**Send us into the swine. Let us enter them**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 1 (Mk 5, 1-20)**

One soul is worth more than all the treasures and riches of this world. If it is necessary to choose between the salvation of a soul and the goods of the earth, the salvation of the soul must always be chosen, and the goods of the earth abandoned. One can’t kill people for a meagre profit. Instead, everything must be finalized for the greater good of man. Work is for man and not man for work. The earth is for man and not man for the earth. The factory is for man and not man for the factory. Pigs are for man and not man for pigs. If two thousand pigs are needed to give peace to a heart, two thousand pigs must be placed at the service of man. God himself, in his Beloved Son, allows himself to be crucified for the salvation of man. Now if God gives himself for man, can there be only one thing created by him that should not be placed at man’s service for his greatest good? God created man as lord in His creation, not servant.

*They came to the other side of the sea, to the territory of the Gerasenes. When he got out of the boat, at once a man 2 from the tombs who had an unclean spirit met him. The man had been dwelling among the tombs, and no one could restrain him any longer, even with a chain. In fact, he had frequently been bound with shackles and chains, but the chains had been pulled apart by him and the shackles smashed, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the hillsides he was always crying out and bruising himself with stones. Catching sight of Jesus from a distance, he ran up and prostrated himself before him crying out in a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me!" (He had been saying to him, "Unclean spirit, come out of the man!") He asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "Legion is my name. There are many of us." And he pleaded earnestly with him not to drive them away from that territory. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside. And they pleaded with him, "Send us into the swine. Let us enter them." And he let them, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine. The herd of about two thousand rushed down a steep bank into the sea, where they were drowned. The swineherds ran away and reported the incident in the town and throughout the countryside. And people came out to see what had happened. As they approached Jesus, they caught sight of the man who had been possessed by Legion, sitting there clothed and in his right mind. And they were seized with fear. Those who witnessed the incident explained to them what had happened to the possessed man and to the swine. Then they began to beg him to leave their district. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed pleaded to remain with him. But he would not permit him but told him instead, "Go home to your family and announce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you." Then the man went off and began to proclaim in the Decapolis what Jesus had done for him; and all were amazed.*

The man freed from the legion of impure spirits, would like to follow Jesus. Jesus invites him to stay in his land: *“Go home to your family and announce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you”.*You must remain in your home, in your city, in your region, in your land. It is in this land that you must raise a voice of praise for the Lord. This is your place. The man obeys: *“Then the man went off and began to proclaim in the Decapolis what Jesus had done for him; and all were amazed."*One man, singing the work done by Jesus, evangelizes an entire region, creates wonder in many hearts. If every disciple of Jesus imitated this man, there would certainly be the greatest witness on earth to Christ Jesus. The glory of the Lord would cover the universe. Thus, the kingdom of God is built. On the other hand, at times, for reasons of sin and not of grace, of historical habits, we are forced to do things that the Lord has never asked and will never ask. From this man we must learn that obedience to Christ Jesus is the only way for the spread of the Gospel on our earth. There are no forms to evangelize outside of obedience to His every command. This is our great limitation: wanting to evangelize from our mind and not from the purest obedience to Christ Jesus. To evangelize is to obey.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us always obey Christ the Lord.