gave me his command, and he who formed me chose the spot for my tent, Saying, 'In Jacob make your dwelling, in Israel your inheritance.' Before all ages, in the beginning, he created me, and through all ages I shall not cease to be. In the holy tent I ministered before him, and in Zion I fixed my abode. Thus in the chosen city he has given me rest, in Jerusalem is my domain. I have struck root among the glorious people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.*

These are words about Wisdom that must never be forgotten: *"Like a cedar on Lebanon I am raised aloft, like a cypress on Mount Hermon, Like a palm tree in En-gedi, like a rosebush in Jericho, Like a fair olive tree in the field, like a plane tree growing beside the water. Like cinnamon, or fragrant balm, or precious myrrh, I give forth perfume; Like galbanum and onycha and sweet spices, like the odor of incense in the holy place. I spread out my branches like a terebinth, my branches so bright and so graceful. I bud forth delights like the vine, my blossoms become fruit fair and rich. Come to me, all you that yearn for me, and be filled with my fruits; You will remember me as sweeter than honey, better to have than the honeycomb. He who eats of me will hunger still, he who drinks of me will thirst for more; He who obeys me will not be put to shame, he who serves me will never fail" ”* (Sir 24,1-22). Who is John the Baptist? He is the person who was seized by the Holy Spirit when he was still in the womb of his Mother and prepared, assisted, brought up by him, made to grow to accomplish a unique mission: preparing hearts to adhere to Christ. Indicating to the world the Lamb of our ransom, the one who removes sin by expiating it in his body.

*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.*

Who is the Apostle of the Lord? Who is the minister of the Word? Who is the disciple of Jesus? He who lets himself be grasped by the Holy Spirit, according to very particular modes and ways, charismas and missions, so that his whole life may be lived in function and in the service of Christ the Lord. As the Father does nothing without the Son and the Holy Spirit, as the Son does nothing without the Father and the Holy Spirit, as the Holy Spirit works everything from the Father and the Son, so must every Apostle of the Lord, every minister of the Word be. The missionary of Jesus must always be from the love of the Father, from the grace of the Son and from the communion of truth and light of the Holy Spirit from beginning to end.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that the Christian is from the Father, from the Son and from the Spirit.

### Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel

### TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER (Lk 1,67-79)

Zechariah is the last singer of the mercy, love, compassion and pity of our God and Lord in favour of the salvation of his people. Thus the Psalmist: *“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His loving kindness is everlasting.Give thanks to the God of gods, For His loving kindness is everlasting.Give thanks to the Lord of lords, For His loving kindness is everlasting.To Him who alone does great wonders, For His loving kindness is everlasting;To Him who made the heavens with skill, For His loving kindness is everlasting;To Him who spread out the earth above the waters, For His loving kindness is everlasting;To Him who made the great lights, For His loving kindness is everlasting:The sun to rule by day, For His loving kindness is everlasting,The moon and stars to rule by night, For His loving kindness is everlasting. To Him who smote the Egyptians in their firstborn, For His loving kindness is everlasting,And brought Israel out from their midst, For His loving kindness is everlasting,With a strong hand and an outstretched arm, For His loving kindness is everlasting.To Him who divided the Red Sea asunder, For His loving kindness is everlasting,And made Israel pass through the midst of it, For His loving kindness is everlasting”*.

From the day of creation to the present everything is the work of God's mercy: *“But He overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, For His loving kindness is everlasting. To Him who led His people through the wilderness, For His loving kindness is everlasting; To Him who smote great kings, For His loving kindness is everlasting, And slew mighty kings, For His loving kindness is everlasting: Sihon, king of the Amorites, For His loving kindness is everlasting, And Og, king of Bashan, For His loving kindness is everlasting, And gave their land as a heritage, For His loving kindness is everlasting, Even a heritage to Israel His servant, For His loving kindness is everlasting. Who remembered us in our low estate, For His loving kindness is everlasting, And has rescued us from our adversaries, For His loving kindness is everlasting; Who gives food to all flesh, For His loving kindness is everlasting. Give thanks to the God of heaven, For His loving kindness is everlasting”* (Ps 136 (135) 1-26).

Christ Jesus is the fruit of the Father's love. Even John the Baptist is the fruit of the love of the Father. His mission is that of going ahead of the Messiah to prepare the way for him so that he can enter into many hearts.

*Then Zechariah his father, filled with the holy Spirit, prophesied, saying: "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and brought redemption to his people. He has raised up a horn for our salvation within the house of David his servant, even as he promised through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old: salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to show mercy to our fathers and to be mindful of his holy covenant and of the oath he swore to Abraham our father, and to grant us that, rescued from the hand of enemies, without fear we might worship him in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God by which the daybreak from on high will visit us to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow, to guide our feet into the path of peace."*

To be effective, God's mercy needs the help, support and mercy of men. Christ Jesus gives his Father all his love, with full obedience. Even John gives the Holy Spirit all of himself, until the shedding of blood. Today whoever must be the mercy of Christ, in the Holy Spirit, to be offered to the Father is first of all the Apostle of the Lord. Through his mercy, the fruit of his most pure faith and his limitless charity, Christ Jesus is announced and, through the power of the Holy Spirit to whom he gave all his heart and his mind, he is believed. If the Apostle deprives the Father of his mercy, the mystery of redemption for him is made vain and fruitless. Mercy of God is also every other minister of the Word and every witness of it. The more people give their Father their mercy, their love and the more Christ is announced and many hearts can adhere to his Gospel, choosing Him as the only Redeemer and Saviour of their lives. If man removes his mercy from God, God's mercy is rendered vain.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that every Christian is made mercy of the Father.

### For behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy

### WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER (Lk 2,1-14)

Our God must always be evangelized in all his works. It is the obligation of those who have seen, tasted and experienced the works of God to manifest them to every other persons, so that true faith in Him may also be generated in other hearts. Faith from faith, truth from truth and light from light. This is the way of true evangelization and of the announcement. Thus the Psalmist:*“Shout joyfully to God, all the earth;Sing the glory of His name; Make His praise glorious.Say to God, “How awesome are Your works! Because of the greatness of Your power Your enemies will give feigned obedience to You.“All the earth will worship You, And will sing praises to You; They will sing praises to Your name.” Come and see the works of God, Who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men.He turned the sea into dry land; They passed through the river on foot; There let us rejoice in Him!He rules by His might forever; His eyes keep watch on the nations; Let not the rebellious exalt themselves.Bless our God, O peoples, And sound His praise abroad,Who keeps us in life And does not allow our feet to slip.For You have tried us, O God; You have refined us as silver is refined.You brought us into the net; You laid an oppressive burden upon our loins.You made men ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water, Yet You brought us out into a place of abundance.*

The obligation of evangelization never fails. Who has tasted the salvation of God is bound to manifest him to every other man: *I shall come into Your house with burnt offerings; I shall pay You my vows,Which my lips uttered And my mouth spoke when I was in distress.I shall offer to You burnt offerings of fat beasts, With the smoke of rams;I shall make an offering of bulls with male goats. Selah.Come and hear, all who fear God, And I will tell of what He has done for my soul.I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue.If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;But certainly God has heard; He has given heed to the voice of my prayer.Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer Nor His lovingkindness from me* (Ps 66 (65) 1-20). The gift of the Son of God to the world is the work of God's works. But still no one knows how much the Lord has done for us. The Father is anxious to evangelize his work. He sends an angel to the shepherds and brings them this great joy: *"Today, in the city of David, a Saviour was born for you, who is Christ the Lord".* From this moment on the pastors are responsible for the announcement or evangelization of joy.

*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."*

Who today has to announce the great joy that comes to us from the mystery of the Son of God who was born for us, died for us and rose again, for us he ascended into heaven and for us sits at the right hand of the Father? This obligation belongs to the Apostles of Christ Jesus and, in communion of truth, grace, love and mercy with them, to every disciple of the Lord, according to the sacrament received, the mission entrusted to him by the gift of the Holy Spirit, with whom he has been enriched. The evangelized pastors evangelize. The evangelized Apostles must evangelize up to the last moment of history. They will have to go to every corner of the earth and preach the Word of life to men.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that every Apostle of the Lord evangelizes the world.

### Brother will hand over brother to death

### THURSDAY 26 DECEMBER (Mt 10,17-22)

History confirms every word of Jesus: "The brother will kill his brother". Joseph was sold by his brothers: *“They noticed him from a distance, and before he came up to them, they plotted to kill him. They said to one another: "Here comes that master dreamer! Come on, let us kill him and throw him into one of the cisterns here; we could say that a wild beast devoured him. We shall then see what comes of his dreams." When Reuben heard this, he tried to save him from their hands, saying: "We must not take his life. Instead of shedding blood," he continued, "just throw him into that cistern there in the desert; but don't kill him outright." His purpose was to rescue him from their hands and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came up to them, they stripped him of the long tunic he had on; then they took him and threw him into the cistern, which was empty and dry. They then sat down to their meal. Looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, their camels laden with gum, balm and resin to be taken down to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers: "What is to be gained by killing our brother and concealing his blood? Rather, let us sell him to these Ishmaelites, instead of doing away with him ourselves. After all, he is our brother, our own flesh." His brothers agreed. They sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. Some Midianite traders passed by, and they pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and took him to Egypt”* (Gen 37,18-28).

Even Jesus was condemned to death by his brothers: *“The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward who stated, "This man said, 'I can destroy the temple of God and within three days rebuild it.'" The high priest rose and addressed him, "Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?" But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him in reply, "You have said so. But I tell you: From now on you will see 'the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power' and 'coming on the clouds of heaven.'" Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your opinion?" They said in reply, "He deserves to die!" Then they spat in his face and struck him, while some slapped him””* (Mt 26,59-67). Truly the enemies of man are those of his house.

*But beware of people, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved.*

Even Stephen, the first martyr for Christ, was put to death by his brothers: *“When they heard this, they were infuriated, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, filled with the holy Spirit, looked up intently to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out in a loud voice, covered their ears, and rushed upon him together. They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him. The witnesses laid down their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul. As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell to his knees and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them"; and when he said this, he fell asleep”* (At 7,54-60). Who wants to serve Christ the Lord must know that God's enemies will always be his brothers, those who dip the bread with him on the same plate. Those who celebrate at the same table. Those who attend the same Church. Those who form the same community. Knowing this, he prepares his heart to let himself be killed to be and remain a true witness of Christ the Lord.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make every disciple of Jesus a witness of the Gospel.

### And he saw and believed

### FRIDAY 27 DECEMBER (Jn 20,2-8)

Jesus not only speaks to us about the Father, but also shows him to us through his life. Each of his works is an attestation of this unity of life that exists between him and his Father: *“No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him”* (Jn 1,18). *“Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves”* (Jn 14,8-11). Whoever wants that the man to whom he speaks believes in Jesus, he too must show that between him and Jesus there is an intimate union and communion of life. Perfect harmony must reign between faith in Christ and life in Christ. What is said is life. What is life is said. The other sees this harmony, communion, union and correspondence and opens to faith.

Faith being a true and full human act, a true and full human act must be its announcement. The entire man must participate in the announcement of faith. Here is how Giovanni lives the announcement as a true human act: “*What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life - for the life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us - what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this so that our joy may be complete”* (1Jn 1,1-4). The Gospel is not just what Jesus said. But also what Jesus did. He did not do it and neither did he say it for his own humanity, but because he handed himself completely over to the Father and the Holy Spirit. The Gospel is the story of Christ who lives and works in the fullness of his human and divine, earthly and heavenly mystery. Even the disciple of Jesus, if he wants man to come or open himself to faith in Christ for him, must present himself with all the power of his being transformed by the love of the Father, by the grace of Christ and by the communion of the Holy Spirit. It is always an essential and perennial way to go through.

*So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.*

Even in the Apostle John faith is born of vision. In truth he did not see the Risen Christ. He saw the signs left in the tomb by the resurrection of his Master. In the tomb there is a wonderful, angelic and divine order. This order reveals to him that Jesus is truly risen, according to the Word he spoke and also according to the ancient prophecies. The disciple of Jesus announces the resurrection. What must man see to believe in the Word that announces the mystery of Christ the Lord? The order of grace, truth, justice and holiness that reigns in the tomb of sin which is the body of man. Having sin left the body of man, its place has been taken by virtues. They are the ones that reveal that He is truly risen in Christ the Lord. But if sin, vice, transgression and all the works of the flesh dwell in his body, this vision will never lead to faith in Christ. It is clearly evident that Jesus has not risen in him. The signs worked by the coming in his body of the Risen Christ are missing. The Word must always be accompanied by the signs of the virtues, of grace and of every fruit of the Holy Spirit. Faith will always be born if our body is emptied of every vice.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that our body is full of light, grace and truth.

### Rachel weeping for her children

### SATURDAY 28 DECEMBER (Mt 2,13-18)

Rachel is the image of Jerusalem. She cries because some among her sons died by the sword, others from hunger, others from the plague and many others were torn and led into exile to Babylon. The Lord comforts this mother in tears. Tomorrow he will wipe away every tear. He will give her, her children in conversion and fidelity to the covenant. For sin they have been taken away from her. By grace and loyalty they are given back to her. Here is the word of prophecy: *“Thus says the Lord: In Ramah is heard the sound of moaning, of bitter weeping! Rachel mourns her children, she refuses to be consoled because her children are no more. Thus says the Lord: Cease your cries of mourning, wipe the tears from your eyes. The sorrow you have shown shall have its reward, says the Lord, they shall return from the enemy's land. There is hope for your future, says the Lord; your sons shall return to their own borders. I hear, I hear Ephraim pleading: You chastised me, and I am chastened; I was an untamed calf. If you allow me, I will return, for you are the Lord, my God. I turn in repentance; I have come to myself, I strike my breast; I blush with shame, I bear the disgrace of my youth”* (Jer 31,15-19). Sin always takes away. Conversion and fidelity to God always restores in an even more wonderful way. If the children of Jerusalem had remained with her, she would have had idolatrous, immoral and unjust children. For a moment they were removed from her. Now she has them but no longer as idolaters.

Even the Bethlehem mothers have had their children removed, not because of a sin of their own, nor because of their mothers' sin. They have been taken away by a horrible sin of foolishness of the proud, wicked and insipid King Herod. This, blinded by his pride, which always results in impiety, thought that the born King of the Jews would have taken the kingdom from him tomorrow. But Jesus did not come to take away the kingdom from any king in this world. Instead he came to make every man king of his kingdom of glory and eternal light. For this sin the children were taken away from their mothers. But they were only removed for a moment. The Lord gave them back dressed in immortal glory. The Church celebrates their martyrdom. They are martyrs because they have taken the place of Christ the Lord. The heavenly Father allows the life of the body to be taken away, but to cover the soul and body with his eternal light. The evil done by man's sin is eternally rewarded with a glory that goes beyond all of our merit and the very life offered to him, to remain faithful to his covenant and his love. Never does the Lord remain indebted to anyone. Never might anyone boast of having done anything that is not already due to him. Life belongs to the Lord from the first moment of its conception.

*When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son." When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more."*

History must never be looked at with the eyes of time and worse with the eyes of sin. It must be looked at with the eyes of eternity and the light that comes to us from the Holy Spirit. Looking at history from time or from sin provokes reactions of foolishness and great ignorance in us. It also leads to judgment and condemnation. Instead, looked at with the eyes of the Holy Spirit and eternity, we give ourselves to the divine will and worship its mystery. History is the mystery given to man. It can be conducted to eternal joy or perdition forever. These children, who died innocently because of the foolishness of a king, brought their history into eternal bliss. Instead, Herod in his foolishness brought history into darkness and perdition.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, guide us to bring our life into the eternal homes.

### He shall be called a Nazorean

### SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER (Mt 2,13-15.19-23)

When a prophecy is fulfilled, all the meaning or truth contained in the prophecy is fulfilled. If Jesus is the shoot that comes from the root of Jesse, He is the Messiah of the Lord. The King of the Jews that was born, that fled to Egypt and that returned is the Christ of God. Thus the prophecy speaks of Him: *“But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, But he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord, as water covers the sea. On that day, The root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, The Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious”* (Cf. Is 11,1-10). Jesus is the King with the eternal kingdom

But the way to ascend to the eternal throne of God is that of suffering and of vicarious atonement. The prophecy says also this truth: *“See, my servant shall prosper, he shall be raised high and greatly exalted. Even as many were amazed at him -  so marred was his look beyond that of man, and his appearance beyond that of mortals - So shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; For those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it. Who would believe what we have heard? To whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up like a sapling before him, like a shoot from the parched earth; There was in him no stately bearing to make us look at him, nor appearance that would attract us to him. He was spurned and avoided by men, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem. Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, While we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. ”* (Cf. Is 52,13-53,12). Who wants to know the true mystery of Christ must add prophecy to prophecy, promise to promise and revelation to revelation. Not only must he put together the words of the Old Testament, but also those of the New. His mystery is all the Holy Scripture.

*When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son." When Herod had died, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go back there. And because he had been warned in a dream, he departed for the region of Galilee. He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazorean."*

All the heresies that have tormented the history of the mystery of Christ Jesus over time, all the schisms and lacerations of his body are the fruit of a heretical reading of the Word of God, of his revelation and of his prophecies. One takes a Word of God, separates it from the others, builds a mystery, but founded only on a spark of truth. Today the heresies of Christianity can no longer be counted. Indeed we are beyond the very heresy. It is the word of the man that has taken the place of the Word of the Lord.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, arrange that the word of man is never called the Word of God.

### To all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem

### MONDAY 30 DECEMBER (Lk 2,36-40)

The Lord is the one who must redeem Jerusalem. However, it is not a redemption thought of by man. Instead, it is a redemption prophesied by the Lord through his holy prophets. Thus Isaiah announces the redemption of Jerusalem: *“Raise a glad cry, you barren one who did not bear, break forth in jubilant song, you who were not in labor, For more numerous are the children of the deserted wife than the children of her who has a husband, says the Lord. Enlarge the space for your tent, spread out your tent cloths unsparingly; lengthen your ropes and make firm your stakes. For you shall spread abroad to the right and to the left; Your descendants shall dispossess the nations and shall people the desolate cities. Fear not, you shall not be put to shame; you need not blush, for you shall not be disgraced. The shame of your youth you shall forget, the reproach of your widowhood no longer remember. For he who has become your husband is your Maker; his name is the Lord of hosts; Your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, called God of all the earth. The Lord calls you back, like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, A wife married in youth and then cast off, says your God. For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great tenderness I will take you back. In an outburst of wrath, for a moment I hid my face from you; But with enduring love I take pity on you, says the Lord, your redeemer.”* These are words that reveal all the infinite and eternal love with which the Lord loves. His love is of an ever new creation.

Thus the prophet goes on: *“This is for me like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah should never again deluge the earth; So I have sworn not to be angry with you, or to rebuke you. Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, My love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the Lord, who has mercy on you. O afflicted one, storm-battered and unconsoled, I lay your pavements in carnelians, and your foundations in sapphires; I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of carbuncles, and all your walls of precious stones. All your sons shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children. In justice shall you be established, far from the fear of oppression, where destruction cannot come near you. Should there be any attack, it shall not be of my making; whoever attacks you shall fall before you. Lo, I have created the craftsman who blows on the burning coals and forges weapons as his work; It is I also who have created the destroyer to work havoc. No weapon fashioned against you shall prevail; every tongue you shall prove false that launches an accusation against you. This is the lot of the servants of the Lord, their vindication from me, says the Lord”* (Is 54,1-17). Here is what redemption is for our God: a true new creation, the gift of a new life. It is not the restoration of an ancient order. With God, old things have passed by.

*Mary and Joseph took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord*, *there was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.*

How do you expect the redemption of Jerusalem? Preparing heart and mind to welcome the new Redeemer that the Lord has sent for us. Today a word must be clearly stated. If the Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, the Strong God, since our Redeemer is Christ Jesus, Christ Jesus is the Holy of Israel and the strong God. This is a truth that no one must ever question. The Father is Redeemer, Christ Jesus is Redeemer sent by the Father, the Holy Spirit is Redeemer sent by the Father and the Son. The Father redeems, giving us the Son for our new creation. The Son redeems by giving himself to the Father from the cross. The Holy Spirit redeems creating the new man, regenerating him in the waters of Baptism. It is the mystery.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us share in the redemption of Christ, in Him.

### Full of grace and truth

### TUESDAY 31 DECEMBER (Jn 1,1-18)

The Prologue of the Gospel according to John is the seal of the Holy Spirit to the truth of Christ Jesus: the eternal truth of generation from the father, truth of universal mediation in creation, truth of incarnation, truth of redemption and salvation, truth of light and eternal life and truth of revelation. Every truth announced both by the Old and also by the New Testaments finds its full light in the Prologue. If the Prologue is such a perfect, such a full and such a complete truth as nothing to be able to be added to it, why is Jesus Christ today denied what he is by nature and divine person, by human nature, by ministry and mission that the Father has given directly to him, in the Holy Spirit? Why have so many heresies arisen around the Person and are these heresies still today infesting the field of the Church today? Why has this powerful light been eclipsed in our times, arriving to make of Christ Jesus a man like all other men, putting him on their very lever, while He is the eternal, divine and human Different?

He is also the Different one for redemption, salvation, justification, mediation, revelation, eternal life, light and resurrection. Truth is truth and it stays for itself: not because we want a thing to be truth is truth and not even one thing from truth becomes falsehood because we decide it. Darkness is darkness and light is light. To read the Holy Scripture one needs to be basically honest. It is honesty to say what it says, but also not to say what it does not say. Furthermore, to intellectual honesty historical honest must be added. A man, in the Holy Spirit, at the beginning not only did he write who Jesus of Nazarth is; later he also wrote a Gospel, demonstrating, proofs in hand, that Jesus is truly the Word, the Only Begotten Son of the Father, that came into the world to offer us the gift of eternal life. Here is the Apostle's conclusion to his Gospel: *"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of (his) disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may (come to) believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name"* (Jn 20: 30-31). The Prologue is the summary of the Holy Spirit to all revelation.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.*

*But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" 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.*

The Christian must make this revelation of the Holy Spirit his truth. Becoming his truth, he will become his grace. Becoming his grace, he will become his life. Becoming his life, he might become truth, grace and life of every man. Since only Jesus is grace, truth and life, if we deprive ourselves of Him, we also deprive Him of the world. We remain in our sins, we condemn the world to remain there. This is the great Christian sin today: we are depriving ourselves of Christ, the one and only key to truth, grace and life, we close the doors of redemption and salvation for us and we close them for the whole world. I don't think there is a sin worse than this. It is a sin that excludes us from the kingdom of God, if we do not get converted soon and defend Christ in his truth.

Mother of God, Angels, Saints arrange that every Christian confesses the truth of Christ Jesus.