**Why does this generation seek a sign?**

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 15 (Mk 8, 11-13)**

In the Ancient Scripture the sign is not requested, but it is given to accredit God in his truth and his prophets as bearers of the true Word of God. This is what happens with Moses, Joshua, Elijah, Elisha. We read in the First Book of Kings: *“After some time, however, the brook ran dry, because no rain had fallen in the land. So the LORD said to him: "Move on to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have designated a widow there to provide for you." He left and went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the entrance of the city, a widow was gathering sticks there; he called out to her, "Please bring me a small cupful of water to drink." She* *left to get it, and he called out after her, "Please bring along a bit of bread." "As the LORD, your God, lives," she answered, "I have nothing baked; there is only a handful of flour in my jar and a little oil in my jug. Just now I was collecting a couple of sticks, to go in and prepare something for myself and my son; when we have eaten it, we shall die. " "Do not be afraid," Elijah said to her. "Go and do as you propose. But first make me a little cake and bring it to me. Then you can prepare something for yourself and your son. For the LORD, the God of Israel, says, 'The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, until the day when the LORD sends rain upon the earth. '"She left and did as Elijah had said. She was able to eat for a year, and he and her son as well; The jar of flour did not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, as the LORD had foretold through Elijah. Some time later the son of the mistress of the house fell sick, and his sickness grew more severe until he stopped breathing. So she said to Elijah, "Why have you done this to me, O man of God? Have you come to me to call attention to my guilt and to kill my son?" "Give me your son," Elijah said to her. Taking him from her lap, he carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. He called out to the LORD: "O LORD, my God, will you afflict even the widow with whom I am staying by killing her son?" Then he stretched himself out upon the child three times and called out to the LORD: "O LORD, my God, let the life breath return to the body of this child." The LORD heard the prayer of Elijah; the life breath returned to the child's body and he revived. Taking the child, Elijah brought him down into the house from the upper room and gave him to his mother. "If it's!" Elijah said to her, "your son is alive." "Now indeed I know That you you are a man of God," the woman replied to Elijah. "The word of the LORD comes truly from your mouth . " (1Ki 17,7-24).*With the sign of the resurrection the woman makes her beautiful profession of faith. Now Elijah is confessed as a true man of God. His Word it is true Word of God.

*The Pharisees came forward and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. He sighed from the depth of his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Amen, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." Then he left them, got into the boat again, and went off to the other shore.*

The Pharisees had witnessed many signs Jesus did. Their heart of stone had all deemed them unfit to testify infallibly that Jesus was truly from the Father and that the true Word of God was on his mouth. They ask Jesus for a sign so high and powerful that they say: *"You are from God."* For a heart submerged into sin, for a mind inveterate in falsehood and lies, for a spirit that has now aged in idolatry and in every moral disorder, it becomes impossible to open up to faith. One is already sinning against the Holy Spirit and the conversion is not given. This is why Jesus leaves them and goes elsewhere. If there had been even the slightest possibility of conversion, Jesus would have given them any sign. But the sign was not asked to believe, but because they were strengthened in their non-faith, in their will not to believe, in their unbelief. The way of faith for us is the Word that is welcomed and to which full and perpetual obedience is given. The more one obeys, the more faith grows, because together with faith the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit also grows. When the Word is rejected, then no sign can create faith. In fact, even the sign of the glorious resurrection was denied. On the contrary, they gave the soldiers money to deny the truth.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, let our faith be founded in the Word.