**Give them some food yourselves**

**FRIDAY JANUARY 8 (Mk 6,34-44)**

There is only one body: that of Christ Jesus. With this body every man must be fed until the day of the Parousia (Revelation). Jesus’ words say it clearly: “Life is in this body. Whoever feeds on it lives. Those who do not eat it die. Those of Jesus are words that will never fail, they will last until the end of the world*: I am the bread of life.Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats  my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.” (Jn 6,48-58).* The bread that Jesus multiplies in the desert is image, figure, of what his Apostles tomorrow, until the day of the universal judgment, will have to do towards their brothers. They will have to feed them with Christ, bread of eternal life.

*When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. By now it was already late and his disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already very late. Dismiss them so that they can go to the surrounding farms and villages and buy themselves something to eat." He said to them in reply, "Give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Are we to buy two hundred days' wages worth of food and give it to them to eat?" He asked them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out they said, "Five loaves and two fish." So he gave orders to have them sit down in groups on the green grass. The people took their places in rows by hundreds and by fifties. Then, taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to (his) disciples to set before the people; he also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied. And they picked up twelve wicker baskets full of fragments and what was left of the fish. Those who ate (of the loaves) were five thousand men.*

How is this possible. Through a mysterious way and a command given by Jesus to the Apostles in the Upper Room: *When the hour came, he took his place at table with the apostles. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for, I tell you, I shall not eat it (again) until there is fulfillment in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves; for I tell you (that) from this time on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you.* (Lk 22,14-20). We can say that the miracle of the Eucharist is very special. In truth it is not a matter of multiplication. There is no body that is multiplied. There is not even the body to be multiplied. There is only a tiny piece of bread and a few drops of wine that the minister of Christ, the bishop and the priest, with the power of the Holy Spirit, transform into the body and blood of Christ the Lord. It is a transformation that only divine omnipotence can accomplish. For human forces and for the sciences of this world such a transformation is impossible. On earth, matter is transformed into other matter, adding or removing elements from nature. In the Eucharist, instead of lifeless matter it is transformed into the true body and blood of Christ the Lord. Unique miracle in history. But also an unspeakable miracle. It can only be believed by faith.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us believe with lively faith in the mystery.