**Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 18 (Lk 24, 35-48)**

The Scriptures were written by the Holy Spirit through the hagiographers. The Spirit has revealed them, and the Spirit must give understanding and interpretation of them. The Spirit gives understanding directly, but also indirectly through the body of Christ which is the Church. Every direct understanding must always be verified with the understanding that comes from the body of the Church and in particular from those who are the custodians of the Word and its ministers. But also, custodians and ministers must always live within hierarchical communion: bishops with the pope, presbyters with the bishops and every other disciple of Jesus must always seek communion with the presbyter and the bishop. Not knowing the Scriptures is not knowing God, not knowing Christ Jesus, not knowing the Holy Spirit, not knowing the divine and eternal mysteries from which the mysteries of man come originally. Whoever does not know God does not know himself.

Jesus tells the Jews that they search the Scriptures, they trust in Moses, but they do not believe in either the Scriptures or Moses: *“ You search the scriptures, because you think you have eternal life through them; even they testify on my behalf. But you do not want to come to me to have life. Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father: the one who will accuse you is Moses, in whom you have placed your hope. For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed me, because he wrote about me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?*" *(Jn 5: 39-40.45-47).*Even to the Sadducees Jesus says that they do not know the Scriptures: *" Jesus said to them," Are you not misled Because You do not know the scriptures or the power of God? When they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but they are like the angels in heaven. As for the dead being raised, have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God told him, 'I am the God of Abraham, (the ) God of Isaac, and (the) God of Jacob '? He is not God of the dead but of the living. You are greatly misled.*" *(Cf. Mk 12: 18-27).*Did the Apostles know the Scriptures? They knew them. Not knowing the Scriptures, they do not know Christ Jesus according to fullness and purity of truth. Knowledge of the Scriptures is always urgent. A day without the knowledge of the Scriptures is a day without truth.

*Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have. " And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.*

Is the knowledge of the Scriptures enough for true faith in Christ Jesus to arise in hearts? Preaching the true Christ is not enough. It is necessary that the invisible Christ is made manifest by the visible Christ, who is the Christian, who is the true body of Lord Jesus. If The Christian knows the Scriptures, he knows the true Christ and announces him, however always adding the visibility of the true Christ who lives in him and makes himself manifest through him. Without these two ways which are essentially one way in the disciple of Jesus, true faith in Lord Jesus will never be able to arise in hearts. Something is glimpsed, but Christ is not seen.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make the Christian manifest of the true Christ.