**THURSDAY JUNE 24 XII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**NATIVITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.**

**Thus Jesus praises his Father: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." (cf. Mt 11, 25-30)**

**These savants and wise men do not receive the revelation of our heavenly Father, not because the Father does not want to manifest to them, but because savants and wise men have elected their mind as unique source of wisdom and doctrine. But we know that the mind of man, before the infinite and eternal oceans of the divine wisdom, is not even comparable to a drop of water. The little ones are those who are aware of the vanity of their science and their doctrine and humbly ask the Lord to be enlightened with his mystery that is beyond the created mind. Today have we not elected our mind, our heart, our desires as yardstick to evaluate what, even from the Scripture, comes from God? Everything that does not fall within our yardstick is discarded and said to be not from God. Instead of the heavenly truth, with malicious science and tendentious doctrine, we insert our thoughts and declare them as thoughts and doctrine of God.**

**John the Baptist is born in a humanly impossible way. John is true gift of God to men. Simple, humble people see what is happening before their eyes. They know this is not a natural event:** “**Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?"**

**When the Lord descends from heaven, powerfully entering in our history, he descends since he wants to realize his mystery of salvation. Simple, humble, not artificial, not proud, not swollen with pride for their vain science and doctrine men see God powerfully descending in the history, but they do not know what mystery He wants to realize. Here is the reason of the question: "What, then, will this child be?" In the hearts of these simple men, there is the certainty that John has been given to men to bring a great work of God to fulfilment. What will this work be? One must wait for him to grow up and put himself entirely at the service of the Lord who called him to existence and fulfilled his Holy Spirit since he was in the womb of his mother. “For surely the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew and became strong in spirit”.**

**The work that the Spirit fulfils in a man in which It is present and with whom it walks, is always visible. But who sees the work of the Spirit? Only the one who is simple and pure of heart, humble and meek. Only the one who looks for the Lord without malice and without perversion. Who, instead, sells the consciousness to evil, to sin, to silliness, to pride, will have eyes but he will see nothing. He will have ears, too, but he will hear nothing. He will have a mind, but he will understand nothing. He will have a heart, but it is harder than a stone. The prophecy of Isaiah fulfils for him: “Go and say to this people: Listen carefully, but you shall not understand! Look intently, but you shall know nothing! You are to make the heart of this people sluggish, to dull their ears and close their eyes; Else their eyes will see, their ears hear, their heart understand, and they will turn and be healed.” (Is 6, 9-10) It is not the Lord who makes the proud and the savant hard of hearing. It is the proud and the savants who hermetically closed the door of their heart, impeding the Lord to enter it. God knocks at the door. He does not break it down. He enters if the door is opened to him. If the door remains closed, he passes through.**

**Here are two witnesses made by Jesus to John the Baptist: “You sent emissaries to John, and he testified to the truth. I do not accept testimony from a human being, but I say this so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and for a while you were content to rejoice in his light.” (Jn 5, 33-35)** “**Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: 'Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.' Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” (Mt 11, 9-11) Before such a great witness, what do savants and wise men say? That he is possessed by a demon: “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by her works." (Mt 11, 18-19) This is a judgement by the flesh, namely by sin. Never might a judgement be according to the Spirit if it contradicts, even in one only peak, the truth of the Holy Spirit. John is entirely ruled and moved by the Spirit of the Lord. He is not moved by his heart or his thoughts, by his vices or his transgressions of the Law of the Lord. As he is in the Holy Spirit, so also he is in the will of his Lord and God.**

**LET US READ THE TEXT OF Lk 1,57-66.80**

**When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John." But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.** **The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel.**

**Jesus asks us: “Stop judging by appearances, but judge justly.” (Jn 7, 24) To judge with a fair judgement one must always see with the eyes of the Holy Spirit and understand the events with the intelligence of the Spirit of the Lord. Whoever is by flesh, by sin, by vice, by the transgression of the Law of the Lord might never judge with a fair judgement. He lacks of the Holy Spirit. The works of the Spirit of God can be judged only with the Spirit of God. If one is without the Spirit of God, one will always judge by the flesh and by the selling of our consciousness, of our intelligence, of our wisdom and doctrine to evil and sin.**

**Jesus was judged by the flesh according to the thoughts of the flesh and was crucified. John the Baptist was judged by the lust, immorality, evilness, wickedness of a woman and was beheaded. But both John and Christ Jesus have been judged by the Holy Spirit and clothed with eternal glory. Always, when flesh judges the Spirit, it will condemn to beheading, crucifixion, scorn and derision.**

**Mother of God, pierced in the spirit by the sword of the flesh that judged your Son, give us the strength to live the judgement of the flesh in the Spirit.**