Just as it is written in the law of the Lord

**TUESDAY FEBRUARY 2 (Lk 2, 22-40)**

The family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, is born of obedience to God. Jesus becomes flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary out of obedience to the Father: *“Sacrifice and offering you do not want; you opened my ears. Holocaust and sin-offering you do not request; so I said, “See; I come with an inscribed scroll written upon me. I delight to do your will, my God; your law is in my inner being!” (Ps 40 (39) 7-9).* The Virgin Mary is the Mother of Jesus by vocation and by an immediate welcoming response in faith: *"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Cfr. Lk 1,26-38).* Joseph too is the most chaste spouse of the Mother of God and the adopting Father of Christ Jesus by vocation and immediate obedience (cf. Mt 1, 18-25). It is not enough to be born of faith as a response of obedience to a particular vocation and mission. It is then necessary to carry the whole life in obedience to the Word written for us in the sacred pages, a word for us contained in the Books of both the Old and New Testaments. Mary and Joseph carry the Child in Jerusalem to offer him to the Lord as the Law of the Lord prescribes. Just as the Word of God commands, so we must always work. As Jesus lives to do the will of his Father, so Mary and Joseph live to do the written will of God in the Law, in the Prophets, in the Psalms for them. Always perfect obedience.

*When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.*

It is right that we dwell a little on Simeon’s profession of faith: *"My eyes have seen your salvation, prepared by you before all peoples: light to reveal you to the people and glory of your people, Israel".*God, the Lord, the Creator of heaven and earth has only one salvation to give to all peoples: Christ Jesus, his Son. Jesus is also the light that must reveal who the Lord is before the people. Jesus is the glory of the Lord’s people because He is a fruit as well as a gift from God. In this profession of faith there is the whole mission of both Christ and His body which is the Church. If the Church does not give Christ, it deprives the world of its true salvation. If the Church does not illuminate the true God with the true light of Christ the Lord, the people will be left without true knowledge of their Lord, Creator, God. The Christian must never forget that he is the giver to the world of the salvation and light that they are in. Christ Jesus, in the Church.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, let us never forget our mission.