**I am the bread of life**

**TUESDAY APRIL 20 (Jn 6, 30-35)**

The manna, the mysterious food that accompanied the journey of the children of Israel for about forty years, was not a miracle or prodigy worked by Moses. It fell from heaven by God's will alone. Thus, the Book of Wisdom speaks of the manna: *"Instead of this, you nourished your people with food of angels and furnished them bread from heaven, ready to hand, untoiled for, endowed with all delights and conforming to every taste. For this substance of yours revealed your sweetness toward your children, and serving the desire of him who received it, was blended to whatever flavor each one wished."(Wis 16, 20-21).* True mystery for its fall from heaven, but also true mystery for the taste it aroused. The Book of Exodus instead narrates the event in its historical origin: *"Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites: I know Moses and Aaron Told all the Israelites," At evening you will know That it was the LORD who brought` you out of the land of Egypt; and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, as he heeds your grumbling against him. But what are we that you should grumble against us? When the LORD gives you flesh to eat in the evening, " continued Moses, "and in the morning your fill of bread, as he heeds the grumbling you utter against him, what then are we? Your grumbling is not against us, but against the LORD." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Tell the whole Israelite community: Present yourselves before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling." When Aaron announced this to the whole Israelite community, they turned toward the desert, and lo, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud! The LORD spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them: In the evening twilight you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread, so that you may know that I, the LORD, am your God. " In the evening quail came up and covered the camp. In the morning a dew lay all about the camp, and when the dew evaporated, there on the surface of the desert were fine flakes like hoarfrost on the ground. On seeing it, the Israelites asked one another, "What is this?" for they did not know what it was. But Moses told them, "This is the bread which the LORD has given you to eat. " Now, this is what the LORD has commanded. So gather it that everyone has enough to eat, an omer for each person, as many of you as there are, each man providing for those of his own tent." (Ex 16, 6-16).*This is its origin. Jesus asked the Jews to believe in Him if they want to do the works of God or his work. They answer that they need a portentous sign to open themselves to faith in Him. They cannot believe in Him unless He is greater than Moses. Neither if he does not make signs as powerful as those of Moses.

*So they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat. '" So Jesus said to them," Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. " So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.*

Now Jesus passes from the figurative speech to reality. Announce his mystery. The one given by Moses or in the time of Moses is not true bread. It is his Father who will give them the bread, the real one. Second essential step: from the matter to the person. True bread is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. The Jews ask for this bread: *"Lord, always give us this bread."* Third passage, essential as well: The true bread is the Lord Jesus. He is very special bread. *“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst!"*In this revelation there is still no mention of the Eucharist. One can very well speak of Christ, spiritual bread, for those who believe in him. Jesus reaches the Eucharist through other passages, which are also necessary. Now it is more than correct to affirm that the bread is all Christ, in his divine and human truth, in his Word and in his life. Then any other truths can follow.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, make us of perfect faith in Christ the Lord.