**For they said, "He is out of his mind.**

**SATURDAY JANUARY 23 (Mk 3, 20-21)**

When a man is declared insane, no one can believe him in everything he says and does. David, fearing that the king of Achis might harm him, pretended to be mad before his eyes: *“That same day David took to flight from Saul, going to Achish, king of Gath. But the servants of Achish said, "Is this not David, the king of the land? During their dances do they not sing, 'Saul has slain his thousands, but David his ten thousands'?" David took note of these remarks and became very much afraid of Achish, king of Gath. So, as they watched, he feigned insanity and acted like a madman in their hands, drumming on the doors of the gate and drooling onto his beard. Finally Achish said to his servants: "You see the man is mad. Why did you bring him to me? Do I not have enough madmen, that you bring in this one to carry on in my presence? Should this fellow come into my house?” (1Sam 21,11-16).* A madman should be considered as mad and treated as mad. It does not deserve any consideration.

We know that even Elisha, the great prophet of God, was considered by some people to be mad: *“When Jehu rejoined his master's servants, they asked him, "Is all well? Why did that madman come to you?" You know that kind of man and his talk, he replied. But they said, "Not at all! Come, tell us." So he told them what the young man had said to him, and finally, "Thus says the LORD: 'I anoint you king over Israel.'" At once each took his garment, spread it under Jehu on the bare steps, blew the trumpet, and cried out, "Jehu is king!"” (2Re 9,11-13).* A madman can only do insane actions. He will never be able to say or do sensible things. Is he a poor fool? Jesus was declared insane by his own family members. So great was the esteem they had for him. One should only have pity for a madman. Regarding the mission of salvation: who can ever believe in a madman? Who can ever confess that Jesus is the Messiah of God? Consequently, every word of his is belittled and declared empty.

*He came home. Again (the) crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat. When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."*

Saint Paul tells King Agrippa about his encounter with Christ Jesus on the road to Damascus. Festus is listening and what does he say at the end? "Paul, You are crazy". We translate: “Yours are the words and visions, thoughts and imaginations of a madman”. Believing in a madman is madness and foolishness*: “And so, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. On the contrary, first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem and throughout the whole country of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached the need to repent and turn to God, and to do works giving evidence of repentance. That is why the Jews seized me (when I was) in the temple and tried to kill me. But I have enjoyed God's help to this very day, and so I stand here testifying to small and great alike, saying nothing different from what the prophets and Moses foretold, that the Messiah must suffer and that, as the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles."*

*While Paul was so speaking in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice, "You are mad, Paul; much learning is driving you mad." But Paul replied, "I am not mad, most excellent Festus; I am speaking words of truth and reason. The king knows about these matters and to him I speak boldly, for I cannot believe that (any) of this has escaped his notice; this was not done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you believe." Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You will soon persuade me to play the Christian." Paul replied, "I would pray to God that sooner or later not only you but all who listen to me today might become as I am except for these chains." (At 26,19-29).* Today to proclaim the Gospel in its purity one must be truly *"mad"*in the Holy Spirit. Who today preaches the Word of God according to truth is said: *"Fundamentalist, Integralist, Rigid."*He is considered a person out of time and history. Today are really hard times for those who want to be faithful to the Gospel of salvation. You are really considered crazy and demented.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us true heralds of the Gospel of life.