**They did as they were instructed**

**MONDAY APRIL 5 (Mt 28, 8-15)**

Money is so powerful that it can buy not only a man's conscience but also God and his truth, his grace and his light. Many crimes are the result of a thirst for money. Thus says Scripture: “*For the sake of profit many sin, and the struggle for wealth blinds the eyes. Like a peg driven between fitted stones, between buying and selling sin is wedged in. Unless you earnestly hold fast to the fear of the LORD, suddenly your house will be thrown down. "(Sir 27, 1-3). "Then one of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said," What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you? " They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over. " (Mt 26, 14-16). When Simon saw that the Spirit was conferred by the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, "Give me this power too, so that anyone upon whom I lay my hands may receive the holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "May your money perish with you, because you thought that you could buy the gift of God with money. You have no share or lot in this matter, for your heart is not upright before God. Repent of this wickedness of yours and pray to the Lord that, if possible, your intention may be forgiven. For I see that you are filled with bitter gall and are in the bonds of iniquity. " Simon said in reply, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me." So when they had testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem and preached the good news to many Samaritan villages. "(Acts 8, 18-25). “Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish. He had Paul summoned and listened to him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. But as he spoke about righteousness and self-restraint and the coming judgment, Felix became frightened and said, "You may go for now; when I find an opportunity I shall summon you again." At the same time he hoped that a bribe would be offered him by Paul, and so he sent for him very often and conversed with him. "(Acts 24, 24-26).*The evils produced in the Church by simony have been extremely great. There was a time when everything was bought, and everything was sold. Today there is no evil on earth that is not the fruit of money. The economic powers today have the power to buy up all conscience and destroy all truth, including the truth of nature of man himself.

*Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had happened. They assembled with the elders and took counsel; then they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.' And if this gets to the ears of the governor, we will satisfy (him) and keep you out of trouble." The soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has circulated among the Jews to the present (day).*

Our God always works with divine wisdom. It was not the Governor of Rome who ordered the soldiers to guard the tomb. It was the religious leaders who wanted it to be guarded. The soldiers see and report what they saw. Jesus was not stolen by anyone. He is risen. The Pharisees offer them money to prove false, blaming the disciples for the theft of the Lord's body. Tempter and tempted are each responsible for their own sin. The Pharisees are guilty of refusing the objective testimony of the soldiers and also of inducing them to give false testimony. The soldiers are responsible for letting themselves be bought and also for the false testimony given to the detriment of the disciples. Their sin is twofold: selling the truth in favor of lies, false witness against innocent disciples for not having committed what they are charged. These are horrendous misdeeds always to be avoided.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make sure that money never governs our conscience.