**It is my flesh for the life of the world**

**THURSDAY APRIL 22 (Jn 6, 44-51)**

In the Book of Wisdom, the Lord is asked with heartfelt prayer to send Wisdom to govern our life. Without it one staggers in the darkness: *“God of my fathers, LORD of mercy. you who have made all things by your word. And in your wisdom have established man to rule the creatures produced by you, to govern the world in holiness and justice, and to render judgment in integrity of heart: Give me Wisdom, the attendant at your throne, and reject me not from among your children; For I am your servant, the son of your handmaid, a man weak and short-lived and lacking in comprehension of judgment and of laws.* *Indeed, though one be perfect among the sons of men, if Wisdom, who comes from you, be not with him, he shall be held in no esteem. You have chosen me king over your people and magistrate for your sons and daughters. You have bid me build a temple on your holy mountain and an altar in the city that is your dwelling place, a copy of the holy tabernacle which you had established from of old. Now with you is Wisdom, who knows your works and was present when you made the world; Who understands what is pleasing in your eyes and what is conformable with your commands. Send her forth from your holy heavens and from your glorious throne dispatch her That she may be with me and work with me, that I may know what is your pleasure. For she knows and understands all things, and will guide me discreetly in my affairs and safeguard me by her glory; Thus my deeds will be acceptable, and I shall judge your people justly and be worthy of my father's throne.*

*For what man knows God's counsel, or who can conceive what our LORD intends? For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans. For the corruptible body burdens the soul and the earthen shelter weighs down the mind that has many concerns. And scarce do we guess the things on earth, and what is within our grasp we find with difficulty; but when things are in heaven, who can search them out? Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight, and men learned what was your pleasure, and were saved by Wisdom.*" *(Wis 9, 1-18).*Jesus is a gift from the Father. However, this gift must also be requested with insistent prayer. Not only must this gift be asked to the Father, but also asking the Father for those who prepare the gift for us, transforming the bread into the body of Christ and the wine into blood. We pray that the Lord will always give us Christ bread of eternal life, if we pray that the Lord will send bishops and priests. Without them there is neither Christ the bread nor the Christ Word, true body and true blood of eternal life. When we don't pray for the Lord to send bishops and presbyters, we don't even pray for the Word and the Eucharist. It means that we are disciples of Jesus without soul, without spirit, without heart. We are insensitive Christians. We do not receive Christ with a keen desire, because we have not asked the Father for Christ with a keen desire and with uninterrupted prayer.

*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: 'They shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world. "*

Now Jesus speaks with divine clarity to the Jews: *"the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."* From spiritual eating, we move on to real eating. The flesh is real, tangible, substantial flesh. The language of the Lord Jesus is not figurative or symbolic. Truly, really, essentially one eats his body, his flesh in the Eucharist. It is the mystery of faith. Only in faith can this truth be accepted and only by faith it can be lived. But even by faith alone one can ask God for this gift.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, always obtain for us this gift from the Father.