**If you want, you can purify me!**

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14 (Mk 1,40-45)**

The prayer is done for the Lord to infuse His Grace, bearer of His Holy Peace, into the heart: *“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice greatly in the Lord that now at last you revived your concern for me. You were, of course, concerned about me but lacked an opportunity. Not that I say this because of need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I find myself, to be self-sufficient. I know indeed how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me.” (Ph 4,4-13).*With peace in the heart, fruit of the grace of Christ Jesus, one can live on every cross. This truth is thus taught by the Apostle Paul: *“Therefore, that I might not become too elated, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong. " (2Cor 12: 7-10).*Everything is possible to those who are in the grace of the Lord and grow in it day by day, growing in wisdom and in the Holy Spirit.

Christ Jesus enters the Gethsemane with *"his soul sad to death."* He goes into prayer and after it the peace of his Father surrounds him: *"Pray that you may not undergo the test." After withdrawing about a stone's throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done." (And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.) When he rose from prayer and returned to his disciples, he found them sleeping from grief. He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not undergo the test." (Lk 22, 39-46).*We find this truth announced in the leper’s prayer: *“If you want, you can purify me!*". If you do not want, and the reasons for your unwillingness are in the wisdom of the Holy Spirit who moves you, then I will live my illness always assisted and comforted by the grace of the Lord.

*A leper came to him (and kneeling down) begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. Then he said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.*

When we pray. We must trust in the eternal and divine wisdom of our God. We pray that we are troubled by the cross we carry. The Lord can free us, but He can also not free us. But he always gives us the grace to live all our crosses. Jesus also remained on the cross to teach us that it is only from the cross that we reach His Eternal Kingdom. The greatest grace is not to come down from the cross, but to remain there.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, teach us to pray for remaining on the cross.