**MARCH 2020**

***FIRST DECADE OF MARCH***

**To be tempted by the devil**

**SUNDAY 1 MARCH (Mt 4,1-11)**

The Lord always tests the truth of our love and our fidelity to the word given to him. But to the test temptation is always added on the part of Satan. Temptation has only one purpose: free ourselves from any bond of obedience with our God. Thus the Book of Sirach: *“My son, when you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trials. Be sincere of heart and steadfast, undisturbed in time of adversity. Cling to him, forsake him not; thus will your future be great. Accept whatever befalls you, in crushing misfortune be patient; For in fire gold is tested, and worthy men in the crucible of humiliation. Trust God and he will help you; make straight your ways and hope in him”* (Sir 2,1-6). There is no man on earth who lives without temptation. Satan wants to lead everyone into eternal perdition and uses every temptation to drag the man to his side.

Besides being true God, Jesus is also a true man. Through his humanity he must work the redemption of humanity. For this he must be pure, holy and without blemish. He must never know sin, that is, disobedience to the will of his Father. Satan comes and tempts him so that he separates himself from the Father, leaves his bosom, lives without any connection with him, gives his messianism human and not divine contents, of the earth and not of heaven, for the world and not for his Father. This passage from the supernatural to the natural, from the transcendent to the immanent, from God to man, from Heaven to the earth, today is leading the children of the Church to lose their identity. Satan has succeeded in convincing many disciples of Jesus that everything is indifferent and all the same: God and Satan are one and the same. Heaven and hell the same thing. There is no Satan. There is no hell. Faith in Christ Jesus and faith in a nameless and faceless God are the same thing. Christ Jesus is not needed to religion or even to salvation. Every man is already saved. Jesus did not fall into this temptation. He remained anchored, bound, cemented and welded to the will of his Father. He remained in the bosom of the Father. He never came out of it, not even for a single instant or moment. He overcame Satan.

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

The Lord is tempted whenever we want his intervention of salvation against his Word, his will and against his Commandment. Faith is the delivery of life to the Word of God: *“O* [*come*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01980)*, let us* [*sing*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07442) *for* [*joy*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07442) *to the* [*Lord*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03068)*, Let us* [*shout*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07321)[*joyfully*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07321) *to the* [*rock*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06697) *of our* [*salvation*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03468)*. Let us* [*come*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06923)[*before*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06923) *His* [*presence*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06440) *with* [*thanksgiving*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=08426)*, Let us* [*shout*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07321)[*joyfully*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07321) *to Him with* [*psalms*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02158)*. For the* [[*Lord*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03068)](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03068) *is a* [*great*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01419)[*God*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0410) *And a* [*great*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01419)[*King*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04428)[*above*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05921)[*all*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03605)[*gods*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0430)*, In* [*whose*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0834)[*hand*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03027) *are the* [*depths*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04278) *of the* [*earth*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0776)*, The* [*peaks*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=08443) *of the* [*mountains*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=02022) *are His also. The* [*sea*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03220) *is His, for it was He who* [*made*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06213) *it, And His* [*hands*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03027)[*formed*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03335) *the* [*dry*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03006)[*land*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03006)*.* [*Come*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0935)*, let us* [*worship*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07812) *and* [*bow*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03766)[*down*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03766)*, Let us* [*kneel*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01288)[*before*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06923) *the* [[*Lord*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03068)](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03068) *our* [*Maker*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06213)*. For He is our* [*God*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0430)*, And we are the* [*people*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05971) *of His* [*pasture*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04830) *and the* [*sheep*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06629) *of His* [*hand*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03027)*.* [*Today*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03117)*,* [*if*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0518) *you would* [*hear*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=08085) *His* [*voice*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06963)*, Do not* [*harden*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07185) *your* [*hearts*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03824)*, as at* [*Meribah*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04809)*, As in the* [*day*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03117) *of* [*Massah*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04532) *in the* [*wilderness*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04057)*,* [*"When*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0834) *your* [*fathers*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01)[*tested*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05254) *Me, They* [*tried*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0974) *Me,* [*though*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01571) *they had* [*seen*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07200) *My* [*work*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06467)*. "For* [*forty*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0705)[*years*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=08141) *I* [*loathed*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=06962) *that* [*generation*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01755)*, And* [*said*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0559) *they are a* [*people*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=05971) *who* [*err*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=08582) *in their* [*heart*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03824)*, And they do not* [*know*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=03045) *My* [*ways*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=01870)*.* [*"Therefore*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0834) *I* [*swore*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=07650) *in My* [*anger*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0639)*,* [*Truly*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0518) *they shall not* [*enter*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=0935) *into My* [*rest*](https://www.biblestudytools.com/interlinear-bible/strongs/?t=nas&ll=h&sn=04496)*" ”* (Ps 95 (94) 1-11). Jesus places himself entirely in the will of the Father and obeys every Word written for Him.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints make us true listeners of the Word of Jesus.

**Come, you who are blessed by my Father**

**MONDAY 2 MARCH (Mt 25,31-46)**

In our days, only the damned "believe" in hell. Here is what they say to us from this place of eternal torment: *“They shall say among themselves, rueful and groaning through anguish of spirit: "We, then, have strayed from the way of truth, and the light of justice did not shine for us, and the sun did not rise for us. We had our fill of the ways of mischief and of ruin; we journeyed through impassable deserts, but the way of the Lord we knew not. What did our pride avail us? What have wealth and its boastfulness afforded us? All of them passed like a shadow and like a fleeting rumor; Like a ship traversing the heaving water, of which, when it has passed, no trace can be found, no path of its keel in the waves. Or like a bird flying through the air; no evidence of its course is to be found - But the fluid air, lashed by the beat of pinions, and cleft by the rushing force Of speeding wings, is traversed: and afterward no mark of passage can be found in it. Or as, when an arrow has been shot at a mark, the parted air straightway flows together again so that none discerns the way it went through – Even so we, once born, abruptly came to nought and held no sign of virtue to display, but were consumed in our wickedness." Yes, the hope of the wicked is like thistledown borne on the wind, and like fine, tempest-driven foam; Like smoke scattered by the wind, and like the passing memory of the nomad camping for a single day”* (Cf. Wis 5,1-16). For a poisoned joy of eternal death, for not having governed their instincts of wickedness, malice, pride and every other vice, for their foolishness and ignorance, they ended up in perdition and eternal damnation. Jesus reveals to the whole world that love is the way to eternal bliss. Egoism is the way to eternal perdition. A life closed in on itself is hell on earth and in eternity.

*"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."*

If one damned alone could come out of hell, he would be the greatest believer in Christ Jesus and also the greatest evangelizer of his Word. He would give no sleep to his eyes. He would walk the earth far and wide in order to convince men that faith in the Word is the only way that leads to eternal bliss. Jesus, who comes from eternity, has consumed his life. He did everything to teach us the truth of the afterlife. He sealed his preaching with his blood spilled on the cross. His Word is most pure truth. Many saints in vision in spirit have also contemplated the reality of hell. St. Paul was kidnapped in the third heaven. These visions of the afterlife confirmed them in their evangelizing mission. Today Christians no longer believe in hell or in Paradise. Their apathy, sloth and indifference is great.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us of true faith in the Word that came from the mouth of Jesus.

**Our Father in heaven**

**TUESDAY 3 MARCH (Mt 6,7-15)**

The Lord was not the Creator of man. Every day he is his daily Creator. Give us our daily creation today according to your will. The Lord after having made man in his image and likeness, he placed him in the garden of Eden with the body; with the spirit and with the soul he placed him in his Word, in his Will and in his Law. Prayer is a request to the Creator and our Lord that today, in this instant, he places us in his Word, in his will, in his Law and in his Gospel. This is the truth that man must never forget. Like a tree, if it wants to live and produce fruit, it must remain planted in the ground, if it is uprooted it is death, so it’s for every man. If he wants to live and bear fruit he must ask the Lord without interruption to plant him in his Word, in his heart, in his will and in his desires. Man lives drawing the sap of life from the heart of his God. He can draw it if he is well rooted in his will and in his Law.

With the coming of Christ Jesus, the ground in which man must be planted is the body of Christ, with his body in the body of Christ, with the soul in the soul of Christ, with the spirit in the Spirit of Christ, becoming his disciple, man might produce fruits of eternal life. That is how this truth is revealed by St. Paul:  *“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 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”* (Col 2,6-15). *And that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God”* (Eph 3,17-19). The will of the Father is that every man confesses that Christ the Lord is the only way, the only life, the only truth, the only mediation and the only grace. The Father gives everything in Christ, through Christ and with Christ.

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

When might the Lord plant a man in Christ, when might he give him Christ as his daily nourishment for the soul, the spirit and the body? Only when the man wants it, will ask it and will desire it with ardent desire, when he will forgive every offense and when he will decide to separate himself from the evil. God cannot do anything if man does not want to. In prayer the will is given to God, his will is assumed as our will. In Christ, through the Spirit, the Father must create us every day in his truth and in his love. Every day we must ask the Lord to make this perennial new creation. Every day we are asked to put ourselves in the hands of the Father as the clay is placed in the hands of the potter. Prayer is the delivery of life to the Father.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, help so that every day we become new creatures.

**There is something greater than Solomon here**

**WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH (Lk 11,29-32)**

Solomon has never performed a single miracle. He has only acted and spoken with wisdom. His wisdom left the world breathless: *“The queen of Sheba, having heard of Solomon's fame, came to test him with subtle questions. She arrived in Jerusalem with a very numerous retinue, and with camels bearing spices, a large amount of gold, and precious stones. She came to Solomon and questioned him on every subject in which she was interested. King Solomon explained everything she asked about, and there remained nothing hidden from him that he could not explain to her. When the queen of Sheba witnessed Solomon's great wisdom, the palace he had built, the food at his table, the seating of his ministers, the attendance and garb of his waiters, his banquet service, and the holocausts he offered in the temple of the Lord, she was breathless. "The report I heard in my country about your deeds and your wisdom is true," she told the king. "Though I did not believe the report until I came and saw with my own eyes, I have discovered that they were not telling me the half. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report I heard. Happy are your men, happy these servants of yours, who stand before you always and listen to your wisdom. Blessed be the Lord, your God, whom it has pleased to place you on the throne of Israel. In his enduring love for Israel, the Lord has made you king to carry out judgment and justice"”* (1Kings 10,1-9). Jesus does not speak with wisdom. He is the eternal Wisdom and lives in the eternal Wisdom which is the Holy Spirit. A substantial and not only quantitative or qualitative difference. Today this difference of substance is denied to Christ Jesus by his very disciples.

*While still more people gathered in the crowd, he said to them, "This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah. Just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation. At the judgment the queen of the south will rise with the men of this generation and she will condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and there is something greater than Solomon here. At the judgment the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because at the preaching of Jonah they repented, and there is something greater than Jonah here.*

Jonah did not perform any miracles. He told the Ninevites only seven words and the whole city was converted: *“The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: "Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you." So Jonah made ready and went to Nineveh, according to the Lord's bidding. Now Nineveh was an enormously large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began his journey through the city, and had gone but a single day's walk announcing, "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed," when the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in the ashes. Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh, by decree of the king and his nobles: "Neither man nor beast, neither cattle nor sheep, shall taste anything; they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water. Man and beast shall be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; every man shall turn from his evil way and from the violence he has in hand. Who knows, God may relent and forgive, and withhold his blazing wrath, so that we shall not perish." When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out”* (Jon 3,1-10). Jesus does not say only seven words. He is the eternal Word of the Father, He is the Light, the Truth, the Justice and the Thought of the Father among men. Here too: difference of substance, not of quality and not even of quantity. This difference must be affirmed. Jesus is the Different from every man, every angel and every creature made by the Lord. Jesus is not a Saviour, He is Salvation, Redemption, Peace, Life, Truth and Grace. Nothing is lived outside of Him. But everything in Him, with Him and for Him. Either we return to the purity of the universal difference of Christ, or there is no salvation

Mother of God, Angels and Saints. Arrange that the Christian confesses the difference of Christ Jesus.

**This is the law and the prophets**

**THURSDAY 5 MARCH (Mt 7,7-12)**

The Word of the Lord is eternal truth. If man sows evil, he will collect evil. Instead, if he sows the good, he will collect the good. If he gives his forgiveness, he will receive forgiveness from the Lord. If he hates and holds a grudge, he will remain with his sins: *“He who has shifty eyes plots mischief and no one can ward him off; In your presence he uses honeyed talk, and admires your every word, But later he changes his tone and twists your words to your ruin. There is nothing that I hate so much, and the Lord hates him as well. As a stone falls back on him who throws it up, so a blow struck in treachery injures more than one. As he who digs a pit falls into it, and he who lays a snare is caught in it, Whoever does harm will be involved in it without knowing how it came upon him. Mockery and abuse will be the lot of the proud, and vengeance lies in wait for them like a lion. The trap seizes those who rejoice in pitfalls, and pain will consume them before they die; Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the Lord's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Should a man nourish anger against his fellows and expect healing from the Lord? Should a man refuse mercy to his fellows, yet seek pardon for his own sins? If he who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins?*

*Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin! Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; of the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults”* (Sir 27,22-28,7). How does Jesus fulfill his Father's Word? Placing man as a measure of good. Every man knows what is good for his life. This same good he will have to do to every other man. A large measure he uses for himself, a large measure he must use for others. Since everyone knows the good for himself, he must want this same good for others. He wants it, doing it and realizing it. This Law is universal, it applies to every man. According to this law we will also be judged on the last day. What Saint Paul teaches is worthy of faith: *“Therefore, you are without excuse, every one of you who passes judgment. For by the standard by which you judge another you condemn yourself, since you, the judge, do the very same things. We know that the judgment of God on those who do such things is true. Do you suppose, then, you who judge those who engage in such things and yet do them yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you hold his priceless kindness, forbearance, and patience in low esteem, unaware that the kindness of God would lead you to repentance? By your stubbornness and impenitent heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself for the day of wrath and revelation of the just judgment of God, who will repay everyone according to his works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works, but wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness. Yes, affliction and distress will come upon every human being who does evil, Jew first and then Greek. But there will be glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, Jew first and then Greek. There is no partiality with God”* (Rm 2,1-11). Since everyone wants a favorable judgment for himself, he must always have a good word, of mercy, for everyone else.

*"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which one of you would hand his son a stone when he asks for a loaf of bread, or a snake when he asks for a fish? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him. "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the law and the prophets.*

Who gives, can ask. Who opens, can knock. Those who let himself be found can search. If our heart is hermetically closed to others, the heart of the Father will also be closed for us. If we give good things to others, the Lord will give us excellent things. We are the measure of God's love for us. To those who give largely, it will largely be given.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, arrange that we do not give with stinginess, but with a large measure.

**Go first and be reconciled with your brother**

**FRIDAY 6 MARCH (Mt 5,20-26)**

The disciple of Jesus must go beyond the imitation of His Master. Since he is the body of Christ, he must be the life of Christ among his brothers. Who is Christ Jesus? It is the Brother who gives the Father life in ransom of his brothers: *“But we do see Jesus "crowned with glory and honor" because he suffered death, he who "for a little while" was made "lower than the angels," that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that he, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering. He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin. Therefore, he is not ashamed to call them "brothers," saying: "I will proclaim your name to my brothers, in the midst of the assembly I will praise you"; and again: "I will put my trust in him"; and again: "Behold, I and the children God has given me." Now since the children share in blood and flesh, he likewise shared in them, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life.*

*Surely he did not help angels but rather the descendants of Abraham; therefore, he had to become like his brothers in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested”* (Heb 2,9-18). Jesus the Lord, before offering himself as a holocaust of salvation to the Father, was reconciled with his brothers, knowing their hatred against him: *"Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing."* As Christ Jesus is the innocent Brother who gives his life for the brothers who are in death, because of their sins, so also the disciple of Jesus must be the innocent brother, without sin, because he must also, being the body of Christ, give his life for his brothers, so that their sins are forgiven. Being one body with Christ, they must also be one sacrifice, one holocaust and one gift for the redemption of the world. For this reason the Christian is not called to imitate Christ, but to be the true body of Christ who gives himself for his brothers. He gives himself and lets himself be given by the Father. The Father gives him and he makes himself a gift to be given, but always as the body of Christ, in Christ, with Christ and through Christ.

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

If the Christian is the brother, who in Christ, with Christ and through Christ, as his true body, is a gift of the Father for the life of his brothers and is an instrument of reconciliation and salvation, might he ever be angry with his brothers? Might he ever insult them, despise them, condemn them, judge them, offend them, oppose them and resist them? If he did these things, he would no longer be a holocaust, nor a sacrifice and nor an instrument of reconciliation and salvation. He would be a man among men. But he would not be the body of Christ among his brothers. This truth has to be put back on the candlestick today. If the Christian is the body of Christ, he might never be the worshiper of a God who is not the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. He in Christ can only offer himself to the Father of Christ Jesus. Christ Jesus is not the Son of another God. But neither is man the creature of another God. Revelation is either welcomed all in all its parts, or it all dies, because it all becomes a monstrous inconsistency.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that the Christian confesses and lives his truth.

**Do not the pagans do the same?**

**SATURDAY 7 MARCH (Mt 5,43-48)**

How can a Christian love with a universal love? First of all with perfect obedience to the Law of the Lord, which are the Commandments on which the Old Covenant is founded: *“"I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the Lord, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation, on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments. "You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain. For the Lord will not leave unpunished him who takes his name in vain. "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord has blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. "Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you. "You shall not kill. "You shall not commit adultery. "You shall not steal. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him"”* (Ex 20,1-17). Whoever leaves this Law even of a single venial transgression does not love with a universal love. He hurt someone, even if it was mild. Today these Commandments are no longer declared Law for man. There is no love. There is only sinful instinct and feeling. But this of the commandments is only the first love. It is the love of justice. It is the love that gives the other what is of the other. But God does not love us like that. He loves us by giving what is his. The Son is his. He gave him for our eternal redemption. The body of Christ is his. He gave it for our salvation, as a holocaust to redeem us from the captivity of sin and death. He made himself a victim of atonement for the sins of the world.

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

God did not give his Son for the righteous, he gave him for sinners, for the wicked, for us who were his enemies: *“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). If we are the body of Christ, we too must give our bodies to the Father in atonement for the salvation of every man. But if we give our body, can we keep our possessions for ourselves? All that we have must be given to the Father so that He can manifest his love for every man. We Christians are the sun and the rain that the Father will have to give to every man, calling him to conversion for the remission of sins.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that we never forget our Christian truth.

**And he was transfigured before them**

**SUNDAY 8 MARCH (Mt 17,1-9)**

Jesus knows that today his disciples understand little, very little of his mystery. But he will have to say it all, manifest it all and live it all before his disciples. Then, after his death on the cross, he will first open their minds to understand how much of him is written in the Prophets, in the Law and in the Psalms, then he will infuse them with the Holy Spirit and it will be He who always reminds, with purity of truth and doctrine, science and wisdom, what the disciples saw with their eyes and listened with their ears. Today Peter is on the mountain. He understands little of what he has seen. But he saw. Then the Holy Spirit descended upon him. Here is what he teaches in the Holy Spirit of this day: *“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). Who is the Christian then? He is the body of Christ, called to live all his ministry, guided and moved by the Spirit, according to his understanding of science, wisdom, intelligence and fortitude, before every other man. Today he will show who Christ is through the fulfillment of his mystery. Then it will be the Spirit, when He wills it, to give to those who have seen the mystery of Christ fulfilled in the Christian, intelligence, knowledge, wisdom and comprehension, so that they can understand and welcome and become converted to the mystery and through the sacrament of baptism they too become mystery of Christ. If the Christian does not live and does not say his mystery, the Holy Spirit might do nothing and no other person might be inserted into the body of Christ, making him the body of Christ.

*After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."*

On the mountain, Christ reveals to his disciples that he is not only sent by God, but that he himself is God. If he is God, his Word is always the Word of God, never might it be man's word, without any truth in it. Peter should already understand that his word is of man, therefore without truth. That of Christ is the Word of all truth. The testimony of the Law and the Prophets is added to this revelation of true divinity. Moses and Elijah attest that what Jesus is saying is truly in conformity with what God has written for prophecy for Him. But the Father from heaven also makes his voice heard in favour of Christ who is his Beloved Son. Jesus must be heard in every one of his Words. The Word of Jesus is the Word of the Father. Very pure word of truth. Death by crucifixion is the essence of the mission of Lord Jesus. Since it is essence, He must necessarily pass through this way. If he does not pass, his mission is a real failure. He gives no salvation. The world remains in its sin. The announcement of the Gospel is the essence of the mission of the Church. If the Church does not announce the Gospel and does not invite to conversion, making disciples, her work is in vain.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, do not allow our mission to be pure vanity.

**Will in return be measured out to you**

**MONDAY 9 MARCH (Lk 6,36-38)**

Some examples of measure and reward will help us discover how much truth is contained in these words of Jesus. A woman consecrates herself to charity. She receives the resurrection as a measure of her love: *Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated means Dorcas). She was completely occupied with good deeds and almsgiving. Now during those days she fell sick and died, so after washing her, they laid (her) out in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs where all the widows came to him weeping and showing him the tunics and cloaks that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed. Then he turned to her body and said, "Tabitha, rise up." She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. He gave her his hand and raised her up, and when he had called the holy ones and the widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many came to believe in the Lord. And he stayed a long time in Joppa with Simon, a tanner* (At 9, 26-43). What was given is infinitely less than what was received.

Jesus gives the Father a mortal body, he receives as a gift a glorious, immortal, spiritual and incorruptible body. He is raised to Lord of heaven and earth: *“But someone may say, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come back?" You fool! What you sow is not brought to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be but a bare kernel of wheat, perhaps, or of some other kind; but God gives it a body as he chooses, and to each of the seeds its own body. Not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for human beings, another kind of flesh for animals, another kind of flesh for birds, and another for fish. There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the brightness of the heavenly is one kind and that of the earthly another. The brightness of the sun is one kind, the brightness of the moon another, and the brightness of the stars another. For star differs from star in brightness. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown corruptible; it is raised incorruptible. It is sown dishonorable; it is raised glorious. It is sown weak; it is raised powerful. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body”* (1Cor 15,35-44). There is not even a comparison between the measure of giving and receiving.

*Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful. "Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."*

Paul's measure in the evangelizing mission is without measure. The Lord gives him an immense amount of souls: *“Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew to win over Jews; to those under the law I became like one under the law - though I myself am not under the law - to win over those under the law. To those outside the law I became like one outside the law - though I am not outside God's law but within the law of Christ - to win over those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it”* (1Cor 9,19-23). If we want to receive from God we must give to God. God has already given his Son and the Holy Spirit without sparing himself in anything. However, if we want to reap fruits of salvation, redemption, conversion and vocations to Christ and his Church, we must give the Father, in Christ, according to the motion of the Holy Spirit. We give little and we receive little. We give a lot and we receive a lot. The more we spend ourselves on Christ, the more we receive from the Father. It is evident that in order to live this Gospel command, not a great faith is but a very pure one is urgently needed. Everything is from the measure of our faith. With a small faith, little is given and little is received.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us of pure, true, perfect and ever new faith.

**And you are all brothers**

**TUESDAY 10 MARCH (Mt 23,1-12)**

A first brotherhood is that of pride and rebellion against God. It is the brotherhood of the tower of Babel: *“The whole world spoke the same language, using the same words. While men were migrating in the east, they came upon a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to one another, "Come, let us mold bricks and harden them with fire." They used bricks for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky, and so make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered all over the earth." Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the men had built. Then the Lord said: "If now, while they are one people, all speaking the same language, they have started to do this, nothing will later stop them from doing whatever they presume to do. Let us then go down and there confuse their language, so that one will not understand what another says." Thus the Lord scattered them from there all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the speech of all the world. It was from that place that he scattered them all over the earth*” (Gen 11,1-9). It is not according to God. It has no future.

The second brotherhood is the one of disobedience to the law of the Lord: *“Then the message came to me from the Lord: Thus says the Lord: So also I will allow the pride of Judah to rot, the great pride of Jerusalem. This wicked people who refuse to obey my words, who walk in the stubbornness of their hearts, and follow strange gods to serve and adore them, shall be like this loincloth which is good for nothing. For, as close as the loincloth clings to a man's loins, so had I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, says the Lord; to be my people, my renown, my praise, my beauty. But they did not listen. Now speak to them this word: Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Every wine flask is meant to be filled with wine. If they reply, "Do we not know that every wine flask is meant to be filled with wine?" say to them: Thus says the Lord: Beware! I am filling with drunkenness all the inhabitants of this land, the kings who succeed to David's throne, the priests and prophets, and all the citizens of Jerusalem. I will dash them against each other, fathers and sons together, says the Lord; I will show no compassion, I will not spare or pity, but will destroy them*”(Ger 13,8-14). Not even this brotherhood has a future. It is not according to God.

*Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens (hard to carry) and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them. All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels. They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues, greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.' As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*

True brotherhood is that which comes from Baptism and is lived according to the Law of Christ, but in Christ, for Christ and with Christ: *"They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved”* (At 2,42-47). This brotherhood must be built. The Apostles of Christ Jesus are primarily responsible for building it, and in hierarchical communion with them every other priest and disciple of the Lord. A very high responsibility before God.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints make us builders of brotherhood according to Christ Jesus.

**MARCH 2020**

***SECOND DECADE OF MARC***

**To give his life as a ransom for many**

**WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH (Mt 20,17-28)**

Jesus knows that every word written for him by the Father must be fulfilled. He announces it to the Twelve, aside: "Behold, we ascend to Jerusalem and the Son of man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes; they will condemn him to death and deliver him to the pagans so that he may be derided and scourged and crucified, and on the third day he will rise again". Who hands Jesus over to the chief priests and scribes is Judas. Instead, who condemns Jesus to death is the Sanhedrin on accusation of blasphemy on the part of the high priest. Then they all hand him over to Pilate, imposing the death sentence on him by crucifixion. The one that mocks and insults him first is the Sanhedrin and then also the soldiers. After Jesus died on the cross and placed in the tomb, one the third day he will rise again. This time the travel to Jerusalem is not to work miracles and invite the people to conversion and faith in the Gospel. This one will be the last journey of Jesus. Then, it will be his glorious resurrection and his body will no longer be of flesh and bone; instead, it will be a spiritual, glorious, incorruptible and immortal body, removed from the vision of the world.

This is the world of Christ Jesus. But the disciples understand nothing. What Moses says of his people at the end of forty years, it can also be said for them at the end of the three years of following Jesus: *"You have seen all that the Lord did in the land of Egypt before your very eyes to Pharaoh and all his servants and to all his land; the great testings your own eyes have seen, and those great signs and wonders. But not even at the present day has the Lord yet given you a mind to understand, or eyes to see, or ears to hear”* (Dt 29,1-3). Proof of this is the fact that James and John use their mother who goes to Jesus and asks for the first two seats in the kingdom of Jesus. She wants one of her children to sit to the right of the Lord and the other to his left. This request, not agreed with the Other Apostles, creates turmoil in the Twelve. They also reach outrage against James and John. They should have never let the mother make such a request. When one thinks according to the world, the dispute always arises and there will always be discussions and struggles to occupy first places. The world ignores the fact that there will be a rigorous investigation of those on top. For every injustice, every omission, every alteration of the Law of the Lord and every arbitrariness will have to be accountable to God. Whoever is on top must always fear not to be from the will of God, not to act according to his precepts and not to follow the his Law with wisdom and truth.

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

Jesus does not solve the problem in the human manner, but in the divine manner. He grants everyone to sit in the first seat in his kingdom. The only thing is that he reverses places and multiplies them. In his realm the first place is the last and the last is a place that everyone can choose, because, after the last one, there will also be the last and so on to infinity. Occupying the last place there are no envies, jealousies, discussions, quarrels, altercations, opposition, insults and the like. Everyone might work in peace and serenity of spirit and heart. From the last place, everyone might serve and deliver the life to the Father in ransom for many. Eternal wisdom and knowledge in the Holy Spirit. A divine solution.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us of heavenly and divine, never of human and earth solutions.

**Where he was in torment**

**THURSDAY 12 MARCH (Lk 16,19-31)**

If today the Christian believed in this parable of Jesus, certainly his life would be lived entirely "sub specie aeternitatis" in the guise of eternity. Instead everything is lived in the myopic horizon of time and things of the world. Our life has been delivered into our hands so that we bear the greatest glory in Paradise with it. Instead we spoil it, leading it to the eternal perdition of hell. Today preaching the truth of hell also disturbs the ears that should be very refined in the things of God. It is precisely these ears that read the parable as if it were a fairy tale, a story fruit of the mind of man and not instead Word of the eternal truth of our God and Lord. We are like the sons in law of Lot in Sodom. When Lot comes to tell us that fire and brimstone will rain on our heads soon, what shall we say? *"You, Christ Jesus, are joking. You are saying things that will never occur. Whenever fire and sulfur fell from the sky. Never might the merciful Father send one person to hell. He has never condemned anyone to perdition".*

Yet after Lot came out of Sodom, fire and sulfur really rained and swept them all away. No one escaped from the city: *"Then the angels said to Lot: "Who else belongs to you here? Your sons (sons-in-law) and your daughters and all who belong to you in the city - take them away from it! We are about to destroy this place, for the outcry reaching the Lord against those in the city is so great that he has sent us to destroy it." So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had contracted marriage with his daughters. "Get up and leave this place," he told them; "the Lord is about to destroy the city." But his sons-in-law thought he was joking. The sun was just rising over the earth as Lot arrived in Zoar; at the same time the Lord rained down sulphurous fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah (from the Lord out of heaven). He overthrew those cities and the whole Plain, together with the inhabitants of the cities and the produce of the soil"* (Gen 19,12-14.23-25). Jesus reassures the whole world: Heaven and earth will pass away, my words will not pass away. Everything will be accomplished in time. But for us it will be too late when they are fulfilled. There is no return.

*"There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.' Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.' He said, 'Then I beg you, father, send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.' But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.' He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"*

Either we build our lives on the Gospel, or there will be no salvation for us. Moral questions must be resolved with morality, the problems of the Law with the Law, those of the Word with the Word and those of the Gospel with the Gospel. Falsehood, lies and deception cannot solve our eternity problems. When the problems of eternity are not resolved, even those of time cannot be solved. The bad rich man has not solved the problems of his eternity. He lived his time badly. Yet, it would have been enough to welcome Lazzaro to his table for his salvation. He would have lost nothing. He would have gained eternal bliss. Abraham reminds him of this: the Law and the Prophets are very pure truth. One believes in what is written in them, one enters life. One does not believe, he does not live according to their precepts and ends in death.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us of true faith in every Word of the Gospel of Jesus.

**Threw him out of the vineyard**

**FRIDAY 13 MARCH (Mt 21,33-43.45)**

Whoever wants to know how great the wisdom and the intelligence of Jesus is, it is enough that he reads even one single parable of his or that he hears only one of his answers to those who question him to make him fall with a few words that came out of his mouth. How far does the satanic will of the leaders of his people reach in their refusal to submit to their Lord, God, Creator and Father? Not only in the exit from obedience due to him by creation and the Covenant stipulated, but also in striking, beating and killing those who are sent to recall, remind and make resound in their ears the obligations assumed, which are of full fidelity to the Word of God, on whose foundation the Covenant was stipulated. How far instead does the love of redemption and salvation of their God, Lord and Father come? Not only in never getting tired of sending prophets after prophets and messengers after messengers, but it also goes as far as sending his only Son, his Only Begotten. The Father sends him with a thought in his heart: he is my Only Begotten.

They will have respect for him. But precisely because he is the Son of the Vineyard Master those peasants kill him, taking him out of their field. Thus, the Father no longer has anyone to send and the vineyard will be theirs eternally. But these think from their heart, they do not think from the heart of the Father. They ignore that the Father will never abandon man. He loves him with an eternal love and will always send prophets and righteous people to call his creature to conversion, to enter life. The love of the Lord is always more tenacious and stronger than evil. If the power of evil is strong, the power of God's love is infinitely stronger. No one might ever think of holding back the love of our God. It is eternal: *“The Lord appears to him from afar: With age-old love I have loved you; so I have kept my mercy toward you”* (Jer 31,3). Only man might frustrate the eternal love of the Lord, but to his perdition. The love of the Lord is like the sun. No fire might ever extinguish it and no shadow might eclipse it. It will also appear that the love of the Lord disappears for a moment. But what are the days of man in relation to eternity? For the Lord a thousand years are like a day and a day like a thousand years.

*"Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned. Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.' They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?" They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times." Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes'? Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit. When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they knew that he was speaking about them. And although they were attempting to arrest him, they feared the crowds, for they regarded him as a prophet.*

Jesus leads the chief priests and the elders of the people to pronounce the sentence on themselves: *"Those wicked ones, he will make them die miserably and will lease the vineyard to other peasants, who will deliver him the fruits in due time".* In his judgment the Lord is infinitely merciful and just. Jesus does not pray that they be punished severely. He asks forgiveness for them, excusing them: "They do not know what they are doing". Not even Jesus removes the vineyard from them. They are the ones who come out of the vineyard, separating. With Jesus in the vineyard one does not remain by birth, but by faith. They did not pass to the faith and the vineyard is no longer under their rule. Only with death God's judgment will be according to perfect justice. Until that moment there is always room for conversion and forgiveness.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, help us not to separate ourselves from the true vine that is Christ Jesus.

**Embraced him and kissed him**

**SATURDAY 14 MARCH (Lk 15,1-3.11-32)**

Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in the Word of the son who leaves his father's house: *“Yet the Lord is waiting to show you favor, and he rises to pity you; For the Lord is a God of justice: blessed are all who wait for him! O people of Zion, who dwell in Jerusalem, no more will you weep; He will be gracious to you when you cry out, as soon as he hears he will answer you. The Lord will give you the bread you need and the water for which you thirst. No longer will your Teacher hide himself, but with your own eyes you shall see your Teacher, While from behind, a voice shall sound in your ears: "This is the way; walk in it," when you would turn to the right or to the left. And you shall consider unclean your silver-plated idols and your gold-covered images; You shall throw them away like filthy rags to which you say, "Begone!" He will give rain for the seed that you sow in the ground, And the wheat that the soil produces will be rich and abundant. On that day your cattle will graze in spacious meadows; The oxen and the asses that till the ground will eat silage tossed to them with shovel and pitchfork. Upon every high mountain and lofty hill there will be streams of running water. On the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall, The light of the moon will be like that of the sun and the light of the sun will be seven times greater (like the light of seven days). On the day the Lord binds up the wounds of his people, he will heal the bruises left by his blows”* (Is 30,18-26). This is what the scribes and Pharisees are doing: they deny every man access to this great mercy and infinite love of the Father.

*The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them he addressed this parable. Then he said, "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went back to his father.*

*While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"*

Truly Jesus did not come to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to fulfill them. Jesus confirms all the riches of the love of his Father. You can get converted, you can go back repented to the Lord and you can knock at his door. He always gives us back the lost filial dignity and introduces us to the joy of his heart. Today, we have destroyed the true mercy of God in the name of a false mercy. Can we remain in our sin and eventually the Lord will welcome us into his home. There is no greater lie. The mercy of the Lord is in repentance.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, free us from every foolish thought of false mercy.

**This is truly the savior of the world**

**SUNDAY 15 MARCH (Jn 4,5-42)**

The goal of pastoral care, evangelization, mission, witness and life of every disciple of Christ Jesus is only one: confessing that only Jesus is the Saviour of the world. Leading, with the supernatural help of grace, truth, light, wisdom, doctrine, teaching and perfect exemplarity that in no other is there salvation except in the name of Jesus the Nazarene. Without this faith in Christ Jesus, pastoral care is vain and evangelization, mission, witness and Christian life are vain. Everything must start from Christ, the only Saviour of the world and everything must lead to Christ, the only Saviour of the world. The narration of the signs worked by Jesus and the words he spoke in the Gospel according to John also have this one and only purpose: *“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). If we do not start from the truth of Christ and we do not reach it, we consume all the energies that are used, both material energies and spiritual energies, in vain.

*Jesus said to her, "Go call your husband and come back." The woman answered and said to him, "I do not have a husband." Jesus answered her, "You are right in saying, 'I do not have a husband.' For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain; but you people say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You people worship what you do not understand; we worship what we understand, because salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Anointed; when he comes, he will tell us everything." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking with you." At that moment his disciples returned, and were amazed that he was talking with a woman, but still no one said, "What are you looking for?" or "Why are you talking with her?" The woman left her water jar and went into the town and said to the people, "Come see a man who told me everything I have done. Could he possibly be the Messiah?" They went out of the town and came to him.*

*Meanwhile, the disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Could someone have brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'In four months the harvest will be here'? I tell you, look up and see the fields ripe for the harvest. The reaper is already receiving his payment and gathering crops for eternal life, so that the sower and reaper can rejoice together. For here the saying is verified that 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap what you have not worked for; others have done the work, and you are sharing the fruits of their work." Many of the Samaritans of that town began to believe in him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me everything I have done." When the Samaritans came to him, they invited him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. Many more began to believe in him because of his word, and they said to the woman, "We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world."*

St. Paul also clothes prayer with this only goal: *“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*” (Eph 1,15-19). In truth today we are working for vanity. Christ Jesus is no longer the end of our mission. We have taken Christ away and in the centre we have placed man. We removed the Potter and put the clay on the lathe. Without the Potter, the clay remains only clay.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that every Christian puts Jesus at the center of his life.

**There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah**

**MONDAY 16 MARCH (Lk 4,24-30)**

Jesus is in the synagogue of Nazareth. He reads a prophecy of Isaiah and proclaims that those words he uttered today were fulfilled: *"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"* Lk 4,18-19). Those who are present in the synagogue want Jesus to testify with signs and wonders what He said. They do not see any release of prisoners and neither that the blind acquire or regain their sight. Not even the oppressed are not set free. What was before the reading of the prophecy and what is after is the same thing and there is no difference. Blind before and blind after. Oppressed before and oppressed after.

Jesus replies that the prophet is not sent to perform miracles, but to announce the Word of God. If he said that today those words were fulfilled, today they were fulfilled. Besides, between the saying of the Word of God by the prophet and its fulfillment time has always passed and will pass by. Thus the Deuteronomy: *"A prophet like me will the Lord, your God, raise up for you from among your own kinsmen; to him you shall listen. This is exactly what you requested of the Lord, your God, at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let us not again hear the voice of the Lord, our God, nor see this great fire any more, lest we die.' And the Lord said to me, 'This was well said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him. If any man will not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I myself will make him answer for it. But if a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die.' "If you say to yourselves, 'How can we recognize an oracle which the Lord has spoken?', know that, even though a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if his oracle is not fulfilled or verified, it is an oracle which the Lord did not speak. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously, and you shall have no fear of him"* (Dt 18,15-22). But Jesus demonstrates the truth of his words by appealing to both the prophet Elijah and Elisha. Elijah multiplied the bread for a widow of Sarepta in Sidon. He did not multiply it for the sons of his people. Elisha has healed Naaman, the Syrian, a foreigner of leprosy. He has not purified any son of Israel. Faith does not come from the signs that the prophet does. It comes from the Word that he announces. Jesus is revealing to them that he is a true prophet sent by God. He is a true prophet precisely because he is making neither signs, nor miracles, nor wonders. They must trust Him and believe in His Word.

*And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But he passed through the midst of them and went away.*

What Jesus teaches in the synagogue of Nazareth is valid for us and for the whole world. The Word of Jesus is worthy of faith because it is uttered by the Prophet of the living God. It was not uttered by a prophet, but by the Prophet before whom every other prophet prostrates himself in adoration, because he recognizes him and confesses him as his God and Lord. Today our faith in the Word of Jesus is failing. Not only is every word of man equated to his, but it is also given it the place that is only his. What are the results? Instead of truth, lies govern. Instead of light, darkness dominates. In place of the Son of God we have raised man. It will be understood that in doing so the world is condemned to remain in falsehood, in darkness, in idolatry and in widespread immorality. But the disciples of Jesus are responsible for this debacle. It is they who are operating this abominable substitution.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that our word never replaces the Word of Jesus.

**Unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart**

**TUESDAY 17 MARCH (Mt 18,21-35)**

Let us imagine for a moment that God did not forgive sin, we would be damned instantly. We would be like the rebel Angels. In them rebellion produced immediate damnation. Instead the Lord gave man, after sin, the grace to be able to be converted, regret, repent, ask forgiveness and be readmitted to his friendship. This is the true culmination of the revelation of the Old Testament: *“For with you great strength abides always; who can resist the might of your arm? Indeed, before you the whole universe is as a grain from a balance, or a drop of morning dew come down upon the earth. But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook the sins of men that they may repent. For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made; for what you hated, you would not have fashioned. And how could a thing remain, unless you willed it; or be preserved, had it not been called forth by you? But you spare all things, because they are yours, O Lord and lover of souls, for your imperishable spirit is in all things! Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little, warn them, and remind them of the sins they are committing, that they may abandon their wickedness and believe in you, O Lord!”* (Wis 11,21-12,2). The Ecclesiastes reveals another truth. Man does not see the time given for conversion and repentance as a true grace of salvation. Not seeing it as grace, he uses it to continue to sin: *“Because the sentence against evildoers is not promptly executed, therefore the hearts of men are filled with the desire to commit evil”* (Eccl 8,11). Being man in the image and likeness of God, since God also forgives man, he is also obliged, if he wants to be a man, to forgive. Since God always forgives those who are converted and return to Him with all their heart, even man must always forgive. His forgiveness is a condition for God to forgive. If man does not forgive, not even God will forgive his sins and man will die in his sin.

*Then Peter approaching asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had him put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart."*

This man, who had received the forgiveness of a sum so high that it was not payable, turned out to be a non-man. He is not in the image of God. He did not grant forgiveness to his brother. Christ Jesus is the true man. From the cross, while he is crucified, while the blood gushes from his wounds, he asks the Father for forgiveness for his crucifiers. He is a real man. It is easy to know who a true man is and instead who a false man and a man false is. He who forgives is a true man and builder of true humanity. He who does not forgive not only is not he a true man, he is also a builder of false humanity. Non-humanity, false humanity, depraved humanity are revealed by all those who take revenge and kill. The height of inhumanity is reached when the innocent are killed. Everyone has the choice whether to be a true man or a false man. For the false man there is eternal perdition.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us true men in the image of the true man, Christ Jesus.

**Do not think that I have come to abolish**

**WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH (Mt 5,17-19)**

If one wanted to write a Law for humanity greater than the one written by Jesus for every man, he would consume all his energies in vain. Not only could he not he would not even have the mind to be able to write it. Every man is a created mind. His wisdom is through the participation of Divine and Eternal Wisdom. Instead, not only is Jesus the Eternal and Divine Wisdom, but from the Eternal and Divine Wisdom of the Holy Spirit he is moved, led, inspired and taken by the hand. Moreover, no man has received like Him the wisdom of the Spirit as a gift. Not only wisdom, but every other divine gift, so that he would not only give the greatest splendor to the Law and to the Prophets, but would bring to completion, in his body, every Word of the Father. Thus in the Second Letter to the Corinthians: *“For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was proclaimed to you by us, Silvanus and Timothy and me, was not "yes" and "no," but "yes" has been in him. For however many are the promises of God, their Yes is in him; therefore, the Amen from us also goes through him to God for glory”* (2Cor 1,19-20). Instead the prophet Isaiah announces that the Christ of God comes with all the power of grace and truth of the Spirit of the Lord: *“But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, A spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord. Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, But he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips”* (Is 11,1-5). After Christ has spoken, nothing might be added to the Word of the Father anymore. It has been given in all its divine splendor and eternal beauty. After Christ died and rose again, ascending to heaven and sitting at the right hand of the Father, as Judge and Lord of the universe, every prophecy, oath, promise and word of the Father has become history, reality and life in Him. God will no longer have to accomplish anything. Without Christ Jesus the Old Testament is a dead word. A Word that is read, but does not find life in history. All those who read the Old Testament, but deny Christ Jesus as the Person in whom everything was fulfilled, have a dead Word of God.

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

Jesus not only came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets, he asks every man to give him too, first passing from the Old to the New Covenant and then from the Word of the Law and of the Prophets brought by Him in their fullness of truth, light and eternal life; life even to the smallest precepts. It is not enough not to kill. Life must be given to the Father for the salvation of every man. It is not enough not to commit adultery. One must be with a pure and chaste heart, without any stain. Even the eyes must be kept with great prudence and wisdom. Whoever wants to be a true man and grow in his human truth must also give life to the least precepts. Who wants to be a sketchy man, can stop at the great precepts. Jesus is a very true man and has also lived the unspoken desires of the Father. Jesus wants his disciples with the highest morality, because he wants them to be witnesses of his very high humanity. That man today has expired in humanity, that he is becoming not only less of a man, but even a non-man, all the transgressions that he makes of the greatest precepts of the Lord attest to this. We have come to the abominable disfigurement of human nature and its nefarious manipulation. A life is destroyed through hatred against God and the Church. We are builders of inhumanity and not real humanity. Whoever wants to build himself as a true man must begin with the smallest precepts of the Law. The universal truth.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make the disciples of Jesus builders of true humanity.

**The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream**

**THURSDAY 19 MARCH (Mt 1,16.18-21.24a)**

In the relationship between God and every man, everything takes place through a manifestation of the divine will. Not only after sin, but from the very moment of creation the Lord showed him the path of life. In nature the Creator wrote his image and likeness, in the Word he placed it before his eyes so that he always remembered what the purpose for which he was created, is: obeying his nature, acting according to nature and carrying out the project that has been entrusted to him. Nothing is from the will of man. All instead is from the will of God. Today this is the real human and even Christian drama. Man wants everything from his will, nothing from his rationality, nothing from his nature, nothing from the will of his Creator, nothing from his Word, nothing from his Law, nothing from the Gospel of Christ Jesus and nothing that is objective, everything must be strictly subjective. Today, the truth is the will of every single man. It is the modern tower of Babel. It is the universal confusion. It is idolatry elevated to the highest foolishness.

Joseph finds himself before a historical event. He is engaged. Mary awaits a child in her womb. From the Gospel according to Luke we know that you she pregnant by the work of the Holy Spirit. She is a Virgin and a Mother. She is a Mother and a Virgin. We do not know what the Mother of God said to Joseph. Since He is a just man, he thinks he of withdrawing from the life of Mary. But not by doing this publicly, but secretly, in a covert way. In those days the woman was at the mercy of man. The libel of repudiation could always be given. But Joseph wants silence, not clamour. This is the will of man. But is it also God's will? If He wants something else it is right that he manifests it. The angel of the Lord comes in a dream to Joseph at night, he explains the mystery that is taking place in Mary and asks Joseph to take her with him as his bride. He also asks him to make Jesus his true son of adoption, imposing his name on him. He must be the true bridegroom in the perpetual virginity of the Mother of God and the true Father of adoption of Christ the Lord. Why is Jesus born? To save his people from their sins. The will of God is manifested and revealed. Now Joseph knows what the Lord wants from him. We know that having woken from sleep, Joseph readily obeys his God. Everything has been ordered him, he does it. God's will is an inviolable law for him. First he was from the written Word and from the wisdom of its justice. Now he is from the voice of his Lord and from the wisdom of his direct command.

*Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Messiah. 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." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.*

Joseph teaches us that every man owes to God an obedience of wisdom, greater justice and search of an always greater good. He tells us that the Law must not be observed according to the letter, but always in the Holy Spirit. He is perfect in justice and perfect in wisdom. But are justice and wisdom enough to know the mystery of God about the personal life? No. It is necessary for everyone to ask the Lord to reveal him, to manifest him and to communicate to him what his will to be accomplished is, what the project to be carried out is and what the mission to be dedicated to, is. The ways through which the Lord reveals himself are many. For every man the Lord follows a particular path and mode. But one thing must be certain for everyone: everyone must have the intimate conviction in the Holy Spirit to be in the will of God in every moment of his life. Not in the law. Not in the Gospel. But in the will of his Lord. We were created to accomplish the will of the Lord today. It is accomplished by always walking in his Law and in his Word, in his grace and truth and in justice and wisdom.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, take our steps in the present will of the Lord.

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart**

**FRIDAY 20 MARCH (Mk 12,28-34)**

We understand well if we read well. In Deuteronomy, in Chapter IV, that is what the Lord says: *"Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I enjoin upon you, you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it. You have seen with your own eyes what the Lord did at Baal-peor: the Lord, your God, destroyed from your midst everyone that followed the Baal of Peor; but you, who clung to the Lord, your God, are all alive today. Therefore, I teach you the statutes and decrees as the Lord, my God, has commanded me, that you may observe them in the land you are entering to occupy. Observe them carefully, for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, 'This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.' For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the Lord, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?”* (Dt 4,1-8). Obedience is to the whole Law.

In Chapter V, always of Deuteronomy, before remembering what was written on the two tablets of the Law, that is how the Lord warns his people: *"Hear, O Israel, the statutes and decrees which I proclaim in your hearing this day, that you may learn them and take care to observe them. The Lord, our God, made a covenant with us at Horeb; not with our fathers did he make this covenant, but with us, all of us who are alive here this day. "Be careful, therefore, to do as the Lord, your God, has commanded you, not turning aside to the right or to the left, but following exactly the way prescribed for you by the Lord, your God, that you may live and prosper, and may have long life in the land which you are to occupy”* (Dt 5,1-5.32-33).

That is how he goes on in Chapter VI: *"These then are the commandments, the statutes and decrees which the Lord, your God, has ordered that you be taught to observe in the land into which you are crossing for conquest, so that you and your son and your grandson may fear the Lord, your God, and keep, throughout the days of your lives, all his statutes and commandments which I enjoin on you, and thus have long life. Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them, that you may grow and prosper the more, in keeping with the promise of the Lord, the God of your fathers, to give you a land flowing with milk and honey. "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. Bind them at your wrist as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead”* (Dt 6,1-8). Loving the Lord has only one meaning, observing the whole Law, all the Statutes and all the Norms. Nothing is from the will of man. To love is to obey. To love is to listen and to love is to perform.

*One of the scribes, when he came forward and heard them disputing and saw how well he had answered them, asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.' And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that (he) answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And no one dared to ask him any more questions.*

The commandment towards the neighbours must also be well understood. One loves the neighbour according to justice by respecting the whole Law of the Lord. We love the neighbour second charity, once again respecting the Law of the Lord. It is written in Chapter XVIII, XIX, XX of Leviticum. For us we love God and our neighbor according to the Discourse of the Mount and the fullness of the truth revealed by Christ the Lord and according to his example.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us love God and our neighbor from the fullness of the Law.

**MARCH 2020**

***THIRD DECADE OF MARCH***

**O God, be merciful to me a sinner**

**SATURDAT 21 MARCH (Lk 18,9-14)**

There are no just people before the Lord. Observing the whole law according to the heart of the Lord and loving him according to his will always makes us imperfect before him. The perfection asked is always very high. Our love is always incipient. In his prayer raised to the Lord, Solomon says that there is no man who does only good and does not sin: *"When they sin against you (for there is no man who does not sin), and in your anger against them you deliver them to the enemy, so that their captors deport them to a hostile land, far or near, may they repent in the land of their captivity and be converted. If then they entreat you in the land of their captors and say, 'We have sinned and done wrong; we have been wicked'; if with their whole heart and soul they turn back to you in the land of the enemies who took them captive, pray to you toward the land you gave their fathers, the city you have chosen, and the temple I have built in your honor, listen from your heavenly dwelling. Forgive your people their sins and all the offenses they have committed against you, and grant them mercy before their captors, so that these will be merciful to them. For they are your people and your inheritance, whom you brought out of Egypt, from the midst of an iron furnace”* (1Kings 8, 46-51). No one is perfect before God.

The Psalmist, after having celebrated and sung the beauty and sweetness of the Law, asks God for forgiveness for all the inadvertences against it: *“The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.Moreover, by them Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me; Then I will be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer”* (Ps 19 (18) 8-15). That is how the psalmist always prays: *“Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord.Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of my supplications.If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared”* (Ps 130 (129) 1-4). The sin of the Pharisee is threefold: of pride, of judgment and of foolishness. It is of pride because he believes to be holy, while he is a sinner. It is of judgment, because he despises the publican who is humbly asking for forgiveness. It is of foolishness because it is not valued from the fullness of revelation, but from his heart.

*He then addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. "Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and**spoke this prayer to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity - greedy, dishonest, adulterous - or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.' But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."*

Jesus wants to teach us that if we evaluate ourselves with a correct evaluation and use the meter of the divine Word, of all the divine Word, then we will discover that we are far from perfection and that we need a lot of mercy from the Lord. The law of mercy is for one thing: God is merciful to me, if I am merciful to my brothers. The Pharisee comes out of the temple with the burden of his sins because he had no mercy. Mercy to the brethren draws upon us all the mercy of the Father. God is not merciful to those who are not merciful.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, always make us rich in mercy, pity and compassion.

**One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see**

**SUNDAY 22 MARCH (Jn 9,1-41)**

The blind from birth is the true image of humanity. It is blind not because the Lord created it blind, but because it was made blind and is born blind because of Adam's inheritance. Blindness then increases in proportion to the personal sins that are committed. Today, blindness has reached such a high level as to not even see the simplest truths of human nature. The more blindness grows, the more it generates hatred towards the light that comes from the Lord. Today, there is so much hatred against Christ Jesus, the only bearer of light in the world, as to want to exclude him from the world. There is so much hatred against the Church as to want to eliminate her from the face of the earth. The Pharisees have so much hatred against Jesus as to want to deny such an obvious miracle. They do not investigate to discover the truth, but to find a weak point in the story that allows them to deny what has happened. But the more they investigate, the more the truth grows before their eyes. They can say what they want, but the fact remains that before the man was blind and now he sees. An undeniable truth. A story that nobody can obscure. This is the power of truth.

*As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed, and came back able to see. His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So they said to him, "(So) how were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a Sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath." (But) others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."*

*So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.*

It is not enough to receive the light and not even to confess that he who healed us was Jesus. Jesus gives us the sight so that we can walk behind Him. It is useless to receive the sight, if we then persevere on the streets of darkness and non-light. It would have been better to remain blind forever. Today this is the Christian evil. He does not even approach the sacraments to have light anymore. He approaches with the will to remain in darkness. Not only does he perform a vain work. He exposes the sacrament to vanity and sacrilege.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that we can always follow the Lord Jesus.

**He and his whole household came to believe**

**MONDAY 23 MARCH (Jn 4,43-54)**

God has always helped man so that he reached the true faith and he will always help him. The whole life of Jesus is consecrated to the creation of true faith in Him in the heart of his disciples. Without true faith there is no real following. Without true following, there is no real obedience. Without true obedience, there was no kingdom of God. We remain the kingdom of darkness. Faith in Christ is true if faith in his Word is true. One does not believe in his Word, he does not believe in Christ Jesus. Salvation does not come from miracles, but from the Word. The miracle heals the body. The soul and the Spirit are healed by faith in the Word, which is faith in truth, in light, in grace and in eternal life that are in Christ the Lord. One can be a man of true faith without being there any previous miracle. But we can also be people of non-faith, despite the many miracles performed by Christ Jesus. Jesus wants faith to arise from preaching and then faith to be the one to create miracles. This is what the Gospel according to Mark teaches: *"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."* (Mk 16,15-19). Not the apostles, but those who believe in the Word are the ones that workmiracles. They believe, they ask and they obtain. He believes who lives the Word.

An official of the king has a seriously ill son. He comes and asks Jesus for the miracle of healing. This man believes that the Lord can work miracles. Since he believes, he asks according to the measure of his faith. Instead, Jesus does not want us to believe in his thaumaturgical capacity, but in his Word from which every salvation of the soul, of the spirit and of the body, for time and also for eternity derives. He doesn't want to and he says: "If you don't see signs and wonders, you don't believe". But the official does not listen to what is addressed to him. He has other priorities. His son is about to die. He only cares about this. Other problems need to be postponed. He thinks this and says this: "Lord, come down before my baby dies": You come and heal my son. We will solve the rest later. Jesus hears this heart: "Go, your son lives". This heart believes and walks home. His servants come to meet him and announce him that the boy has recovered. This heart opens to faith in Christ with all his family. From faith in Jesus who works miracles, to faith in Jesus Word of eternal life. We believe in Jesus the Word of salvation, we enter the true salvation of the Father.

*After the two days, he left there for Galilee. For Jesus himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his native place. When he came into Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, since they had seen all he had done in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves had gone to the feast. Then he returned to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. Now there was a royal official whose son was ill in Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, who was near death. Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe." The royal official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus said to him, "You may go; your son will live." The man believed what Jesus said to him and left. While he was on his way back, his slaves met him and told him that his boy would live. He asked them when he began to recover. They told him, "The fever left him yesterday, about one in the afternoon." The father realized that just at that time Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live," and he and his whole household came to believe. (Now) this was the second sign Jesus did when he came to Galilee from Judea.*

Today, we must denounce that we are losing faith in Jesus, the true salvation of the Father, in Jesus, way, truth and life, in Jesus, light of the world and in Jesus Lord and Judge. This faith must be recovered and placed in every heart. This is the mission of the disciple. If the Christian does not create faith in the Word of Jesus, it is the failure of all his works. This is why he was called: to believe in the Word and create faith in the Word.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that never faith in the Word of Jesus fails.

**Rise, take up your mat, and walk**

**TUESDAY 24 MARCH (Jn 5,1-16)**

That when man is in sin thinks and acts like a fool, is a fact of everyday evidence. Today we see evil, we hate it, we tear our clothes, from excellent preaching we also know how to sing funeral lamentations. But all these things are visions of foolishness. We see evil, we do not see the cause that produces it. We rebel against evil, but pay all attention so that no one reveals and manifests the tree that produces it. Then, if a person, due to lightness, inadvertence, unconsciousness, or even with will, were to reveal the cause, he is immediately accused of homophobia or even of wanting to impose his vision on others. And meanwhile evil devours its victims every day. But we also see this mode of sin in the Pharisees and scribes of the time of Jesus. There is a man who has been unable to walk for thirty-eight years. He wishes he could go down into the water to be healed. But even this he cannot do. Being in no chance to move, he would need help. But nobody cares for him. Instead everyone is interested in his illnesses and worries.

Jesus is under the arcades of the pool, called Betzatà. He sees this man. After a brief dialogue, he gives him an order: "Get up, take your stretcher and walk." The command is immediately executed. The man gets up, takes his stretcher and heads home. He immediately comes out of the darkness of the world of foolishness and sin. This world sees a man walking and is not even interested in his previous state. He had been a motionless man for thirty-eight years. What is it worried about? That he brings a stretcher on a Saturday. It is not at all interested in the other command given by Jesus: "Get up and walk". If only it had dealt with the first command, it could have understood that a person who gives such an order and the word is fulfilled, cannot but be a prophet sent by God. If he is a true prophet, his Word is the true Word of the one that sent him and consequently there might never be conflict between the written Word of God and the oral Word. In fact, carrying a stretcher does not create any conflict with the Law of Sinai, whose spirit is very different than the thought of the scribes.

*After this, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in* *Jerusalem at the Sheep (Gate) a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda, with five porticoes. In these lay a large number of ill, blind, lame, and crippled. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your mat, and walk." Immediately the man became well, took up his mat, and walked. Now that day was a Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to carry your mat." He answered them, "The man who made me well told me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who told you, 'Take it up and walk'?" The man who was healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had slipped away, since there was a crowd there. After this Jesus found him in the temple area and said to him, "Look, you are well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse may happen to you." The man went and told the Jews that Jesus was the one who had made him well. Therefore, the Jews began to persecute Jesus because he did this on a Sabbath.*

Whoever wants to see wisely, act wisely and reason with wisdom, must leave the world of sin, vice and the transgression of the Commandments. These Pharisees and scribes so zealous for their Sabbath law disobeyed the greatest commandments of the Law of the Lord. Their prescriptions on the Sabbath were only a mask to hide their spiritual emptiness and their sin rot. Jesus reveals their great and universal hypocrisy and for this they desire his death. They are the world of darkness that stands against the world of light. This truth must also be shouted to the Christian. If he enters the world of evil and becomes evil with evil, he too will wear the mask of obedience to his law of sin and death, presented as a true interpretation of the Holy law of the Lord. Falsehood is worshiped in the name of God. The truth is killed in the name of God. This makes the man of sin.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that Christians are men of most pure truth.

**Will be called holy, the Son of God**

**WEDNESDAYÌ 25 MARCH (Lk 1,26-38)**

Neither on earth nor in the heavens, neither in time nor in eternity, nor in the past, nor in the present and not even in the future, will ever exist a creature of God, either angelic or human, that can somehow be compared to the Virgin Mary. Not only is she full of grace, not only is she the living temple of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, not only has the Father created her most pure, immaculate and without any blemish, not only has he wanted her the most beautiful, holier, higher creature in his creation. But he also chose her to be the Mother of his Word, of his Only Son. No creature might ever be the Mother of God, Mother of the Eternal Word, Mother of the Lord's Messiah, Mother of the Christ of God. For her the Author of Life came into the world, in her virginal womb the eternal Truth, the divine Light, has become flesh. This is the glory of the Virgin Mary.

She did not make herself the Mother of God. She was made by her Lord. God chose her and she let herself be chosen. God made her and she let herself be made. The fullness of grace and her daily growth from grace to grace and from holiness to holiness have ensured that she did not oppose to God even a force as contrary as a venial sin. This is the difference between us and her. We nullify the will of God over us with the myriad of venial sins and often ruin it in others with mortal sins. That Mary erred in nothing, even inadvertently, is revealed by the question made by her to the angel: "How will this happen, since I know no man?" If Mary were not entirely full of grace and consequently full of wisdom and intelligence, she would have traveled on human paths. While She must always and only remain on divine ways. She will have to conceive by the work of the Holy Spirit. Joseph must not be the father of the Son of the Most High according to the flesh, but only in the spirit, in the heart and in the mind. Jesus has only one Father and one Mother. This is the great miracle that takes place in Mary. Another sign of the fullness of grace in her is her immediate abandonment to the will of God. This is what the Lord asks. This She will do. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done for me according to his word": an immediate response through the strength of the Holy Spirit that moved her heart and governed her mind, directing her will always towards the greatest good. Mary is the most beautiful fruit of grace. But grace in her also produces the most beautiful fruit for the Lord: the incarnation of his Only Son.

*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, favored 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 favor 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.*

If the Christian wants to know the mystery written for him by his Lord, in Christ and in the Holy Spirit, he too, like Mary, must grow in grace, growing in the Holy Spirit. If he omits this growth, foolishness will conquer him and he will live with God earthly and never divine relationships. He will do things from his will, never from the will of the Father. Today the great confusion that reigns in the minds and hearts of the disciples of Jesus is the fruit of their abandonment to sin and to vice. This abandonment to the logic of the flesh and not instead to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, is leading to the abandonment also of the written truth, considered a word to which we owe no obedience. Either we grow in grace and wisdom, or we will be an extinguished fire in the history of humanity.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints rekindle the fire of the grace and Holy Spirit in us.

**You do not want to come to me to have life**

**THURSDAY 26 MARCH (Jn 5,31-47)**

Jesus tells scribes and Pharisees that they do not want to believe in Him, not for reasons of rationality, but only for reasons of will, corrupt and rotten in sin, that on the day of judgment both the Queen of the South and the inhabitants of Nineveh will rise against this generation and will condemn it, because the former made a long journey to go and listen to the wisdom of Solomon. Jesus is much more than Solomon. He is the divine and eternal Wisdom. He is the Wisdom that gives wisdom to every other wisdom. Instead, the inhabitants of Nineveh were converted after having heard only seven words of Jonah: *"Forty more days and Niniveh will be destroyed"*. Jesus is much more than Jonah. He is the eternal Word of the Father, the Word that gives truth to every other word.

To the queen of the South and to the inhabitants of Nineveh we must add two other people: the magicians of Egypt and Racab the prostitute of Jericho. The magicians of Egypt challenged Moses only for a few signs. Then they surrendered and recognized that the finger of God, the Almighty, acted in Moses. His works went beyond all magics: *“Aaron stretched out his hand, and with his staff he struck the dust of the earth, and gnats came upon man and beast. The dust of the earth was turned into gnats throughout the land of Egypt. Though the magicians tried to bring forth gnats by their magic arts, they could not do so. As the gnats infested man and beast, the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God" ”* (Ex 8,12-15). Instead, Racab helped the explorers and was converted to the God of Israel, only to have listened to what the Lord had done: *"I know that the Lord has given you the land, that a dread of you has come upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are overcome with fear of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the waters of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and how you dealt with Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites beyond the Jordan, whom you doomed to destruction. At these reports, we are disheartened; everyone is discouraged because of you, since the Lord, your God, is God in heaven above and on earth below. Now then, swear to me by the Lord that, since I am showing kindness to you, you in turn will show kindness to my family; and give me an unmistakable token that you are to spare my father and mother, brothers and sisters, and all their kin, and save us from death"* (Jos 2,9-13). The Lord has given scribes and Pharisees every test and every testimony, but they, like Pharaoh with Moses, have always hardened their hearts. This is why they do not want to believe in Jesus.

*"If I testify on my own behalf, my testimony cannot be verified. But there is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that the testimony he gives on my behalf is true. You sent emissaries to John, and he testified to the truth. I do not accept testimony from a human being, but I say this so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and for a while you were content to rejoice in his light. But I have testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father gave me to accomplish, these works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. Moreover, the Father who sent me has testified on my behalf. But you have never heard his voice nor seen his form, and you do not have his word remaining in you, because you do not believe in the one whom he has sent. You search the scriptures, because you think you have eternal life through them; even they testify on my behalf. But you do not want to come to me to have life. "I do not accept human praise; moreover, I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I came in the name of my Father, but you do not accept me; yet if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe, when you accept praise from one another and do not seek the praise that comes from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father: the one who will accuse you is Moses, in whom you have placed your hope. For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me, because he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?"*

The hardened heart is similar to a well-polished stone on which water passes and slides over. All the water from all rivers and the sea can also slide over it. It does not penetrate into its interiour. Of this unbelief they are responsible, because it is the fruit of sin which makes their heart of granite and prevents grace from entering into it.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, make us meek and pure at heart. We will know Christ the Lord.

**I am from him, and he sent me**

**FRIDAY 27 MARCH (Jn 7,1-2.10.25-30)**

A man's works reveal his nature. The man who lives by sin produces works of sin. The man who lives by grace produces fruits of truth, justice and peace. Jesus is neither a man of grace, nor of truth and nor of light. He is the grace, truth and light: *"I am the way, the truth and the life". "I am"* is the name of God. *"I am the God way, the God truth, the God life and the God light in my humanity".* Jesus is not strong. He is the Strong. He is not holy. He is the Holy One. He is not almighty. He is the Almighty. All his works attest that the Father is fully in Him and He is entirely from the Father: from his light, truth, eternal life, justice and charity. In the Gospel according to John this relationship of Jesus with his Father appears from the first verse: *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God"*. If Jesus is God, he will produce the works of God. Being God the Lord Almighty and Creator, nothing is too great, too high and too deep for Him. Seeing his works, noting the difference with all the other works done by men sent by God before Him, who wants can come to faith, not faith in his divinity, but faith in his origin from the Father. Jesus is from God.

In the Gospel of John this truth is the essence of the truth announced by Christ Jesus. You do not want to believe in me. You may not even believe. But you cannot fail to believe that my works are from God. In fact, they are works that only God can do. No man has ever done them. No man might ever accomplish them. Might a man ever give his flesh to be eaten to the whole world for centuries and centuries? Might a man rise from the tomb with a glorious, spiritual, immortal and incorruptible body to never die again? Might a man ever call a dead man already in the tomb for four days? Might a man put some mud on the eyes of a blind man from birth, send him to the pool to be washed and then come back with his eyes that see everything? Might a man ever walk on water, command the sea and the wind, the unclean spirits to come out and keep silence? Might a person ever be healed just because he touches Christ in secret? The works of Jesus are so great that no man might ever accomplish them. If he does them, it is a sign that he is from God, from the Father. That Jesus comes from God, that God sent him, that He acts in the name of God and that He knows God, his works reveal it. Those who do not believe in Him do not believe, not because the signs of credibility are lacking, but because they stifle the truth in injustice, in falsehood and in lies. One does not believe in Him through sin against the Holy Spirit.

*After this, Jesus moved about within Galilee; but he did not wish to travel in Judea, because the Jews were trying to kill him. But the Jewish feast of Tabernacles was near. But when his brothers had gone up to the feast, he himself also went up, not openly but (as it were) in secret. So some of the inhabitants of Jerusalem said, "Is he not the one they are trying to kill? And look, he is speaking openly and they say nothing to him. Could the authorities have realized that he is the Messiah? ut we know where he is from. When the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from." So Jesus cried out in the temple area as he was teaching and said, "You know me and also know where I am from. Yet I did not come on my own, but the one who sent me, whom you do not know, is true. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me." So they tried to arrest him, but no one laid a hand upon him, because his hour had not yet come.*

We can apply to Scribes and Pharisees what the Book of Wisdom teaches: *“For all men were by nature foolish who were in ignorance of God, and who from the good things seen did not succeed in knowing him who is, and from studying the works did not discern the artisan; But either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circuit of the stars, or the mighty water, or the luminaries of heaven, the governors of the world, they considered gods. Now if out of joy in their beauty they thought them gods, let them know how far more excellent is the Lord than these; for the original source of beauty fashioned them. Or if they were struck by their might and energy, let them from these things realize how much more powerful is he who made them”* (Wis 13,1-4). The works of Christ infallibly attest that he is from God.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, free us from all foolishness. Give us true faith in Jesus.

**Never before has anyone spoken like this one**

**SATURDAY 28 MARCH (Jn 7,40-53)**

Jesus is not only powerful in works, he is also powerful in words. This testimony is given by the Emmaus disciples: *"They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him”* (Lk 24,19-20). *“And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?"* (Lk 4,22). The Word of Jesus was always uttered in the Holy Spirit, full of wisdom, truth, holiness, forgiveness, mercy and light. It was said with all intelligence. It didn't need further explanation. It went straight to the heart and in the Holy Spirit, if the person was of good will, he was immediately attracted to it. The guards go to arrest Jesus, but are captivated by his words. In the garden of Gethsemane the words of Jesus become like an impetuous wind that makes the guards who came to arrest him fall to the ground: *"Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and said to them,* *"Whom are you looking for?" They answered him, "Jesus the Nazorean." He said to them, "I Am." Judas his betrayer was also with them. When he said to them, "I AM," they turned away and fell to the ground. So he again asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They said, "Jesus the Nazorean." Jesus answered, "I told you that I AM. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfill what he had said, "I have not lost any of those you gave me" ”* (Jn 18,4-9). The disciples leave and the guards can arrest Jesus. Today it is not a time of arresting.

The response that the Pharisees give to the guards really testifies to the fact that sin decrees in their hearts: *"Did you let yourself be fooled too? Did any of the leaders or Pharisees believe in him? But these people, who do not know the Law, are cursed!"* Their sin is raised to the criterion of truth. There is no greater malice, but not even a more evil pride. The Psalm really takes place in them: *"Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes.For it flatters him in his own eyes Concerning the discovery of his iniquity and the hatred of it.The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise and to do good.He plans wickedness upon his bed; He sets himself on a path that is not good; He does not despise evil”* (Ps 36 (35), 1-5). Here is Satan's pride in their hearts: they don't believe and nobody has to believe. Their sin must be the universal law. Whoever believes in Jesus sins against them, denies their authority. The man of sin has exceeded all limits.

*Some in the crowd who heard these words said, "This is truly the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Messiah." But others said, "The Messiah will not come from Galilee, will he? Does not scripture say that the Messiah will be of David's family and come from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?" So a division occurred in the crowd because of him. Some of them even wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. So the guards went to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why did you not bring him?" The guards answered, "Never before has anyone spoken like this one." So the Pharisees answered them, "Have you also been deceived? Have any of the authorities or the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, which does not know the law, is accursed." Nicodemus, one of their members who had come to him earlier, said to them, "Does our law condemn a person before it first hears him and finds out what he is doing?" They answered and said to him, "You are not from Galilee also, are you? Look and see that no prophet arises from Galilee." Then each went to his own house,*

Verily the Pharisees do not know the Law. The declaration of a curse on those who do not know the Law also applies to them. They cursed themselves. In fact, not only in any part of the Law it is written that prophets do not arise from Galilee. In Isaiah's prophecy it is written that the light comes from Galilee. They are nothing but slapdash people of lies and in the name of lies impose their unbelief and sin on the whole world. When the men of God come to such corruption, there is no salvation for the people. Blindness invades the earth and wickedness consumes it. If salt loses its flavour, to nothing else is needed but to be thrown and trampled.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints always arrange that the Christian is true salt and light.

**That they may believe that you sent me**

**SUNDAY 29 MARCH (Jn 11,1-45)**

The Father, in the wisdom of his Holy Spirit, offers the Jews the last sign which unequivocally reveals that Jesus is his Sent, his Christ and his Messiah. In front of a multitude of people who came from Jerusalem to console Martha and Mary, the Lord raises Lazarus by now for four days in the sepulcher. Nobody believes that Jesus is capable of raising Lazarus, not even Martha. In fact, when Jesus asks that the stone be removed, Martha thinks that He wants to see his friend lying in the grave and for this reason he warns him that he sends a bad smell. He has been in the tomb for four days and is already giving off a bad smell. Instead, his prayer, raised to the Father aloud and explained so that everyone could listen it and become aware of his intentions and also of the listening relationship that reigns between Christ and the Father, reveals that Jesus wants to resurrect Lazarus. Jesus wants the whole world to know that He is sent by the Father and that he does not act either in his name or in the name of other creatures.

*"Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him." So the disciples said to him, "Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved." But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep. So then Jesus said to them clearly, "Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. (But) even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there.*

*When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Sir, come and see." And Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him." But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?" So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.*

Every disciple of Jesus is obliged, if he wants that through him faith in Christ the Lord takes root in every heart, to show that everything in him comes from the Father, through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, through the motion, advice, fortitude, discernment and wisdom in the Holy Spirit. As Jesus has always brought to light that nothing in him comes from him or from creatures, but everything comes from the Father, so too does the disciple of Jesus. He must highlight, indeed in great light, that nothing comes from his heart, from his rationality and from his will, because everything comes from the Father, in Christ and through the Holy Spirit. It is an obligation not only of justice, but also of charity. Those who love the salvation of their brothers must live this obligation with great commitment. Everything in Him must come from God. Nothing from his heart.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints arrange that no disciple fails in this gift of love.

**Go, (and) from now on do not sin anymore**

**MONDAY 30 MARCH (Jn 8,1-11)**

In truth, what today takes place in the temple of Jerusalem again manifests only the wisdom of Jesus in preventing the woman from being stoned. As for doctrine and truth of salvation, everything had already been announced by his Father through his prophets. Ezekiel shines of the purest light for this doctrine: *"But if the wicked man turns away from all the sins he committed, if he keeps all my statutes and does what is right and just, he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of the crimes he committed shall be remembered against him; he shall live because of the virtue he has practiced. Do I indeed derive any pleasure from the death of the wicked? says the Lord God. Do I not rather rejoice when he turns from his evil way that he may live? And if the virtuous man turns from the path of virtue to do evil, the same kind of abominable things that the wicked man does, can he do this and still live? None of his virtuous deeds shall be remembered, because he has broken faith and committed sin; because of this, he shall die. You say, "The Lord’s way is not fair!" Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair? When a virtuous man turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die. But if a wicked man, turning from the wickedness he has committed, does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life; since he has turned away from all the sins which he committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. And yet the house of Israel says, "The Lord’s way is not fair!" Is it my way that is not fair, house of Israel, or rather, is it not that your ways are not fair? Therefore I will judge you, house of Israel, each one according to his ways, says the Lord God. Turn and be converted from all your crimes, that they may be no cause of guilt for you. Cast away from you all the crimes you have committed, and make for yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, says the Lord God. Return and live! ”* (Ez 18,21-32). No one is allowed to use this episode to diminish the destructive force of sin and the consequences of evil that it generates and produces. The truth obliges everyone.

*While Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him. Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, (and) from now on do not sin any more."*

This episode must teach us to use all our wisdom and intelligence, in the Holy Spirit, in order to avoid that we can rage against the sinner. Sin is possible. The flesh generates sin and death. Grace generates life and blessing. On the one hand Jesus shows that all are sinners and that they themselves need the mercy of his Father in order not to be stoned to death for eternity in the fire of hell. When all go away, he manifests to the woman all the mercy of his Father. The grace of forgiveness is not to continue to sin, but to never sin again for ever. Instead those who use this episode to diminish sin and almost make it seem like a nothingness, are in great error. Sin is eternal death. Every sin adds eternal death to eternal death. Better to be stoned to death with stones on earth and atone for the sins committed, than to be stoned to death with eternal fire and condemned without any possibility of salvation. If we want to act with the same wisdom and truth of Jesus, we must also live in the bosom of the Father's love and in the light of the Holy Spirit. If we live in sin, we think from its foolishness.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints, help us to act like Jesus: with wisdom and truth.

**I told you that you will die in your sins**

**TUESDAY 31 MARCH (Jn 8,21-30)**

Salvation is in the purest faith in the Person of Christ Jesus, who is the Eternal Word through whom the Lord not only worked creation, but also daily works the redemption and the salvation of every man. Jesus is the Only Begotten Son of the Father, generated by him before all ages, who became flesh and came to live among us full of grace and truth. Since when does this Word of Jesus apply that says *"If you do not believe that I Am, you will die in your sins"?* It is valid from the moment of his glorious resurrection and the descent of the Holy Spirit over the Apostles. Here is the command that he will give them: *“And that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem”* (Lk 24,47). Faith in Christ the Lord starts producing its fruit one the very day of the descent of the Holy Spirit: *“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, "What are we to do, my brothers?" Peter (said) to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call." He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day”* (At 2,37-41).

Christ Jesus is the only name given by the Father in which it is established that we are saved. This truth is attested by Peter in the Sanhedrin: *"Then Peter, filled with the holy Spirit, answered them, "Leaders of the people and elders: If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved, then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarean whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; in his name this man stands before you healed. He is 'the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.' There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved"”* (At 4,8-12). If salvation is in the confession of the truth of the name of Christ Jesus, why do Christians say today that He is not necessary for our eternal redemption? Why do they say that every way is good to go to the Father? Indeed, that even one path is no longer necessary, because salvation is for every man, without any difference or distinction between good and evil?

*He said to them again, "I am going away and you will look for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going you cannot come." So the Jews said, "He is not going to kill himself, is he, because he said, 'Where I am going you cannot come'?" He said to them, "You belong to what is below, I belong to what is above. You belong to this world, but I do not belong to this world. That is why I told you that you will die in your sins. For if you do not believe that I AM, you will die in your sins." So they said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "What I told you from the beginning. I have much to say about you in condemnation. But the one who sent me is true, and what I heard from him I tell the world." They did not realize that he was speaking to them of the Father. So Jesus said (to them), "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I AM, and that I do nothing on my own, but I say only what the Father taught me. The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, because I always do what is pleasing to him." Because he spoke this way, many came to believe in him.*

Faith in the Person of Christ and in his mission as Redeemer, Saviour, universal Mediator between the Father and the whole humanity, Mediator of grace, truth, light, eternal life and glorious resurrection, today is strongly in crisis. However, it is not in crisis because of the world or those who do not know Jesus the Lord. It is in crisis because the Christians submitted to the world and fell into the infernal traps of Satan who suggested that they teach that Jesus is not a necessary way to salvation. Faith in an unknown one God is enough and salvation is acquired. Even the Church is no longer a sacrament of salvation, in Christ, with Christ and through Christ. Every belief, even atheism, nihilism, fetishism, superstition, idolatry and immorality are ways of salvation. Horribilis dictu. A horrible saying.

Mother of God, Angels and Saints ensure that everyone returns to the purity of faith in Jesus.