**Who are my mother and my brothers?**

**TUESDAY JANUARY 26 (Mk 3, 31-35)**

If Christ Jesus had to choose between the obedience to his Father and the total dissolution of the universe, he will always choose the obedience to the Father. Before the obedience to his Father, everything disappears, even his body which he hands over to the cross and the sepulchre. The same law applies to each of his disciples. Between the obedience to Jesus and the obedience to all other creatures, including father, mother, sisters and brothers, the disciple should always and only select the obedience to Jesus. Even if the disciple’s body has to be handed over to the death and the grave: *“Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father. "Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword. For I have come to set a man 'against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's enemies will be those of his household.' "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross 15 and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Mt 10,32-39).* The disciple knows that by losing everything in obeying to Christ, he will receive everything from Christ, including his body which will be returned to him alive and glorious on the last day.

*His mother and his brothers arrived. Standing outside they sent word to him and called him. A crowd seated around him told him, "Your mother and your brothers (and your sisters) are outside asking for you." But he said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and (my) brothers?" And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. (For) whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."*

Who according to Jesus does the will of God? Whoever lets Jesus free to be by the will of the Father with full and immediate obedience. Here it is what already happened when Jesus was twelve years old: *“Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced (in) wisdom and age and favor before God and man.”* (Lk 2,41-52). When the Father calls, Jesus has neither father nor mother on earth. When the Christian understands this truth, only then will he be a true Christian. The complete detachment from everything, that Jesus lived, is manifested on the cross. Not only does he take off his clothes, he also renounces to his mother and gives her to John, his disciple: *“Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.” (Jn 19,25-17).* Until we arrive at this perfect imitation of the Lord Jesus, we will always be little Christians and little disciples of his. It is obedience that makes us, but obedience is only to the will of the Father and to his every command. Obedience demands full freedom from everything that exists on earth. One lives only to obey.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us true brothers of Christ the Lord.