**As the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets**

**HOLY ASHES WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17 (Mt 6,1-6.16-18)**

The true religion is the consecration of the heart, of the mind, of the spirit, of the body, of all life to the service of the greatest glory of our Father who is in heaven. Thus, the Apostle Paul exhorts the Corinthians: *“So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved." (1Cor 10: 31-33).* Today Jesus gives religion a unique lightness. His way is sublime: to do everything in hiding and to do everything for the greatest glory of his Father: *"They see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."* Someone might object: *How is it possible to do everything in hiding and then see our works?*The answer is simple: whoever acts must always act in hiding. Whoever receives the work must glorify the Lord. He must raise a hymn of blessing and praise to God because his children imitate him in his truth, charity, justice, forgiveness, mercy, in every other divine essence. This is the difference between the hypocrite and the true disciple of Jesus. The hypocrite uses religion in the service of his own glory. The true disciple of Jesus, on the other hand, uses his entire life to ascend the greatest glory to the Father of heaven. The difference is infinite, more than the light and the darkness. Every man has to make himself available to the service of God’s glory.

*"(But) take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. "When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.*

It is fair to say that the works that can be done for the greatest glory of God are those that are the fruit of obedience to his Word, starting with the Ten Commandments, lived however according to the fulfillment given to them by Jesus the Lord. For this reason, the teaching given by Jesus about the works comes immediately after having preached the Beatitudes and the fulfillment given by him to the ancient law and the prophets. From sin it will never be possible to give glory to God. First we must enter into the grace, then we can give glory to the Lord. Today, however, we live in sin, vice, disobedience and we believe that by celebrating worship or doing some good work we can give glory to God. First, we must enter truth, justice, grace, obedience to the faith, and then we can begin to do everything for the glory of God. If our life is not at the service of the glory of God, because in disobedience to the will of our God, there can be only one thing done by us that can give glory to the Heavenly Father? Whoever died in soul and spirit must first rise to the life of Christ, in the Holy Spirit and then he can think of doing everything for the glory of God. But today we love to live in great confusion. Light and darkness are the same, just as life and death of the soul, virtue and vice, obedience and disobedience, idolatry and true worship, morality and immorality are the same.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make everything in us be for the glory of God.